



Vallecitos Water District

fiscally sound - responsible - efficient



a public agency - getting the job done

Your 2005 Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report

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

Water . Wastewater . Water Recycling

201 Vallecitos de Oro - San Marcos, CA 92069 - 760.744.0460 - www.vwd.org

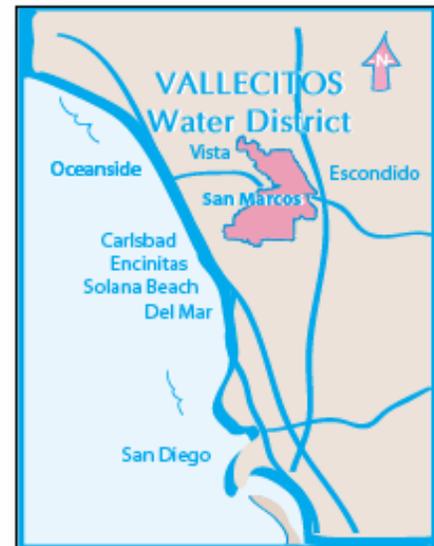
The Water We Drink

The U.S. Congress has directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to require water systems to report the quality of the drinking water they serve annually. Vallecitos Water District (VWD) supports this regulation and has provided Consumer Confidence Reports and other water quality data to all of its customers for many years.

This Report Explains:

- Where your water comes from
- What it contains
- How it compares with state and federal drinking water standards for safety, appearance, taste and smell
- Regulations that protect your health
- Programs that protect the high quality of our supply

Think of this report as a snapshot of the water quality we provided during 2005. Once you have read this report, it's our hope that you will have a more complete understanding about the sources and quality of your drinking water and be better able to make informed decisions regarding issues affecting your health. We are committed to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best friends.



The water we provide meets all local, state and federal potable drinking standards. Last year, thousands of tests were performed on your water before and after entering Vallecitos' boundaries. Your water also went through a filtering and disinfecting process to ensure the highest quality possible.

Results of our own testing, and that of our wholesalers monitoring are found in the tables on pages 4 through 7 of this report.

Where Your Water Comes From

VWD's 80,650 plus residents receive 100 percent imported water from the San Diego County Water Authority, who in turn purchases it from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The water origins include the Colorado River, Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in Northern California, and a small portion from the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). The blend continually changes, but on average 60 percent comes through the 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct and 40 percent through the 444-mile California Aqueduct.

After leaving our wholesalers' systems, your quality water travels through VWD's infrastructure of 323 miles of pipeline and 17 operational storage reservoirs to deliver over 5.6 billion gallons of

water annually to the 45-square-mile area that includes San Marcos; portions of Escondido, Carlsbad and Vista; and nearby unincorporated areas.

During its journey, the water remains safe with increased security at key facilities, increased water sampling, and aerial and ground patrols. Protecting your water doesn't end with the thousands of tests performed throughout the year. We also support regulatory changes in public policy to improve water quality.

Water... California's Real Gold

Water is one of California's most precious resources. As such, VWD understands the vitality of water and takes every step necessary to treat, protect, and conserve this treasure. It is our goal to protect you by providing a clean, healthy, and reliable supply that is always available when needed. Drinking water supplied by VWD meets high regulatory standards. Daily, your water passes through almost 200 types of tests conducted by our wholesalers. That's not all. Once within our boundaries, water is again tested at our reservoirs and more than 200 sample points throughout the District, providing added protection from possible tampering or contaminants.

Water Quality Report 2005...

Since 1955, we've been your water specialists, making safety and quality a top priority. This is evidenced through the extra water quality tests we administer. It comes as no surprise, as you will later see in this report, that the District either met or exceeded every state and federal water quality monitoring and reporting standard in 2005. It is important to understand that drinking water standards in this report are based on research to protect the general public and may not be sufficient to protect certain immuno-compromised persons, as explained further in this report.



What is Inside Your Water Before Treatment

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 at (1-800-426-4791)**.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Department of Health Services (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. The Vallecitos Water District, and its water wholesalers, treat the water according to these regulations.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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.

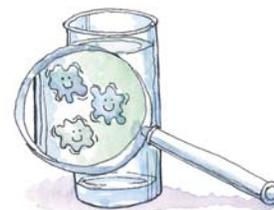
Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

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 result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.



Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

HEALTH ADVISORIES REGARDING YOUR WATER

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* or other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...This report is only a summary of the water quality activities during the past year. If you have any questions about your water quality or Vallecitos Water District, please visit our web site at www.vwd.org or call (760) 744-0460 during business hours (Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.). The District's headquarters is at 201 Vallecitos de Oro, San Marcos, CA 92069. The public is also encouraged to attend meetings of the Board of Directors held the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 4 p.m. in the District's Board Room. Questions specific to water quality can be directed to Jon Sherwood, the District's Water System Operations Supervisor, at (760) 744-0460, ext. 236. For additional information, contact:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - (800) 426-4791 - www.epa.gov/safewater

National Center for Disease Control - (404) 639-3311 - www.cdc.gov

California Department of Health Services - Division of Drinking Water & Environmental Mgm.
(619) 525-4159 - www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California - (213) 217-6000 - www.mwd.dst.ca.us

The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants detected during the 2005 calendar year. Thousands of water quality tests were performed on your drinking water last year. Many more parameters were tested for and not found. The results in this report show that your water met, and in most cases exceeded, all of the stringent state (California Department of Health Services) and federal (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) water quality standards relating to public health and aesthetics, such as taste, odor and color. Unless otherwise noted, the data in the following tables reflect testing from January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2005. The monitoring of certain contaminants is not required annually since they are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Therefore, though representative of the water quality, some of the data may be more than one year old.

Summary of Vallecitos Water District's 2005 Water Quality Analysis

PARAMETER	Units	State MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Range	Treatment Plant Effluents	Major Sources in Drinking Water
					Combined Skinner Plants	
Percent State Project Water	%	NA	NA	Range	27 - 69	NA
				Average	40	
PRIMARY STANDARDS - Mandatory Health-Related Standards - Data provided by Metropolitan Water District of southern California (MWD)						
CLARITY						
Combined Filter Effluent Turbidity	NTU %	0.3 95 (a)	NA	Highest % < 0.3	0.18 96%	Soil runoff
MICROBIOLOGICAL						
Total Coliform Bacteria	%	5.0 (b)	(0)	Range Average	Distribution System-wide: 0% Distribution System-wide: 0%	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	(c)	(c)	(0)	Distribution System-wide Fecal Coliform-positive samples = 0 Distribution System-wide E.coli-positive samples = 0		Human and animal fecal waste
Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) (d)	CFU/mL	TT	NA	Range	TT	Naturally present in the environment
				Average	TT	
Cryptosporidium (e)	Oocysts/ 200 L	TT	(0)	Range	TT	Human and animal fecal waste
				Average	TT	
Giardia (e)	Cysts/ 200 L	TT	(0)	Range	TT	Human and animal fecal waste
				Average	TT	
Total Culturable Viruses (e)	MPN/ 100 L	TT	(0)	Range	TT	Human and animal fecal waste
				Average	TT	
Legionella	MPN/ 100 L	TT	(0)	Range	TT	Naturally present in the environment
				Average	TT	
ORGANIC CHEMICALS						
Acrylamide	NA	TT	(o)	Range	TT	Water treatment chemical impurities
				Average	TT	
Epichlorohydrin	NA	TT	(o)	Range	TT	Water treatment chemical impurities
				Average	TT	
INORGANIC CHEMICALS						
Aluminum (f)	ppb	1000	600	Range	ND - 151	Residue from water treatment process; natural deposits erosion
				Average	73	
Arsenic	ppb	50	0.004	Range	ND	Natural deposits erosion, glass and electronics production wastes
				Average	ND	
Barium	ppb	1000	2000	Range	ND - 104	Oil and metal refineries discharges; natural deposits erosion
				Average	ND	
Fluoride (naturally-occurring)	ppm	2	1	Range	0.16 - 0.28	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for tooth health
				Average	0.23	
Nitrate (as N) (g)	ppm	10	10	Range	ND - 0.75	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; sewage; natural erosion
				Average	ND	
Nitrate and Nitrite (as N)	ppm	10	10	Range	ND - 0.75	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; sewage; natural erosion
				Average	ND	
RADIONUCLIDES (h)						
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	pCi/L	15	(0)	Range	ND - 5.5	Erosion of natural deposits
				Average	4.2	
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	Range	2.9 - 3.2	Erosion of natural deposits
				Average	3.0	
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS, AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS PRECURSORS (FEDERAL)						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (i)	ppb	80	NA	Range	36 - 89	By-product of drinking water chlorination
				Average	60	
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (i, j)	ppb	60	NA	Range	16 - 40	By-product of drinking water chlorination
				Average	24	
Total Chlorine Residual	ppm	[4.0]	[4.0]	Range	1.5 - 2.8	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
				Highest RAA	2.4	
Bromate (k)	ppb	10	(0)	Range	NA	By-product of drinking water ozonation
				Highest RAA	NA	
DBP Precursors Control (TOC) (l)	ppm	TT	NA	Range	TT	Various natural and man-made sources
				Average	TT	

