

## Grizzly Flats Community Services District

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### Fact Sheet: GFCSD Water Quality and Treatment

In the last month, we have had a few customers come to us concerned about some rumors and misinformation they've heard around town about our water. Although we have not been contacted directly by anyone complaining about the quality of their water, we do want to make sure you have the facts about our water system and the water that is delivered to your home.

If you ever have a question or concern about your water, don't hesitate to contact our office by phone at **(530) 622-9626** or email at [gfwater@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gfwater@sbcglobal.net). We are open Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It's our job to ensure you have safe, clean water delivered to your property. If you have a problem, we are available to do Water Quality Checks and will work with you to help identify possible causes. Sometimes something as simple as flushing your hot water heater can solve a problem!

#### Water Quality

The drinking water delivered to your home is safe and exceeds all State and Federal regulations set for water quality. We are lucky to live at the top of the water supply chain. Our water comes from creeks that are fed by natural springs, snow melt and precipitation. Our watershed (where our water comes from) is within the National Forest. We have no agricultural or formal recreational facilities in our watershed, so there is very little chance of contamination before it reaches our reservoir. Our raw and treated water is tested at different locations within our system for contaminants several times a month. The turbidity, chlorine, and pH levels are monitored daily at our reservoir, treatment plant and tank sites. The State and Federal regulations have "Maximum Contaminant Levels" or MCLs that our water must meet. You can review our annual Consumer Confidence Reports, available on our website or in our office for more information. We test for over 100 different contaminants but here is just a sampling of our latest results:

Contaminant	MCLs	GFCSD Test Result
Aluminum	1	Non detect
Arsenic	0.01	Non detect
Chromium, Hexavalent	0.01	0.000049
Mercury	0.002	Non detect
Total Trihalomethanes	0.08	.00046
pH (average of both raw & treated)	6.5 – 8.5	6.75 – 8
Alkalinity	No MCL – not considered a contaminant	7.6

#### Chemicals Used to Treat the Water

We use two chemicals to treat the water; chlorine and a coagulant (Sterling Chemical 8809). We have used our current treatment process since 2010. Due to the excellent quality of our raw water, it requires very little treatment.

Chlorine is needed to kill waterborne pathogens that can cause diseases like cryptosporidium, giardia, typhoid fever, dysentery, cholera and Legionnaires' disease. Chlorine has been used to treat drinking water since 1908 and is currently used by 98% of the water utilities in the United States.

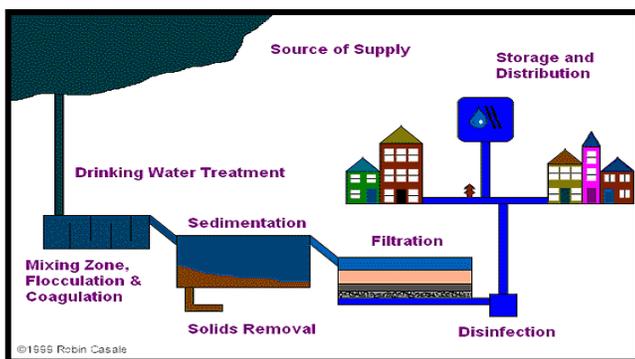
The coagulant (8809) we use is also used by El Dorado Irrigation District because we have similar water quality. The 8809 is mixed into the water during treatment and acts like a glue; attaching small particles of dirt together to make clumps called floc. The floc settles out and the clarified water is sent through a filter to remove any remaining impurities. The water is then sent out into the distribution system and to your homes.

## January by the Numbers:

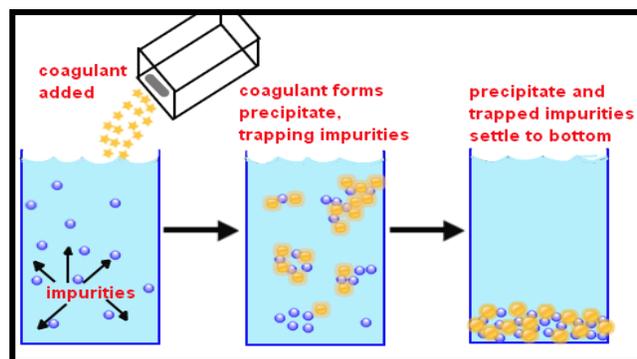
- Amount of water produced by GFCSD: **2,444,466 gallons**
- Amount of chlorine used: **36 gallons**
- Amount of 8809 used: **2 gallons**

## Water Treatment and Distribution to Your Home

The following describes the basic steps used to make the raw water from our reservoir safe to drink and use in your household. Having an adequate, clean supply of water in our community ensures that everyone has safe water to drink and that the community has water available for fire protection.



*A sample map of a water system*



*Coagulant creates floc (precipitate)*

**Source:** It's important that the sources we use for our water supply are clean and an adequate amount is readily available. The GFCSD obtains its water supply by direct diversions of stream flows from North Canyon and Big Canyon Creeks which are tributaries to the North Fork of the Cosumnes River. Flows are diverted thru the piped Eagle Ditch. Eagle Ditch brings the water flow down to our raw water reservoir.

**Treatment:** Treatment techniques remove soil and dirt, bacteria, viruses, parasites and impurities. The steps include coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

**Coagulation and Flocculation:** Gentle mixing of the water and treatment chemicals causes the impurities and particles to form larger floc particles. We use a coagulant (Sterling Chemical 8809).

**Sedimentation:** The particles that are formed through coagulation and flocculation become increasingly larger and eventually settle out of the water in a sedimentation basin.

**Filtration:** After sedimentation, the clarified water is passed through filters to remove the floc. Our filters are made up of anthracite coal, sand, garnet, and several different layers of gravel.

**Disinfection:** Disease-causing bacteria, viruses, and parasites are destroyed by disinfection. We use chlorine for disinfection.

**Distribution:** The Distribution System is a system of pipes and storage tanks that allows water to travel from the drinking water treatment plant to the homes in our community. The Distribution System is made up of pipes, pumps, valves, storage tanks, fire hydrants and meters.