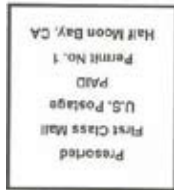


Coastside County Water District

2008 Annual Water Quality Report Consumer Confidence Report



Coastside County Water District
766 Main Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019



Important Information

Coastside County Water District

Annual Water Quality Report
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Service Areas: City of Half Moon Bay, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar

Coastside County Water District

2008 Annual Water Quality Report

Introduction

The District is pleased to present our 2008 Annual Water Quality Report, in accordance with state and federal requirements. The spirit of this requirement is to provide valuable information about your water, including its source, chemical characteristics, and other important facts. With the knowledge contained in this report, you will be able to make health decisions concerning water use for you and your family.

For our customers that require information in Spanish: ***Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Si le gustaría recibir una copia de este reporte en Español, favor de llamar al Coastside County Water District, y le enviaremos una por correo.***

Report Format

Coastside County Water District's Annual Water Quality Report contains water quality data tables that show the results of treated water from the Nunes and Denniston Water Treatment Plants. Over 3,000 water tests were performed during the year by certified laboratories and over 7,000 tests were completed by the treatment and distribution operators for water quality process control. In addition, the District monitors the treatment process 24 hours a day.

Water Sources

The District receives water originating from pristine and highly protected watersheds in California's Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and Coastal Mountain Range.

The District owns and operates the Denniston Project (surface and groundwater) and the Pilarcitos Well Field, both of which receive water originating from the local coastal range (Santa Cruz Mountains). Raw water is purchased from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Water from the SFPUC originates from Pilarcitos Reservoir, which is supplied by local runoff from the local coastal range, and from Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir, which is supplied by imported water from SFPUC's Hetch Hetchy System.

Water delivered to the District's customers receives full treatment at our two water treatment facilities in accordance with federal and state standards. The Nunes Water Treatment Plant is capable of treating up to 4.5 million gallons of water per day. Water from this plant comes from the Pilarcitos Reservoir, wells in Pilarcitos Canyon, and the Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir. The Denniston Water Treatment Plant is capable of treating up to 0.5 million gallons of water per day. Water from this plant comes from a diversion on Denniston Creek and from the Denniston Well Field.

Commitment to Quality

Coastside County Water District is committed to providing our customers with high quality drinking water and responsive customer service in the most efficient manner possible.

Mission Statement

Coastside County Water District's (District) mission is to develop and provide District customers with high quality water and service at the lowest possible price in accordance with the following values:

- Reliability and sustainability of system facilities
- Timeliness of District policies, procedures, actions and decisions
- 50-year outlook when replacing infrastructure
- Legality of all District actions and behaviors
- Culture of openness, fairness and inclusiveness

Contact Information

If you have any questions or desire additional information regarding this report, please contact Joe Guistino with the Coastside County Water District at (650) 726-4405. To find out more about the District, you can visit our website at www.coastsidewater.org.

The District encourages public interest and participation in this community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular Board meetings occur at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the District Office located at 766 Main Street, Half Moon Bay.

David R. Dickson
General Manager



Water Shortage Advisory

The Third Year of California's Drought

Three consecutive water years (2007-2008-2009) have been dry. During these dry years, Coastside County Water District (District) has asked its customers to curtail their water usage by 10%. These voluntary efforts, along with careful water management, have helped keep water storage at adequate levels to serve customers. Please continue your efforts to reduce your water consumption by at least 10% (10 gallons per day-per person).

Governor Schwarzenegger has challenged all Californians to reduce their water consumption by 20% (20 gallons per day- per person) immediately. The severity of the drought varies from region to region but all Californians rely on adequate water supplies to support our economy, environment and the sanitation needs of a healthy population.

A significant portion of the District's water supply is imported from the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and that source is shared with over 2 million residential, commercial and industrial customers of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission in the San Francisco Bay Area. The District encourages its customers to meet the Governor's challenge of reducing water consumption by 20%.