This analysis report lists only the detected parameters, which are required by law to be published. However, more than 167 parameters were monitored. If you would like a copy of the full report, including the non-detected contaminants call the District's Public Information Office at (760) 744-0460, ext. 238, or the report can be viewed on our website at www.vwd.org.

Summary of Vallecitos Water District's 2005 Water Quality Analysis - Continued

PARAMETER	Units	State MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Range Average	Treatment Plant Effluents	Major Sources in Drinking Water
					Combined Skinner Plants	
SECONDARY STANDARDS - Aesthetic Standards - Data provided by Metropolitan Water District of southern California (MWD)						
Aluminum (f)	ppb	1000	600	Range	ND - 151	Residue from water treatment process; natural deposits; erosion
				Average	73	
Chloride	ppm	500	NA	Range	83 - 92	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
				Average	88	
Color	Units	15	NA	Range	1 - 3	Naturally occurring organic materials
				Average	2	
Corrosivity (l)	SI	non-corrosive	NA	Range	0.04 - 0.60	Elemental balance in water; affected by temperature, other factors
				Average	0.38	
Odor Threshold (m)	Units	3	NA	Range	2	Naturally occurring organic materials
				Average	2	
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	NA	Range	687 - 938	Substances that form ions in water; seawater influence
				Average	854	
Sulfate	ppm	500	NA	Range	103 - 210	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
				Average	173	
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	ppm	1000	NA	Range	386 - 554	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
				Average	501	
Turbidity (a)	NTU	5	NA	Range	0.06 - 0.08	Soil runoff
				Average	0.07	

ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

CFU/ml - Colony-Forming Units per milliliter

DBP - Disinfection By-Products

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

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

MPN - Most Probable Number

MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level - The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - The level of disinfectant added for water treatment below which there are no expected risks to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

N - Nitrogen

NA - Not Applicable

ND - None Detected

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units

pCi/L - picoCuries per liter

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 Environmental Protection Agency.

ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

RAA - Running Annual Average

SI - Saturation Index (Langelier)

TOC - Total Organic Carbon

TT - Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

µS/cm - microSiemen per centimeter; also equivalent to µmho/cm (micromho per centimeter)

Primary Standards (Primary Drinking Water Standards) -

MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and drinking water treatment requirements.

Secondary Standards - Requirements that ensure the appearance taste and smell of drinking water are acceptable.

