

Sierra Los Pinos



Property Owners' Association

# Sierra Los Pinos HOA, WSS # 65423 Consumer Confidence Report

## Year 2005

### **Is my water safe?**

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Sierra Los Pinos Property Owner's Association vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard for the year 2005.

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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 system 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. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **Where does my water come from?**

Our water originates from the Rio Grand Watershed and we access this ground water through several deep (over 300 ft. deep) wells located on Association property. 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. Microbial contaminants, such as virus and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water run off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

### **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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.

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, which 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### How can I get involved?

The board meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 7:15 PM at the Sierra Los Pinos Fire Station. Every year, we always have a problem in getting people to volunteer to run for board position vacancies. Volunteer and put a little back into the community.

Please help by adopting water conservation practices, especially outdoor use.

### Results of radon monitoring

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. 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. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly.

For additional information, call your state radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

## Water Quality Data

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Table

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Arsenic (ppb)	NA	50	3	3	3	--	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics
Chromium [Total] (ppb)	100	100	1	NA	1	--	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.264	0.131	0.264	--	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Cyanide [as Free Cn] (ppb)	200	200	100	100	100	--	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.5	0.50	1.5	--	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	3	5	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	600	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	0.0005	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	0.5	NA		9/2/2005	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	0.0005	NA		9/2/2005	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Trihalomethanes (THM4) (ug/L)	MNR	MNR	1.2	NA		4/16/03	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	0.7	NA	0.7	--	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L) (pCi/L)	NA	NA	1.5	NA		--	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta Particles.

Contaminants	MRDL	MRDLG	Your Water Average	Range		Sample Date	Violation?	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	0.375	0.2	0.7	Average for '05	No	Water additive used to control microbes

**Units Description:**

NA: Not applicable  
 ND: Not detected  
 NR: Not reported  
 MNR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

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

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

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.

**Important Drinking Water Definitions**

**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 allow for a margin of safety.

**MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal.** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level.** There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Source water assessment and its availability**

The susceptibility ranking of our water system is moderately high.

**Other Information**

Check all plumbing fixtures in and around your home for leaks. If you have leaks, take the time and effort to fix them. We are always struggling in the summer months to maintain water levels due to leakage and excessive usage such as lawn watering, car washing, children with hoses playing, etc. and all efforts to minimize water usage, including fixing leaks, helps the system.

If you insist on having an Oasis in the high desert, please use soaker hoses and other technology that minimizes water usage.

To protect us from water-borne illnesses, the state requires us to chlorinate our water systems. How we achieve this is by direct-metered injection of a Calcium HypoChlorite solution at 3 locations into our water systems. We maintain a free chlorine residual at 0.4 mg/l to 0.5 mg/l. This residual protects us from bacterial contamination,