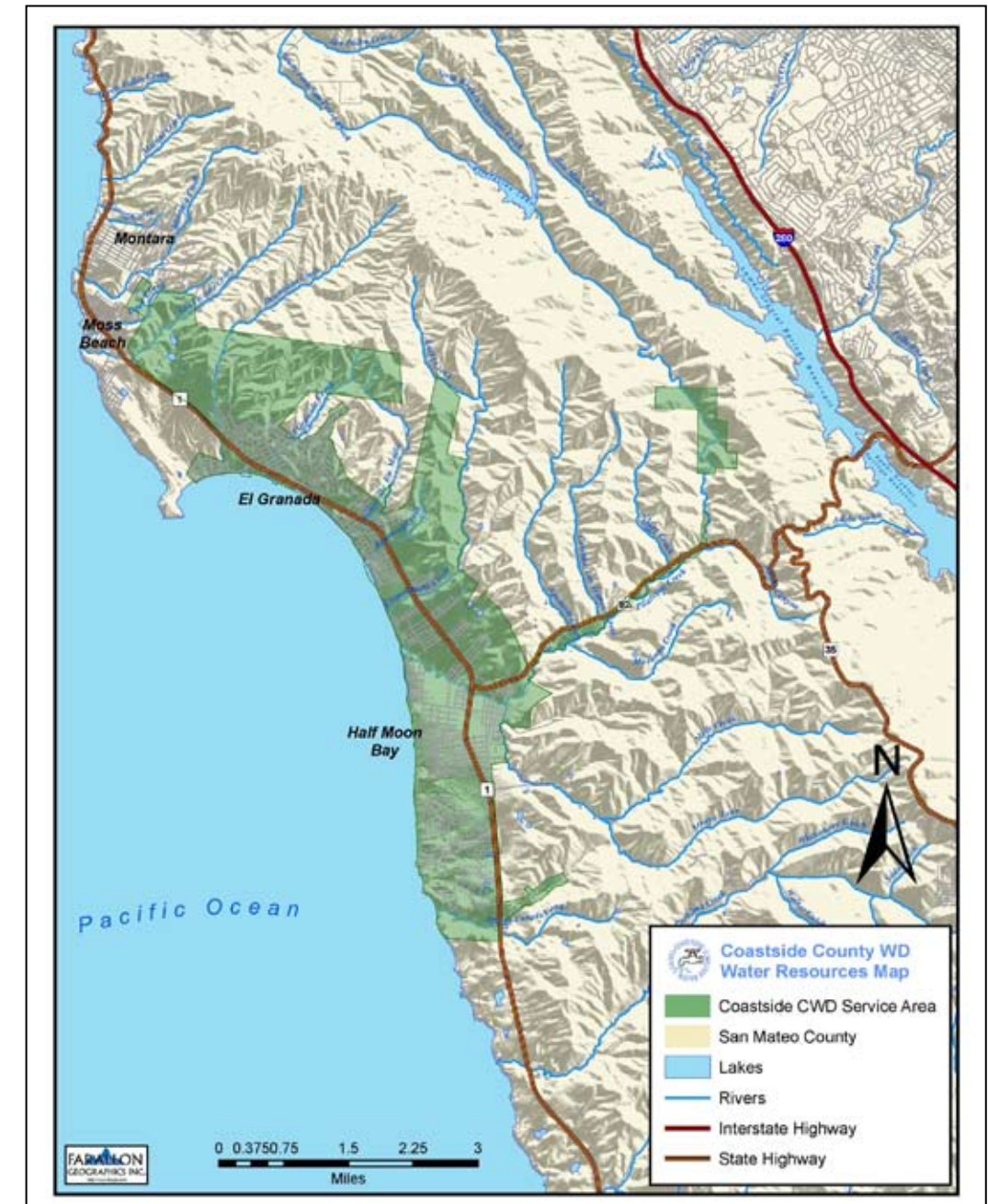
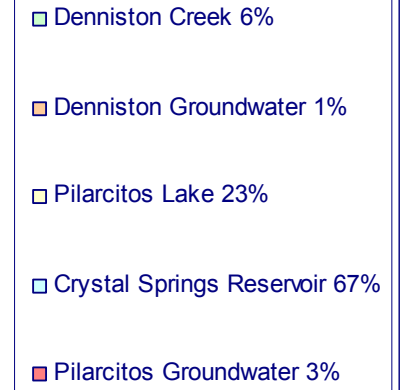
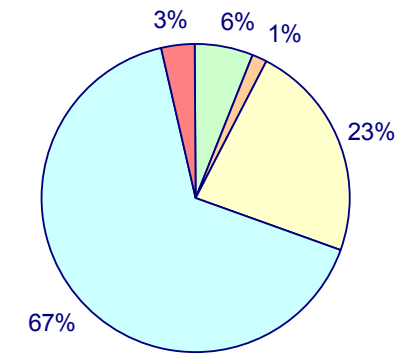
For more information about water conservation go to www.coastsidewater.org or www.saveourH2O.org

