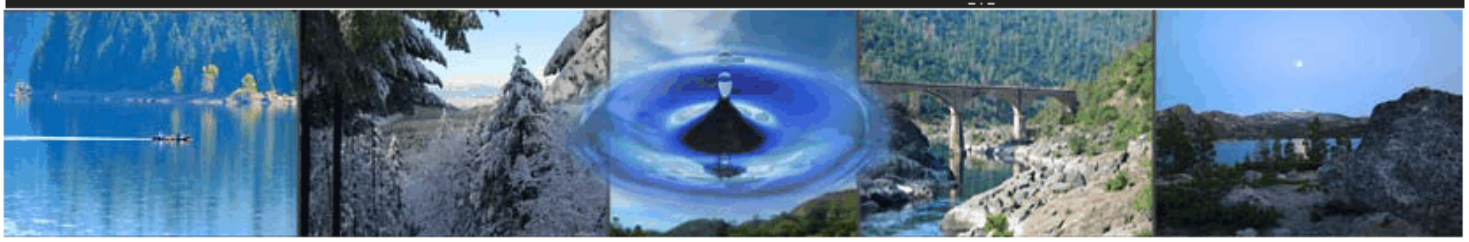
Georgetown Divide Public Utility District



Domestic Water | **Irrigation Service** | **On-Site Waste Disposal**

1946~ 2015 Reflecting on the Past. Planning for the Future.

The Georgetown Divide Public Utility District is pleased to present this information to our customers, which includes two documents mandated by the California Department of Public Health, the **Consumer Confidence Report/Annual Water Quality Report** and **a State Notification Letter** regarding a Treatment Technique

DEAR WATER USER,

This report contains important information about your drinking water quality. We are pleased to report that in 2015 as in years past, your water meets or exceeds all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The District vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again, your water system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. Included in these pages are details on where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to state standards. For additional information on water quality, customers may contact GDPUD at (530) 333-4356.

Este informe constiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcaldo hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Your Water Supply

Your water originates in the Sierra, flows into Stumpy Meadows Reservoir which is an extremely high quality surface water source. The water is then transported through a Gold Rush-era canal system and pipes to the Walton Lake and Auburn Lake Trails water treatment plants. The Walton Lake plant serves the communities of Georgetown, Garden Valley, Kelsey and Greenwood. The Auburn Lake Trails plant serves Auburn Lake Trails, Cool and Pilot Hill. Both plants use a multi-barrier process to ensure the quality of your drinking water. Each plant uses liquid bleach to disinfect raw water before it undergoes treatment. The treatment process involves coagulation for the removal of fine particles, filtration using sand and anthracite, disinfection, and reduction of corrosivity through use of sodium carbonate. Treated water is stored in tanks and piped to customers.

Water Quality Rules Explained

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling USEPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). The California notification levels are available on the Department's website. http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/NotificationLevels.

Some People Are More Vulnerable

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. USEPA and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

GDPUD Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meets regularly on the second Tuesday of each month, at 2:00 p.m. at the District offices, located at 6425 Main Street in Georgetown. Your Board members are:

- Norm Krizl, President
- Carl Hoelscher, Vice President
- Lon Uso, Treasurer
- Jesse Hanschild, Director
- Maria Capraun, Director

The District's office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Natural Materials Can Enter Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs and canals. As water travels over the surface of the land 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 include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from 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, 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 also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, septic systems and agricultural application.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

About Contaminants

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. GDPUD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/lead.

WATERSHED HEALTH

Water Source Assessment

Source water protection is the primary barrier for providing safe drinking water. A contaminant that does not enter the water source does not need to be removed. An assessment of the district's drinking water source was completed in December 2002. The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities for which no associated contaminants have been detected in the water supply: historic gas stations, historic mining operations, wastewater treatment systems, forest management activities, recreational use, storm drain and storm water discharges and illegal dumping. You may request a copy of the complete assessment or a summary at the GDPUD office or by contacting Bruce Berger, the CDPH Sanitary Engineer, at (916) 449-5666.

Understanding the Consumer Confidence Report

The tables presented in this report list all of the drinking water contaminants that were **detected** during the 2015 calendar year, unless otherwise noted. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Definitions

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average
MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCL's are set as close to the PHG's (or MCLG's) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCL's 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. MCLG's are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
MRDL: Maximum Residual Detection Limit. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG: Maximum Residual Detection Limit 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.
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. A measurement of water clarity.
PHG: Public Health Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHG's are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.
Primary Drinking Water Standard: MCL's for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
Regulatory Action Level (AL): is the concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a system must follow.
Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor or appearance of drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.
ND: Non-Detected
NS: No Standard
NA: Not Applicable
ppm: parts per million
ppb: parts per billion
mg/L: milligrams per liter (1 mg/L = 1 ppm)
pCi/l: pico curies per liter
TOC: Total Organic Carbon
Treatment Technique (TT): is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Georgetown Divide Public Utility District Consumer Confidence Report
2015 Calendar Year (Reported in 2016)