FOOTNOTES

- (a) - The turbidity level of the filtered water shall be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of the measurements taken each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is an indicator of treatment performance. The monthly averages and ranges of turbidity shown in the Secondary Standards section were based on the plant effluents.
- (b) - Total coliform MCLs: No more than 5.0% of the monthly samples may be total coliform-positive. Compliance is based on the combined distribution system sampling from all the treatment plants. In 2005, 10,433 samples were analyzed. The MCL was not violated.
- (c) - Fecal coliform/*E. coli* MCLs: The occurrence of 2 consecutive total coliform-positive samples, one of which contains fecal coliform/*E. coli*, constitutes an acute MCL violation. The MCL was not violated in 2005.
- (d) - HPC values were based on the monthly averages of the plant effluent samples. In 2005, all distribution samples collected had detectable total chlorine residuals and no HPC was required.
- (e) - In 2005, the plant effluents had no detectable *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, or Total Culturable Viruses. *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* samples were collected monthly (200 liters for plant effluents). Total Culturable Viruses samples were collected quarterly.
- (f) - Aluminum has both primary and secondary standards.
- (g) - State MCL is 45 mg/L as nitrate, which equals 10 mg/L as N.
- (h) - Results based on two (2) quarterly samplings done in 2005; four (4) quarters of monitoring will be completed by second quarter of 2006.
- (i) - Average and range for the treatment plant effluents were taken from weekly samples for TTHM and monthly samples for HAA5. Distribution system-wide average and range were taken from 47 samples collected quarterly. In 2005, Metropolitan was in compliance with all provisions of the Stage 1 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products (D/DBP) Rule. TOC provides a medium for the formation of DBPs. Metropolitan was also in compliance with the DBP precursor control (TOC) portion of the Stage 1 D/DBP regulation.
- (j) - HAA5 consists of dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, dibromoacetic acid (all with DLR = 1.0 ppb), and monochloroacetic acid which has a DLR = 2.0 ppb.
- (k) - Running annual average was calculated from weekly samples. Bromate reporting level is 3 ppb.
- (l) - SI measures the tendency for a water to precipitate or dissolve calcium carbonate (a natural mineral in water). Positive indices indicate the tendency to precipitate and/or deposit scale on pipes and are assumed to be non-corrosive. Negative indices indicate the tendency to dissolve calcium carbonate and are assumed to be corrosive.
- (m) - Metropolitan has developed a flavor-profile analysis method that can more accurately detect odor occurrences. For more information, contact MWD at (213) 217-6850.

Summary of Vallecitos Water District's 2005 Water Quality Analysis - Continued

Other Detected Constituents That May be of Interest to Consumers

Parameter	Units	NL	Range Average	Treatment Plant Effluents Combined Skinner Plants
Alkalinity	ppm	NA	Range	95 - 114
			Average	107
Boron	ppb	1,000	Range	150 - 160
			Average	150
Calcium	ppm	NA	Range	38 - 62
			Average	55
Hardness	ppm	NA	Range	169 - 260
			Average	231
Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) (a)	CFU/mL	NA	Range	ND - 1
			Average	ND
Magnesium	ppm	NA	Range	18 - 25.5
			Average	23
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) (b)	ppt	10	Range	ND - 2.2
pH	pH Units	NA	Range	8.1 - 8.2
			Average	8.1
Perchlorate (c)	ppb	6	Range	ND - 2.3
			Average	ND
Potassium	ppm	NA	Range	3.8 - 4.6
			Average	4.3
Sodium	ppm	NA	Range	69 - 88
			Average	82
Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (d)	ppm	NA	Range	2.3 - 3.1
			Average	2.7

ABBREVIATIONS, DEFINITIONS, AND FOOTNOTES

Abbreviations and Definitions- (Please refer to main table for other abbreviations and definitions)

- NL** - Notification Level - The level at which notification of the public water system's governing body is required. Prior to 2005, NL used to be known as action level (AL).
- ppt** - parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

Footnotes:

- (a)** - HPC values were based on the monthly averages of the plant effluent samples.
- (b)** - Range for the plant effluents were taken from quarterly samples.
- (c)** - Both PHG (issued by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment) and NL (issued by CA Department of Health Services) were set at 6 ppb. Perchlorate reporting level is 2 ppb.
- (d)** - Average and range for the treatment plant effluents were taken from weekly samples at the combined filter effluent.

Summary of Vallecitos Water District's 2005 Water Quality Analysis - Continued

Data Provided by Vallecitos Water District - Summary of Water Quality Tests Within VWD's Distribution System

PARAMETER	Units	State MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Range Average	Within VWD's System	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Data Provided by Vallecitos Water District - Summary of Water Quality Tests Within VWD's Distribution System						
Total Coliform Bacteria (a)	%	5.0 (a)	(0)	(a)		Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform & E. coli (b)	(b)	(b)	(0)	(b)		Human and animal fecal waste
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (c)	ppb	80	NA	Range	50 - 100	By-product of drinking water chlorination
				Average	73.6	
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (d)	ppb	60	NA	Range	19 - 46	By-product of drinking water chlorination
				Average	31.7	
General Physical Sampling (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	Secondary Standards (aesthetics) testing required by DHS within VWD's Distribution System		
MONITORED AT CUSTOMERS' TAP						
Copper (f)	ppm	1.3 mg/L	0.17	Range	NA	The District is required to sample every three years. Our next sample period is scheduled for June of 2006. The District was in compliance with the "Lead and Copper Rule" in 2005.
				Average	NA	
Lead (f)	ppm	0.015 mg/L	2	Range	NA	
				Average	NA	

ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.</p> <p>MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level - The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.</p> | <p>MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - The level of disinfectant added for water treatment below which there are no expected risks to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>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 Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)</p> <p>ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)</p> <p>TTHM - Total Trihalomethanes</p> <p>HAA5 - Haloacetic Acids (five)</p> |
|--|---|

FOOTNOTES

- (a) - The District tested the number of samples required by the State (1,033 were required). One sample tested positive for Total Coliform. This positive sample was determined to have been caused by the sampling equipment and not the water. The District was in compliance with the Total Coliform MCL for 2005.
- (b) - The District tested the number of samples required by the State. All samples tested negative for Fecal/E. coli bacteria. The District was in compliance with the Fecal/E. coli MCL for 2005.
- (c) - The MCL for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) is determined by using a running annual average of the last four quarterly tests. The District was in compliance with the regulations concerning Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) for 2005.
- (d) - The MCL for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) is determined by using a running annual average of the last four quarterly tests. The District was in compliance with the regulations concerning Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) for 2005.
- (e) - The Department of Health Services - Office of Drinking Water requested the District to begin taking General Physical samples in September of 1994. The District was required to take twenty (20) General Physical samples per month in 2005. These samples were tested for Turbidity, Odor, and Color. The District was in compliance with the Secondary Standards for these tests in 2005.
- (f) - The federal and state standards for Lead and Copper are treatment techniques requiring agencies to optimize corrosion control treatment. The District is required to sample every three years. The District was in compliance with the "Lead and Copper Rule" for 2005.



<p>Parts Per Million 3 drops in 42 gallons</p> <p>Parts Per Billion 1 drop in 14,000 gallon</p>

Going Beyond Typical Water Quality Assurance

It is often believed that quality suffers as a result of increased quantity. However, Vallecitos Water District (VWD) is one agency that has managed to dispel the notion.

Since VWD's inception more than 50 years ago, the agency's population has slowly evolved over time with its service area.

Once a predominantly agricultural region, the once plentiful groves and farms have given way to homes, restaurants, a college and a major university.

Despite the steady transition, VWD has adapted accordingly to efficiently meet the water, sewer and reclamation needs of its customer base by implementing new technologies.

This is especially evident in VWD's Water Systems Operations Department, which



Water System Operator analyzes water quality samples at District reservoir.

is responsible for providing safe, reliable and high-quality water that flows from your faucet, water hose, and other fixtures around your residence.

One major task for the District's operations department includes keeping all

tanks and reservoirs at sufficient levels. But the department is also responsible for regu-

larly sampling water for quality at numerous spots within the District's boundaries throughout the day.

Results consistently meet, and in many cases, exceed requirements set forth by regulators - the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California Department of Health Services.

The continuous positive test results can be attributed to VWD as an organization, but more particularly to the District's Nitrification Control Program.

The proactive program essentially goes beyond the regular standard for eliminating bad chemicals and bacteria that naturally appear in water prior to treatment.

This is just one of the many processes the



Water quality test equipment

District employs in its commitment to providing its customers with

the best water quality possible.

For more information regarding this program, or any other quality questions, contact VWD's Water Operations Supervisor Jon Sherwood, at (760)744-0460, ext. 236. ○

VWD: Increasing Storage a Little at a Time

Vallecitos Water District (VWD) doesn't see the amount of water in any of its 17 storage tanks as half empty or half full. Instead, the level is just enough just in time.

Carefully placed among miles of transmission pipes and high-powered pumps, on the hills, and above and below ground, are reservoirs instrumental to District service. With constant reminders to conserve because of limited storage during extended periods of warm weather, aqueduct shutdowns, etc., it may appear to customers that the District is behind the storage supply and demand curve.