Bill Payment Options

The District offers several payment options for your convenience.

- ◆ **NEW – Netbill Online Bill Pay:** Make one-time or recurring payments by credit card/debit card (Visa or MasterCard). With Netbill Online Bill Pay, you can receive and pay your bill online. To sign up, go to www.coastsidewater.org or call the District for more information (650) 726-4405.
- ◆ **Credit Card:** Payments can be made using VISA and MasterCard.
- ◆ **Pay by mail:** Use the return envelope provided by the District (credit card, money order and check).
- ◆ **Pay in person:** Visit the District Office to pay in person (cash, check, money order and credit card).
- ◆ **Drop box:** Visit the District Office and drop off your payment before, during and after business hours, using the drop box located at the front door (credit card, money order and check).
- ◆ **Direct debit:** Pay your water bill automatically by having the total amount of your bill deducted from your checking or savings accounts on the due date of the original statement. To sign-up, go to www.coastsidewater.org or call the District for more information (650) 726-4405.
- ◆ **Online Banking:** Check with your bank to see if they offer the online banking service.

Water Supply Sources



General Water Quality Information

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, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm 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, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **ORGANIC CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS**, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS**, that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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.

Coastside County Water 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 20 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>.

Compliance with Drinking Water Regulations

As a result of equipment failure at the Denniston Water Treatment Plant on the morning of April 28, 2008, the District failed to meet the chlorine contact time requirement for treated water. In order to ensure proper disinfection, water in the treatment plant must be in contact with chlorine or a similar disinfectant for a minimum amount of time. Although chlorine quickly kills most bacteria, it is less effective against organisms such as viruses and parasites. For this reason, water needs to mix with chlorine for a longer time period to kill such organisms. The amount of time necessary, or the "contact time", depends on the amount of disinfectant in the water and the temperature of the water. District personnel have identified and corrected the cause of the equipment failure at the Denniston Water Treatment Plant.

Inadequately disinfected water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

Laboratory results from the District's quarterly sampling at Nunes Water Treatment Plant, on January 7, 2008, indicated elevated levels of aluminum that exceeded the secondary water standard. Aluminum levels were 320 micrograms/liter or 320 parts per billion (ppb). The source or cause of the elevated aluminum levels was never determined.

The District has increased its monitoring for aluminum from quarterly to weekly and laboratory results show that the District has not exceeded 126 ppb, since the increased monitoring was implemented. Secondary standards are established as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color and odor. Contaminants that exceed the secondary standards are not considered to present a risk to human health.

The secondary standard for aluminum is related to the color of the water. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), when aluminum exceeds the secondary standard, it may cause the water to appear cloudy or colored and may cause the water to taste or smell bad. This may result in a great number of people to stop using the water, even though the water is safe to drink.

Water Quality Tests

All water utilities must test for the presence of over 118 compounds that can possibly enter water supplies. These compounds are naturally occurring such as arsenic and radioactivity, or man-made such as gasoline additives, pesticides and herbicides. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently.