Primary Drinking Water Standards-Health Related							
Constituent/ Parameter	**Unit**	**MCL**	**PHG or (MCLG)**	**Your Water**		**Meets Standards**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
				Walton Lake WTP Service Area	**Auburn Lake Trails WTP Service Area**		
Turbidity and Microbiological Primary Drinking Water Standards							
Turbidity	NTU	TT=1NTU	0.1	0.29 highest (0.04 average)	0.28 highest (0.04 average)	YES	Soil runoff
		TT=95% of samples <0.3 NTU	NA	100%	100%	YES	
TURBIDITY NOTE*: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water or the level of suspended matter in the water. The District monitors it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. High turbidity can hinder the efficacy of disinfectants. In reporting turbidity, the highest single measurement and the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits are specified.*							
Total Coliform Bacteria (Total Coliform Rule- (weekly samples)		No more than one positive monthly sample	0	1	0	YES	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and E.Coli (Total Coliform Rule-weekly samples)		A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or E.Coli positive.	0	0	0	YES	Human and animal fecal waste
COLIFORM NOTE: *Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present.*							
Inorganic Chemicals-Source Water Results							
Nitrate as NO_3	ppm	45	45	0.53	ND	YES	Runoff/leaching from fertilizer use; septic tanks and sewage; erosion from natural deposits.
Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection Byproducts Precursors							
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	ppb	80	NA	29.25 LRAA (25.0-39.0 range)	48.25 LRAA (32.0-63.0 range)	YES	By product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	NA	16.4 LRAA (11.0-17.6 range)	24.1 LRAA (12.0-30.9 range)	YES	By product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	ppm	MRDL=4.0	MRDLG=4	0.87 average (0.44-1.19 range)	1.04 average (0.21-1.62 range)	YES	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Constituents with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard and General Mineral Constituent (Source Water-2014 results)							
Iron	ppb	300	NS	ND	100	YES	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	ppm	1000	NS	18	21	YES	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (EC)	micromhos	1600	NS	22	38	YES	Substances that form ions in water; seawater influence
Chloride	ppm	500	NS	0.91	1.00	YES	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate	ppm	500	NS	0.54	0.81	YES	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste
Aggressive Index		NS	NS	9.3 (slightly corrosive)	9.12 (slightly corrosive0		Natural or industrially influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in the water; affected by temperature and other factors
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	ppm	NS	NS	15	14		Naturally occurring in water
Calcium	ppm	NS	NS	2.3	3.0		Naturally occurring in water
Sodium	ppm	NS	NS	1.6	1.5		Sodium refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Total Hardness	ppm	NS	NS	9.0	21.0		Naturally occurring in water, generally from magnesium and calcium
pH (daily treated water in 2015)	Units	NS	NS	8.10 average (7.91-8.3 range)	8.35 average (8.05-8.6 range)		Naturally occurring in water

Georgetown Divide Public Utility District

PUBLIC NOTICE TO DISTRICT CUSTOMERS

OLDER WATER TREATMENT PROCESS DOES NOT MEET STATE STANDARDS

Dear Customer,

The Georgetown Divide Public Utility District takes great pride in the high quality of the water we supply to our customers. In our many years of service, our water has always met or exceeded state and federal public health standards. Even though our water continues to meet all of these standards, one of the methods in our water treatment process has become outdated under today's state standards. This is not surprising in a smaller, rural community where water treatment plants are older (the Auburn Lake Trails plant was built in 1971). It is financially challenging for a district with a small customer base to pay for millions of dollars in water system improvements. Twelve years ago, on February 9, 2004, the California Department of Public Health, Office of Drinking Water issued an administrative order (No. 01-09-04CO-002) that instructs the district to comply with state regulations regarding the filtration of drinking water. Printed here is the state's public notification message:

NOTIFICATION OF FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH DRINKING WATER TREATMENT STANDARDS

"The Georgetown Divide Public Utility District is providing this notice at the direction of the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water to bring to your attention certain matters regarding the treatment of your drinking water supply. The Department establishes standards for the quality of drinking water, including regulations for the quality of water supplies drawn from lakes and streams (i.e., surface water). If such water is inadequately treated, microbiological contaminants in the water may cause disease. Disease-causing organisms, if present, can cause symptoms including diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly jaundice, and any associated headaches and fatigue. (These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water, but also may be caused by a number of factors other than your drinking water.) Since it is infeasible to analyze treated water for all disease-causing organisms that may be present, the Department has established enforceable requirements (Surface Water Treatment Regulations) for treating surface water to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. The regulations include specific criteria for filtering and disinfecting surface water to remove or destroy microbiological contaminants. Drinking water that is treated to meet these criteria is considered to be safe. The Georgetown Divide Public Utility District water treatment plants use a filtration technology that is not among those listed in the Surface Water Treatment Regulations. Because the District has not demonstrated to the Department that its treatment plants provide a degree of treatment equivalent to the listed technologies, the plants are not considered to be in compliance with the Department's regulations. . The District is currently working toward bringing the ALT water treatment plant into compliance with the regulations by constructing at new treatment plant at the existing ALT site. It is estimated that construction will start in 2016 and be completed by March 2018**.** The District will keep you informed on a regular basis of progress made. If you have any questions regarding this notification, or our service, please call GDPUD at (530) 333-4356".

District Summary

The Walton Lake water treatment plant was upgraded in 2005 which brought the plant into compliance with State regulations. The Auburn Lake Trails (ALT) water treatment plant was considered to be state of the art when it was built, but the "in-line filtration" technology does not meet current standards. Your Board of Directors wants to provide the best possible service to customers but is also very concerned about costs and resulting impacts on water rates. The district is making significant progress with the ALT water treatment plant project. The new Auburn Lake Trails Water Treatment Plant, which will meet state and federal surface water treatment standards when complete, is on track to be completed by 2018**.** In the meantime, you may consider your water safe to drink.