

Dear Customers,

This report is sent in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and only contaminants that were detected in samples are listed in this report. Landlords, businesses and schools are encouraged to share this report with non-billed water users at their locations. Additional copies are available at no charge by calling our office at (408) 227-9540. Our water quality specialist, Mike Carey, will be available to answer any questions you may have concerning this report.

Low Water Rates and Mandatory Water Conservation

Great Oaks' rates for water service continue to be the lowest in San José by an even wider margin than in past years – even with the Mandatory Water Conservation restrictions required by the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Public Utilities Commission.

Santa Clara Valley Water District Litigation Update

In November 2005, Great Oaks Water filed a lawsuit against the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) for failing to properly set Groundwater Charges, also known as Pump Tax. In 2009, Great Oaks prevailed in both of two portions of the case in the trial court. In February 2010, the SCVWD appealed the decision and in December 2015, the court of appeal issued a decision that reversed the trial court judgment and ordered Great Oaks and SCVWD back to the trial court for further proceedings. Neither Great Oaks nor SCVWD were satisfied with the court of appeal decision and both petitioned the California Supreme Court to review the case. The Supreme Court granted review, but delayed briefing until it decides a related case. In the meantime, Great Oaks continues to challenge SCVWD's ever-increasing pump taxes, which now account for about 50% of your water bill.

Thank You

Your water is safe, clean and great tasting, and you pay one of the lowest rates for water in the State. As your water provider, Great Oaks is uniquely positioned to be an advocate on your behalf for positive change on the water issues that affect your lives. Thank you for your kind words of encouragement. We promise to continue to provide you with high quality water and strong community service.

Sincerely,

John Roeder, Chairman and CEO
Great Oaks Water Co.

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

此份有關你的食水報告，
內有重要資料和訊息，請找
他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

Chi tiết này thật quan trọng.
Xin nhờ người dịch cho quý vị.

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Regulated Substances							
Substance (unit of measure)	Year Sampled	MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG) (MRDLG)	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	**Typical Source
1,1,1 Trichloroethane (ppb)	2013	200	1000	0.14	ND-1.5	NO	2
Freon 113 (ppb)	2013	1200		0.49	ND-12	NO	2,6
Barium (ppm)	2013	1	2	0.10	.08-.17	NO	1
Flouride (ppm)	2013	2	1	0.16	.14-.2	NO	1,3
Gross Alpha Part.(pCi/L)	2008	15	0	1.4	ND-4.1	NO	1
Chromium Total (ppb)	2013	100		3.37	1.6-8.6	NO	2,5
Hexavalent Chromium(ppb)	2014	10		3.48	1.8-8.3	NO	2,5
Nitrate [as NO3] (ppm)	2015	45	45	7.4	2.7-23.5	NO	3,4
Total Coliform (% positive)	2015	>5% MONTHLY SAMPLES POSITIVE	0	1.34%	0-10.44%	YES	5
Secondary Substances							
Substance (unit of measure)	Year Sampled	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Chloride (ppm)	2013	500	NS	42	35-54	NO	7
Copper (ppm)	2011	1	0.3	.0001	ND-.0048	NO	1
Specific Conductance (uS/cm)	2013	1600	NS	651	540-840	NO	8
Sulfate (ppm)	2013	500	NS	45	31-62	NO	7,9
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2013	1000	NS	400	330-520	NO	7
Turbidity (NTU)	2013	5	NS	0.12	.06-.45	NO	10
Odor – Threshold(TON)	2013	3	NS	0.9	ND-2	NO	12
	Year Sampled	AL	PHG (MCLG)	90th%tile	Sites >AL /total sites	Violation	Typical Source
*Copper (ppm)	2014	1.3	0.3	0.48	0/30	NO	11
*Lead (ppm)	2014	15	0.2	0.004	0/30	NO	11

*Tap Water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the service area.

Unregulated and Other Substances	Year Sampled	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Typical Source
Alkalinity (ppb)	2013	215	180-280	1
Bicarbonate (ppb)	2013	273	220-340	1
Calcium (ppb)	2013	50	34-67	1
Hardness [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2013	280	230-360	1
Magnesium (ppb)	2013	38	31-50	1
Potassium (ppb)	2013	1.4	1.2-1.6	1
Sodium (ppm)	2013	29	26-41	1

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of water.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or risk to health. MCLGs are set by the US EPA.