However, in actuality, VWD is on pace to meet demand, but following a "road map" that prevents the District from inducing growth and burdening customers with rate increases for constructing too many reservoirs too soon.

Tanks and reservoirs not only offer supply in emergency, but operational efficiency too. As such, it seems logical that the District would take a proactive approach with reservoir development, methodically placing them at any and every potential spot of projected population growth within VWD's 45-square-mile boundary. That way, storage will always be available at a push of a button, no matter how much the customer base increases.

But, as the saying goes, too much of a good thing is not always beneficial. Randomly

building and placing tanks and leaving them out of commission until one day population growth requires their use would cause water quality issues related to standing water. It would also place VWD in the position of making land-planning decisions, which it is prohibited from doing. Aggressive reservoir and tank construction would also have environmental impacts.



Tanks such as Palos Verdes (above) are critical for operational efficiency and storage in the event of an emergency.

Furthermore, building tanks without an immediate use wouldn't help, but harm rate-payers - in the pocket book to be exact. Vallecitos has always exercised a balanced approach when it comes to water system expansion: exist-

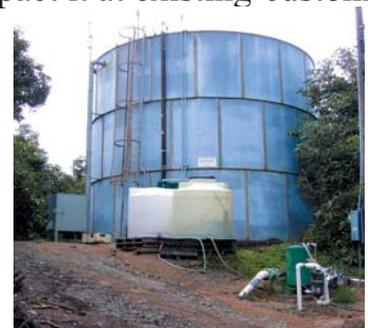
ing customers pay for existing facilities; new customers pay for any necessary expansions. Advanced reservoir construction would contradict this approach, causing existing customers to "pony up" the bill for the future.

New customers, in turn, would be able to annex to the system and impact it at existing-customer expense.

So what "map" guides the District to prevent this from happening?

The District generates a comprehensive Master Plan that examines future

water and wastewater needs five years at a time. During compilation of this important document, VWD takes into consideration projects approved



VWD's Masterplan dictates tank construction. Wulff (above) will soon be replaced by a larger one to meet the community's needs.

(continued on next page)

Storage Increase - Continued from page 10

by land-planning entities it supplies services for - the cities of San Marcos, Carlsbad, Escondido, Vista, as well as the County of San Diego.

After completing the document, the District immediately goes to work with tailor-made projects that will meet future demand. However, years down the road, it isn't uncommon for any of the land-planning entities to revise land-use density projections upward, with changes to already-approved development.

Although the Master Plan does leave room for such occurrences, such revisions do impact the District - especially communities that see a rapid increase in population within the five year-update period. This factor contributes to

the District being forced to play "catch up." Supplying "a little more storage a little later" has given way to the development of 17 VWD tanks and reservoirs that provide the system with a combined capacity of 73.62 million gallons. But further, the Master Plan has dictated the construction of more reservoirs, including the 40-million-gallon capacity Twin Oaks Reservoir No. 2 that is currently being constructed. An additional reservoir of similar capacity will be built adjacent to that one when needed.

In the end, the fair and balanced Master Plan provides an as-needed approach to providing water-supply assurance. Overall, it helps keep rates low, allows the District to meet land-planning-agency demands, and protects the environment. 🌱

Is Your Water Use Summertime Sufficient?

The longer, warmer days of summer will soon be upon us. Do you have an efficient conservation plan in place?

With a view to saving water, lowering your monthly water bill, and keeping treated water demand to a minimum this summer, follow the list below:

Check and adjust your irrigation system and timers at least once a month - more often in high traffic areas. Make repairs promptly.

Use the Landscape Calculator at www.vwd.org to set a water-wise irrigation schedule.

Use the "percent adjust" key on your timer - if you have one. Visit the "Watering Index" at www.mwdh2o.com.



Set schedules to irrigate throughout the entire week, minimizing irrigation Monday through Thursday.

Check the soil's moisture level before watering.

Replace unused turf with low-water use plants and appropriate irrigation systems.

Upgrade the irrigation system to include new, high-efficiency equipment.

Check the back-up batteries in your timer and replace with fresh batteries twice a year such as at daylight savings time change.

Limit the number of times you fill pools, spas and fountains. 🌊



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Your 2005 Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report is inside

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