

Water Update 2023



A summary of how the Grizzly Flats Community Services District is meeting or exceeding all EPA and State drinking water health standards



2023

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

For additional information about your water, or to answer any questions about this report, please contact Kim Gustafson, General Manager at Grizzly Flats CSD (530) 622-9626.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

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



Capital Improvement Projects

Every year, the Grizzly Flats Community Services District implements numerous projects and programs to deliver safe, pure, clean water to your faucet. Here is a summary of some of the projects the District has recently completed or have planned for the near future for the District's water system:

El Dorado County Civil Grand Jury Investigation: "How Will Grizzly Flats Water District Survive?"

GFCSD's General Manager, Board Chair, and Vice Chair were asked to interview before the El Dorado County Civil Grand Jury a total of five times in 2023. Additionally, staff spent many hours outside of the interviews to provide various operational information such as the District's lien process, the details of our stand-by fee, Ordinance 88-1, our New Customer Information Packet, financial statements, any and all documents showing our financial status, numbers of billed customers versus amount of payments received, number of unbilled services, amount of service transfers, process for transferring accounts, and much more.

After the investigation was completed, they issued a report wherein the El Dorado County Civil Grand Jury recommended the district create a Contingency Plan and pursue a new rate structure under Proposition 218.

Cost of Services Study & Proposition 218

Per numerous customer requests, the Grand Jury's recommendation, and district budgetary shortfalls, staff began the process to update water rates in 2023. First, a consultant was procured through the standard bidding process of comparing multiple competitive quotes and selecting the lowest responsible bidder, then staff provided extensive information about the District's financials, budgets, customer demographics, operational costs and more to develop a rate study. Once the Cost of Services Study was complete, a Cost of Services Study Review Committee was formed to dig through the numbers and ensure they were in line with the actual cost to provide water service. Staff sent out a total of four newsletters to customers in hopes of inviting public participation in the process, and noticed a total of ten meetings wherein the rate study was discussed. On April 13, 2024, the new water rates were adopted by the Board of Directors. These new charges will go into effect on July 1, 2024.

Storm Damage

In January 2023, rain and windstorms caused significant damage at the district office and water treatment plant.



- » A healthy fir tree uprooted and crushed two vehicles in the parking lot. Although the vehicles were a total loss, we were extremely grateful that nobody was physically injured!
- » Automation for both water treatment plants was lost when our Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) failed during an electrical brown-out in January, 2023, and Treatment Plant 1 went out of operation. Without the PLC, staff cannot treat water unless they are physically onsite. With the loss of Tyler and Winding Way tanks during the Caldor fire, the district solely relies on our 200,000-gallon Clearwell tank to meet customer demand. Operations staff must be on-site seven days per week to fill the Clearwell, sometimes even staying at the office overnight during inclement weather to keep the treatment plants running. Treatment Plant 1 was brought back online in early February once the relays were bypassed.

- » A chemical feed pump was also destroyed during the electrical brown-out in January, 2023. In July, 2023, staff purchased six new chemical feed pumps to dose both Water Treatment Plants.

Water Treatment Plant Issues

- Staff installed a replacement Prominent Chlorine Analyzer for Treatment Plant 2 in February, 2023. This equipment stopped working during the Caldor Fire recovery and provides real-time chlorine analysis to optimize the water disinfection process.
- The sample line pump on Treatment Plant 1 went out in April 2023. Staff purchased and installed a replacement motor and pump to get the sample line working again until the Water Treatment Plant upgrades are completed using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Distribution System

- One new water service connection was established.
- Five (5) fire hydrants were replaced.
- Staff repaired twenty-two (22) service line leaks and six (6) main leaks.
- Staff repaired two (2) leaks on Eagle Ditch pipeline.



Leak repair along Eagle Ditch pipeline

Service Connections and Transfers

- Staff replaced 70 water service connections in 2023.
- 343 water service connections were located and/or repaired.
- There were 83 transfers of ownership in 2023: 5 homes and 78 lots within the burn scar.



Broken Watson Marlow Chemical Feed Pump (Left Image) & New Q-Dos Chemical Feed Pump (Right Image)

2023 Water Quality Report

Water quality data based on data years 2023

Water Sources: The water supplied to you by Grizzly Flats CSD includes surface water supplied through Eagle Ditch and is treated at the District's two surface water treatment units and delivered through the District's water distribution system.

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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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. U.S. 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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

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, radio-active 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 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, that 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, agricultural application, and septic systems.

- Radioactive contaminants; naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. 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. The State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

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. The Grizzly Flats Community Services District 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>. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW) 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.

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the Public Health Goal as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

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.

Public Health Goal (PHG)

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.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS)

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

Regulatory Action Level (AL)

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT)

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Level 1 Assessment

A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Abbreviations

µS/cm: Specific Conductance Units

LI: Langelier Index

mo: Monitored Only

MFL: Million fibers per liter

n/a: Not Applicable

ND: Non Detectable

Ntu: Turbidity Units

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

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

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

Constituent	Units	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range	AVG	Typical Sources
PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS: Mandatory Health-Related Standards by State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.						
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS (Note: The following results are reported for the City's Service Area)						
Total Coliform Bacteria	#Tests	>5% or 1	0	0 - 1	3%	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E. coli			0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste
E. coli			0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS, AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT PRECURSORS						
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	ppb	80	n/a	15 - 50	31	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	n/a	20 - 36	30	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	0.09 - 1.88	0.72	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Disinfection By-Product Precursors	ppm	n/a	n/a	0.30 - 0.69	0.53	Various natural and manmade sources
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Asbestos	MFL	7	7	0 - 9.1	2.2	Internal corrosion of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS						
Sodium	ppm	0	0	1.6	1.6	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness	ppm	0	0	7.7	7.7	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

SECONDARY STANDARDS: Aesthetic Standards Established by State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.							
Constituent	Units	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range	AVG	Typical Sources	
Corrosivity (Langelier Index @ 60 C)	LI	Non-corrosive	n/a	-2.8 - -1.9	-2.3	Natural or industrial influenced balance	
Odor	Units	3	3	2	2	Naturally-occurring organic materials	
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1,600	1,600	25	25	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influenced	
Chloride	ppm	500	n/a	1.0	1.0	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	
Sulfate	ppm	500	n/a	0.36	0.36	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	
Calcium	ppm	mo	n/a	1.8	1.8	Naturally present in the environment	
Magneium	ppm	mo	n/a	0.74	0.74	Naturally present in the environment	
pH	Units	mo	n/a	6.4 - 7.4	7.2	Measurement of acidity (Neutral = 7.0)	

LEAD AND COPPER RULE:							
CONSTITUENT	UNITS	AL	PHG (MCLG)	SAMPLES COLLECTED	90% LEVEL DETECTED	NO. OF SITES EXCEEDING AL	TYPICAL SOURCES
Lead	ppb	15	0.2	10	4.9	0	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufactures; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	ppm	1.3	0.3	10	0.014	0	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

TREATMENT OF SURFACE WATER SOURCE:		
Treatment Technique (Type of approved filtration technology used)	Turbidity Performance Standards (that must be met through the water treatment process)	Conventional filtration; coagulation, flocculation and sedimentation.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1		84.3%
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year		0.357 NTU
Number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements		None