



# NORTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT ANNUAL WATER QUALITY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT FOR 2009



## To Our Customers:

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, speak with someone who understands it, or contact the District to receive a translated copy.

**-Spanish-** Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

## How can I help keep the water that I drink safe and clean?

The drinking water that the District treats and provides for its customers comes from wells as well as the open water of Lake Tahoe. Many people don't see the link between the water you drink and the items that are put into the sewer system, but when people dispose of their waste incorrectly it threatens the safety of our drinking water as well.

In the Tahoe basin, our storm drain system does not put runoff into the sewer system like so many other communities in this country. Most of the storm drains actually drain directly into the Lake! In addition to protecting our sewers, it is also extremely important that under no circumstances may substances be put directly into the storm drain.

Most liquid and automotive waste (oil, old gasoline) can be disposed of at one of the hazardous waste disposal days provided by Placer County and Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal at the Eastern Regional Landfill on Cabin Creek Road off of Highway 89.

## 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

## Where does my water come from?

The North Tahoe Public Utility District services nearly 3,882 connections. These connections include single family dwellings and business establishments, as well as separate irrigation and fire systems. The District operates three separate and independent water systems: Dollar Cove, Carnelian Bay, and the Tahoe Main system, comprised of Tahoe Vista, Kings Beach, and Brockway to the Nevada State Line. Dollar Cove is currently being supplied through the Tahoe City Public Utility District's Tahoe City system, by agreement of a joint well drilling project of the two Districts that is comprised of five separate wells (groundwater source). Carnelian Bay draws its water from a single well (groundwater source). The Tahoe main water system draws water from Lake Tahoe (surface water source) through an intake at the end of National Avenue in Tahoe Vista, as well as a single well (groundwater source) located in the North Tahoe Regional Park at the top of Donner Road. These combined sources supplied just over 508 million gallons of water to our customers in 2009.

## For Your Information

**Our Board of Directors** meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the North Tahoe Event Center. We encourage participation in these meetings. For meeting times and agendas please contact the District's main office, (530) 546-4212, or visit our website [www.ntpud.org](http://www.ntpud.org)

**To obtain specific water quality or watershed data** contact Robin Runyon, Water Quality Technician at the District's main office, (530) 546-4212, Ext. 136, or via Email at [rrunyon@ntpud.org](mailto:rrunyon@ntpud.org). The District's Website has this information as well as other information about the District, at [www.ntpud.org](http://www.ntpud.org) or Email the District at [ntpud@ntpud.org](mailto:ntpud@ntpud.org).

## Source water assessment and its availability.

Our most recent watershed sanitary survey (Lake Tahoe) update is 2009. Although the North Tahoe Basin sewage flows to Truckee and is treated, domestic sewage and wastewater disposal and collection are potentially contaminating activities (PCA) of key concern. Summer recreation on the lake is another PCA of key concern. The District does not have direct regulatory control or enforcement over the Lake Tahoe watershed. We rely on the regulatory powers of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

## Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

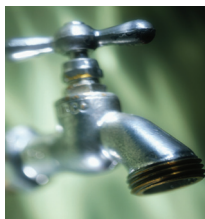
Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling 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, 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 process 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 and the Calif. Dept. of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management (Department), prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to their regulations. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

## Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Here are some handy tips to conserve water:

Take shorter showers; only do full loads of wash; run dishwasher when fully loaded; water lawn & garden in the early A.M.

**Water costs money...don't waste it!** A dripping faucet or fixture can waste 3 gallons a day...a total of 1095 gallons a year. A continuous leak at 60 psi water pressure from a hole 1/8" in size would, over a three month period, waste water in the amount of 296,000 gallons. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water usage. There's more water conservation information on the District's website.



## Water Quality Data

The following system tables list all the drinking water contaminants that were tested for during the 2009 calendar year. The presence of these 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 January 1 - December 31, 2009. 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.

WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS REPORT SAMPLING RESULTS FOR 2009							
		Tahoe Main System		Carn. Woods		Dollar Cove+	
		System #3110001		Sys. # 3110023		Sys. #3110036	
		PHG	Lake Tahoe	Groundwater	Groundwater	Groundwater	+Being served through Tahoe City Public Utility District
Substance or Parameter	MCL/UNITS	(MCLG)	Nat'l Ave.	Park Well	Carn. Woods	Tahoe City PUD	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>CLARITY</b>							
Turbidity (NTU) - Raw Source	TT/5 95% < 0.5 NTU	NS	Avg .121-.220	NR	NR	5 wells ND and .3 - .6	Soil runoff (erosion) that is made up of suspended matter that interferes with light
Turbidity (NTU) - Finished Water		NS	Avg .132-.236	NR	NR	95% ≤ 0.5 NTU	
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>							
Total Coliforms	1 Sample	0	159T/ 156A /1P		24T/20A/4P*	116T/116A/0P	Naturally present in the environment
E. Coli			159T/ 159A /0P		24T/24A/0P	116T/116A/0P	Related to human and animal fecal waste
<b>NITRATE/NITRITE</b>							
Nitrate-As N	45 mg/L		ND	ND	ND	ND,ND,ND,ND, 0.27	Runoff & leaching from fertilizers, septic tanks,sewage
Nitrite-As N	1 mg/L		ND	ND	NR	NR	Runoff & leaching from fertilizers, septic tanks,sewage
<b>OTHER</b>							
pH	NS	NS	Avg. 7.2 - 8.8	8.3			Affected by alkaline sources, organic matter, atmospheric CO <sub>2</sub> , and acidity from mineral sources
<b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80 ug/L		4.5, 6.0, 9.6, 5.5 Annual RAA = 6.4			ND in NTPUD Sys.	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60 ug/L		2.3, 3.3, 4.8, 3.5 Annual RAA = 3.475			ND in NTPUD Sys.	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	[MRDL = 4.0(as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]		RAA: 0.82, Range: .061-1.02		N/A	RAA: 0.46, Range 0.35-0.53	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
<b>Violations :</b>			No	None	Yes*	None	
<p><b>About our Coliform Violation:</b> The District routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. In the Carnelian Woods system, a single routine sample collected on September 15, 2009, tested positive for total coliform bacteria. Three of four repeat samples collected on September 17, 2009, also tested positive for total coliform bacteria. This constituted a failure of the total coliform standards. Following the failure of the total coliform standards, the water system was disinfected and flushed beginning September 18, 2009. After the District received results from four samples collected on September 21, 2009, indicating that coliform bacteria were no longer present in the system, the chlorination was discontinued. Five subsequent samples collected on October 20, 2009, also tested absent for total coliform bacteria, indicating that the source of the contamination had been eliminated.</p>							
<b>Terms And Abbreviations Used In These Reports</b>							
<p><b>MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level</b> - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the PHG's and MCLG's as is economically or technologically feasible.</p> <p><b>PHG = Public Health Goal</b> - 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.</p> <p><b>MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal</b> - 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.</p> <p><b>MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal</b> - The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MDRLGs are set by the U.S. Environment Protection Agency.</p> <p><b>Primary Drinking Water Standard</b> - Primary MCL's, specific treatment techniques adopted in lieu of primary MCL's, and monitoring and reporting requirements for MCL's that are specified in regulations.</p> <p><b>Treatment Technique</b> - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. Turbidity (measured in NTU) is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. 1. - Turbidity of the filtered water must be &lt; than or = to 0.5 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month. 2. - Not exceed 1.0 NTU for more than eight consecutive hours. 3. - Not exceed 5.0 NTU at any time. Turbidity results which meet performance standards are considered to be in compliance with filtration requirements.</p>				<p>&lt; = Less Than</p> <p>&gt; = Greater Than</p> <p><b>pCi/L</b> = Pico Curies Per Liter</p> <p><b>mg/L</b> = Milligrams Per Liter (Parts Per Million)</p> <p><b>ug/L</b> = Micrograms Per Liter (Parts Per Billion)</p> <p><b>ND</b> = Not Detected</p> <p><b>NR</b> = Not Required</p> <p><b>NTU</b> = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit</p> <p><b>T/A/P</b> = Tests/Absence/Presence</p> <p><b>µS/cm</b> = Microsiemens - Measure of electrical current flow through a solution</p> <p><b>NS</b> = No standard</p> <p><b>RAA</b> = Running Annual Average</p> <p><b>Units</b> = Number of units measured</p>			

### Additional Information for Lead

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 North Tahoe Public Utility 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 running 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/safewater/lead>