



Hidden Valley Lake
Community Services District

“Nip the Drip”

Fix those leaks!

A public service to the HVL community

Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District



2014 Consumer Confidence Report

In addition to the District’s annual Consumer Confidence Report, this newsletter includes important information regarding the statewide drought and a new drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium. The drought and particularly the new drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium represent significant fiscal challenges for the District.

Drought update

California is now in its fourth consecutive year of drought. On April 1, 2015 Governor Brown took the unprecedented step of mandating water conservation statewide. Among other things, the Governor’s mandate calls for a 25 percent statewide reduction in urban water use, as compared to 2013. As of this writing the details regarding how this mandate will be implemented and enforced have not been established. Information about the drought and the Governor’s water conservation mandate are available at www.waterboards.ca.gov.

The District is fortunate to have a remarkably reliable water supply. Despite below average rainfall this past winter, groundwater elevations at the District’s municipal wells are currently at or near historic seasonal averages. Last year the District’s potable water usage decreased by 17%, in comparison to 2013. The outdoor landscape irrigation restrictions adopted by the District last August remain in effect and the District continues to urge aggressive conservation as a means of preserving and extending our water supply.

New sewer rates take effect July 1, 2015

On April 21, 2015 the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District Board of Directors adopted new sewer rates, effective July 1, 2015. The new sewer rates consist of two components, a “fixed charge” and a “volumetric charge”. All sewer customers pay the same fixed charge, while the volumetric charge is determined by average monthly water use for the months of January through April. As a general rule, a residential or commercial customer’s average monthly water use for the months of January through April provides a reasonable estimate of the wastewater produced each month of the year.

Sewer charges will be adjusted on July 1 of each year, with the volumetric charge being based on actual average monthly water usage in the preceding months of January through April.

Hidden Valley Lake CSD

Board of Directors

Jim Freeman - President

Jim Lieberman - Vice President

Judy Mirbegian- Director

Linda Herndon - Director

Carolyn Graham - Director

 MONTHLY SEWER RATES (Effective July1, 2015)

<i>"Fixed" Charge by Meter Size</i>	FY 2015/2016	FY 2016/2017	FY 2017/2018	FY 2018/2019	FY 2019/2020
Residential*	\$38.92	\$42.03	\$45.39	\$49.02	\$51.96
Commercial & Government (per HEU)	\$38.92	\$42.03	\$45.39	\$49.02	\$51.96
<i>"Volumetric" Charge per 100 cubic feet of monthly water use</i>					
Residential*	\$2.07	\$2.23	\$2.41	\$2.60	\$2.76
Commercial & Government	\$2.25	\$2.43	\$2.62	\$2.83	\$3.00

*Includes single and multifamily; multifamily assessed per HEU

Water rate increases on hold pending further review of San Juan Capistrano Court Decision

On April 21, 2015 the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District Board of Directors discussed but did not adopt proposed water rate increases that included a tiered water rate billing structure, due to a court decision made the prior day in southern California. On April 20, 2015, California's 4th District Court of Appeal found that the City of San Juan Capistrano's tiered water rate structure was inconsistent with Proposition 218. Pursuant to Proposition 218, water rate charges cannot exceed the cost of providing water service. Historically, tiered water rate structures have been used to incentivize water conservation by charging higher rates for "excessive" water use. Nearly two thirds of the municipal water purveyors in the State utilize some form of tiered water rate structure and in many cases, the charge rates associated with excessive water use are greater than the corresponding cost of providing water source.

The District's proposed tiered water rate structure included excessive water use tiers that were designed to incentivize water conservation, but not strictly based on the actual cost of providing water service. Given the uncertainty regarding tiered water rates, the District will be proposing an alternative rate structure and will issue a new Proposition 218 water rate increase notice in the near future.

New chromium limit will impact water rates

In April 2014, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) adopted a drinking water standard that limits chromium-6 to ten parts per billion (ppb). California is the first state to adopt a separate, more stringent limit for chromium-6. The new chromium-6 standard took effect July 1, 2014. The District's raw water supply occasionally has chromium-6 levels that exceed the proposed 10 ppb limit. The source of chromium-6 appears to be serpentine rock, which is relatively abundant in our area and other parts of the State, and is well documented source of chromium.

Complying with the 10 ppb limit for chromium-6 will require additional treatment or blending with different water sources. The CDPH estimates that for a District of our size, the cost of treatment could exceed \$730,000 per year or roughly \$300 per year per residential connection. Blending, assuming a suitable water source can be obtained, appears to be potentially cheaper and more reliable, and is currently the District's preferred alternate. In order to identify the most cost effective options, we are collecting additional data to better understand where and at what concentrations chromium-6 occurs in the Coyote Valley groundwater basin. We also are working closely with the CDPH to secure technical and financial assistance for the testing and design of suitable water treatment facilities.

DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) 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 (USEPA).

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of 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.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWs do not affect health at the MCL level.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminate which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Variations and Exemptions: State Board permission to exceed MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

N/A: not applicable.

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

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

WHAT THESE TABLES MEAN

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.

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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, that 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, the USEPA 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.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 list all the drinking water contaminants detected during most recent sampling for constituents. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

TABLE 1 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of Detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	(In a month) 0	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	(0)	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	(In the year) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	(0)	Human and animal fecal waste

TABLE 2 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (and reporting unit)	No. of samples collected	90th percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	20	5	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	20	0.37	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

TABLE 3 – SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	4-18-12	6.7	-	No Standard	No Standard	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	4-18-12	250	-	No Standard	No Standard	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring and are usually naturally occurring

Sodium: There is currently no drinking water standard for sodium. The water in Hidden Valley Lake has detectable levels of sodium, but at concentrations that are unlikely to contribute to adverse health effects.

Hardness: The water in Hidden Valley Lake is considered to be very hard. Water that is too soft (below 30 ppm) can be corrosive to plumbing pipes, while water that is very hard (above 300 ppm) causes scales to form on plumbing fixtures and cooking utensils. Hard water is found in over 85% of the water supplies in the United States.

Water Hardness Scale	
Parts per Million (ppm)	Classification
Less than 17.1	Soft
17.1-60	Slightly Hard
60-120	Moderately Hard
120-180	Hard
Over 180	Very Hard

TABLE 4 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Chromium (ppb)	12-19-14	15.1	5.3-23	50	(100)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium-6 (ppb)	12-19-14	14.4	5.1-22	10	0.02	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/l)	4-18-12	0.15	0.10-0.15	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as NO ₃) (mg/l)	12-19-14	3.9	2.4-6.4	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

TABLE 5 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Color	4-18-12	10	3-10	15	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor---Threshold (units)	4-18-12	<1	-	3	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Turbidity	4-18-12	0.30	-	5	N/A	Soil runoff
Total Dissolved Solids mg/L)	4-18-12	270	-	1,000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance μ S/cm	12-19-14	490	-	1,600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride (mg/L)	4-18-12	7.9	-	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	4-18-12	7.5	-	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

ADDITIONAL GENERAL INFORMATION ON 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA'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 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/ 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).

Lead-Specific Language for Community Water Systems: 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. Hidden Valley Lake CSD 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



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How Can I Get Involved?

District Board meetings typically occur on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the District boardroom located at 19400 Hartmann Road, Hidden Valley Lake. Agendas, Public Hearing notices, and Agenda Packets are published on our website under “Outreach/Publications 2015” tab.

www.hiddenvalleylakecsd.com