

2003 Consumer Confidence Report



Ord Community Water System

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hablo con alguien que lo entiende bien.

The Marina Coast Water District proudly presents this annual water quality report to our water customers in the Ord Community. We are pleased to inform and assure you that your drinking water meets or surpasses all State and Federal drinking water standards. If you have any questions regarding the information in this report or about your water, please contact Technical Services Manager Evelina A. Adlawan at 384-6131. Also, please visit our website at www.mcwd.org.

Water Sources

The Ord Community water system uses drinking water supply wells #29, #30 and #31 that pump groundwater from the lower-180-foot and the 400-foot aquifers of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. The groundwater is then pumped to a central chlorination treatment plant for disinfection to ensure that it is free of harmful bacteria. Drinking water is delivered to our Ord Community customers through a network of seven reservoir tanks, seven pressure zones and one hundred seventy miles of pipeline.

Water Quality

Assessment and Protection Program

In February 2002, an assessment of the Ord Community drinking water supply wells #29, #30 and #31 was completed. The report identifies possible sources of contamination for prioritizing cleanup and pollution prevention efforts on threats to drinking water sources. The Ord Community well field is considered to be most vulnerable to known volatile organic contaminant plumes from the now closed landfill in the former Fort Ord. The Ord well field is also considered most vulnerable to the activities for which no associated contaminant has been detected, such as military installations, saltwater intrusion, sewer collection system, above ground storage tanks, irrigated crops, transportation corridors, farm machinery repairs and septic systems. Full details of the assessment may be viewed at the following locations: MCWD, 11 Reservation Road, Marina, or DHS, 1 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Building 1, Suite 120, Monterey.



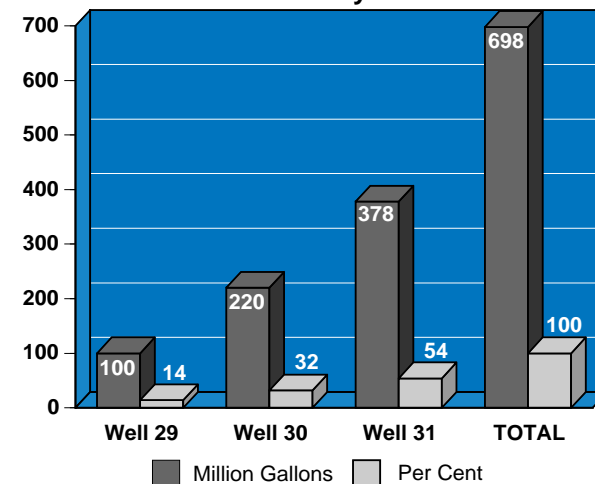
Water Distribution Operator Tim Buhl tests a water sample.

Trichloroethylene (TCE)

The US Army operates a network of groundwater monitoring wells to track the ongoing cleanup progress of the TCE cleaning solvent contamination plume from the now closed landfill. In addition to quarterly monitoring of the Army's groundwater monitoring wells, the drinking water supply wells #29, #30 and #31 are also monitored quarterly.

In 2003, low level TCE (below maximum contaminant level) was detected in Ord Community supply well #29. Volatile organic compounds, including TCE weren't detected in water samples collected quarterly from the Sand Tank reservoir, where drinking water supply wells #29, #30 and #31 are blended for the Ord Community distribution system.

2003 Ord Community Water Production



Disinfectants-Disinfection Byproducts Rule

The Ord Community drinking water is disinfected with chlorine to ensure that the water is free of harmful bacteria. Disinfectants such as chlorine, while effective in controlling most microorganisms, also react with natural organic and inorganic matter in water sources and distribution systems to form potentially harmful disinfection byproducts (DBPs) such as trihalomethanes (THM's) and haloacetic acids (HAA5), which have been linked to cancer and other health effects in laboratory animals. The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) lowered the standard for THM's from 100 parts per billion (ppb) to 80ppb, set the HAA5 standard at 60ppb and the maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) for chlorine at 4.0 milligrams per liter. The Ord Community drinking water THM's, HAA5 and chlorine residual levels are well below the standards. To reduce chlorine taste or smell, try refrigerating your water before drinking.

Radon

The USEPA proposed to set a drinking water standard for radon that could range from 300-400 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). The Ord Community drinking water supply sources were tested for radon in 2000. The results range from 320 to 388 pCi/L. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that cannot be seen, tasted or smelled. It can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Breathing air containing radon may increase the risk of lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon, test the air in your home. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 pCi/L or greater. The best way to reduce the overall risk from

radon is to reduce radon levels in indoor air. For additional information, call the USEPA's Radon Hotline at (800) SOS-RADON.

Sodium and Hardness

Although sodium and hardness do not have MCL's, they are of interest to many consumers who are concerned about sodium intake and may believe that the water hardness could affect their health. Sodium generally refers to the naturally occurring salt in water.

Water hardness is attributed to naturally dissolved minerals such as calcium and magnesium and affects the ability of water to react with soap to form suds. Hard water requires more soap because the soap first reacts chemically with the naturally present calcium and magnesium in the water before it can be used for cleaning. Water is considered soft if total hardness is less than 75 ppm; moderately hard at 75 to 150 ppm; hard at 150 to 300 ppm; and very hard at 300 ppm or higher. To determine total hardness in grains per gallon, simply divide hardness in ppm by 17.1. With an average hardness of 238 parts per million or 14 grains per gallon, the Ord Community drinking water is considered to be hard.

Water Softeners

It is a personal and aesthetic choice to use a water softener since hard water is considered not harmful to health. The District encourages the use of potassium chloride instead of sodium chloride in water softeners. However, in either case, water softening may pose some health concerns and people on certain diets and medications should consult their physicians before using softened water.



**Water Quality
Chemist Thomas
Burkhardt**



Dear Ord Community Neighbors,

We are pleased to present to you the 2003 Consumer Confidence Report and our new name—Ord Community Water System. The information contained in this report will give you the assurance that your drinking water meets the State and Federal health and safety requirements.

This report contains detailed information about your water supply that we hope you find educational and useful. If you should have any questions regarding the information in this report or about your water, please contact our technical services manager, Evelina A. Adlawan, at 384-6131. Also, I encourage you to visit our website at www.mcwd.org.

Your District board of directors and staff remain fully committed to provide you with excellent water quality and superb customer services. Thank you for your continued efforts to conserve our precious water supplies.

—Mike Armstrong, General Manager



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Board meetings are open to the public and held the fourth Wednesday of every month at the District office, 11 Reservation Road (Marina State Beach) at 7 p.m. Agendas are posted in the following places at least 72 hours before each meeting: Marina Coast Water District, Marina City Hall, Marina Library and the Marina Post Office.

2003 Ord Community Water Statistics

No. of Groundwater Wells	3
Active Groundwater Aquifers	180-ft & 400-ft aquifers
Water Produced	699 million gallons
Water Produced	2,144 acre feet
Population Served	14,500
No. of Service Connections	3,834

Drinking Water

All 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791.