NA: Not Applicable **NS:** No Standard **ND:** Not Detected

PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that effect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

PHG (Public Health Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

ppb: parts per billion **ppm:** parts per million

TON: Threshold Odor Number, a measure of odor.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: This is a measure of the cloudiness of the water

****Typical Source**

1. Erosion of natural deposits
2. Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
3. Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use
4. Leaching from septic tanks and sewage
5. Naturally present in the environment
6. Dry-cleaning solvent
7. Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
8. Substances that form ions when in water
9. Industrial wastes
10. Soil runoff
11. Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems
12. Naturally occurring organic materials

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3

<u>PARAMETER</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u>	<u>RANGE</u>
Chlorate	ppb	9.57	ND – 58.5
Chlorodifluoromethane	ppb	.181	ND – 0.98
Chromium	ppb	3.06	1.75 – 6.85
Hexavalent Chromium	ppb	3.322	1.8 – 6.55
Strontium	ppb	535.5	385 – 775
Vanadium	ppb	1.756	1.2 – 2.75

Unregulated contaminants do not have a drinking water standard set by the USEPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help the EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at: (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

Quality First

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report. This report covers all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2015. The events of the past few years have presented us with many challenges. In spite of this, we have maintained our high standards and we will deliver to you, the best quality drinking water possible. As we continue to feel the effects of the drought, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the dangers of handling hazardous materials carelessly. We must keep the paths to our underground water storage clean and clear. There may be other hurdles in the future, but know that we will always stand behind you and the drinking water we work diligently to provide. This report is sent in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, and only contaminants that were detected in samples are listed in this report. Landlords, businesses, and schools are encouraged to share this report with non-billed water users at their locations. Additional copies are available at no charge by calling our office at (408)227-9540. Our water quality specialist, Mike Carey, will be available to answer any questions you may have concerning this report.

Source Water Assessment

Great Oaks Water conducted Drinking Water Source Assessments for all wells to determine potential sources of contamination. Assessments were performed in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. The assessments indicate that the wells may be vulnerable to contaminants from the following sources: septic systems, sewer collection systems serving nearby single family residential housing, nearby agricultural wells, gas stations, parks, highways and their related activities, nearby computer-related manufacturing facilities, roads, streets, parking lots, railroads, spreading basins, storm-drain discharge, crops, illegal activities, unauthorized dumping, unregulated tanks, photo processing and printing, and monitoring wells. All of Great Oaks Water Company's wells are constructed to minimize the influence of these potential contaminants under the approval of the California Department of Public Health. A copy of the assessment is available for viewing at the California Department of Public Health Drinking Water Program Office, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Second Floor, Richmond, CA, or at Great Oaks Water Company, 20 Great Oaks Boulevard, Suite 120, San Jose, CA.

NITRATE

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45mg/l is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45mg/l may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider. Nitrate levels in Great Oaks Water Company's water sources are shown in the enclosed table. In 2014 Great Oaks Water Company did not detect nitrate at or above 45mg/l in any sources.

Source Water Description

The customers of Great Oaks Water Company are fortunate to have water supplied from very pristine aquifers underlying this valley. All of our water is pumped from 19 wells (not surface water) located throughout our service area.

Wellhead Protection Plan

Great Oaks Water ensures the safe operation and restricts access to all of the wells in our system. It is every resident's responsibility to guard against any activity that could do harm or contaminate our source water. All of the land in Great Oaks Waters service area is a channel to the water our wells draw. Be aware that oil spills and chemical spills can wash off the surface and make their way to storm drains and ultimately into the ground. Address these situations immediately to minimize their impact on our precious resource. Great Oaks Water will continue to do its part to protect our well sites, now all of us need to do our part to protect the watershed.

About Our Violation

In March 2015, Great Oaks Water Company was issued a Notice of Violation from the State Water Resources Control Board for exceeding the MCL for monthly bacteriological sampling. 19 out of 182 samples taken during the month of March 2015, indicated the presence of coliform bacteria. Great Oaks Water Company did emergency chlorination in the affected area followed by extensive unidirectional water main flushing. Great Oaks Water Company will continue to flush water mains to prevent this situation from happening again.

Since March 2015, Great Oaks Water has been in full compliance with all drinking water standards.

Substances That Could Be In Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Department of Public Health (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ◆ Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- ◆ Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or can result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;
- ◆ Pesticides and Herbicides, that may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;
- ◆ Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;
- ◆ Radioactive Contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.