The District's water quality monitoring program also includes many compounds or water quality parameters that are not regulated or harmful, such as Hardness, Alkalinity, Magnesium and many others. Knowledge of these parameters allows us to provide you with the best treatment available. The following are compounds that were tested for, but not found in your water supply: Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Cyanide, MBAS (surfactants), Manganese, Mercury, Nitrate, Nitrite, Selenium, Thallium, Nickel, Silver and Zinc. In addition, we tested for and did not detect 117 Synthetic Organic Chemicals (pesticides and herbicides) and Volatile Organic Chemicals (solvents and other industrial compounds). A complete list is available at the District's office. The District does not fluoridate its drinking water.

The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act regulations.

Protecting Public Health

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California State Department of Public Health 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.

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 **USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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. Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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**. The main source of Cryptosporidium in water supplies is from cattle activities, including feedlots and grazing, and wildlife. Customers of the District enjoy water from sources where this type of activity is non-existent or minimal.

Important Definitions

The following page lists all compounds and contaminants detected by water quality analyses on treated water. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG/PHG), the amount detected, and the usual sources of such contamination.

To help you better understand these tables; we have included the following definitions:

- **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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLs and MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- **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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Regulatory Action Level (RAL):** The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Running Annual Average (RAA):** The average of the most recent 12 months of data.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS):** The MCLs 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's do not affect the health at the MCL levels.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Variations and Exemptions:** Permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Abbreviations and Units of Measure

Abbreviations and Units of Measure			
NA	Not Applicable	ppm	Parts per Million (mg/L)
ND	Not Detected	Pci/L	PicoCuries/Liter
NS	No Standard Established	TON	Threshold Odor Number
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	µmho/cm	Microhms per centimeter
ppb	Parts per Billion (µg/L)		

Primary Drinking Water Standards – Health Related Standards									
Contaminant	Source Tested	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	PHG	Detected Level	Range	Major Source	Violation
					(MCLG)				
Aluminum	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	Weekly	ppm	1	0.6	0.018	0.018-0.320	Treatment process and erosion of natural deposits	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	Monthly				ND	NA		NO
Fluoride	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	2/13/2008	ppm	2	1	0.12	NA	Erosion of natural deposits and pretreatment of imported water supply into Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	3/27/2008				0.26	NA		NO
Nitrate	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	1/7/2008	ppm	45	45	ND	NA	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	3/27/2008				ND	NA		NO
Total Coliform	Distribution System	Weekly	Samples Positive	One Positive per Month	0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment	NO
Total Haloacetic Acids (THA)	Distribution System	Quarterly	ppb	60	NS	33 ⁽¹⁾	25-73	Chlorine by-product	NO
Total Trihalomethanes (THM)	Distribution System	Quarterly	ppb	80	NS	64 ⁽¹⁾	41-110	Chlorine by-product	NO
Turbidity	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	Daily	NTU	Maximum 1 and 95% <0.3	TT	0.03	0.01-0.09	Soil runoff	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant					0.04	0.02-0.17		NO

(1) Running Annual Average (RAA)

Contaminant	Source Tested	Date Tested	Unit	MRDL	PHG	Detected Level	Range	Major Source	Violation
Chlorine	Distribution System	Weekly	ppm	4	4	0.93	0.34-2.05	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment	NO

Contaminant	Source Tested	Date Tested	Unit	RAL	PHG	Detected Level	Range	Major Source	Violation
Copper	Distribution System 34 Sample Sites	July 2008	ppb	1300	170	149 ⁽²⁾	ND - 529	Corrosion of household plumbing system	NO
Lead	Distribution System 34 Sample Sites	July 2008	ppb	15	2	5.4 ⁽²⁾	ND - 27	Corrosion of household plumbing system	NO

(2) 90th percentile of 34 samples

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and/or flush your tap for 3 seconds to 2 minutes before drinking tap water. Additional information is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Contaminant	Source Water Tested	Year Tested	Unit	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Detected Level	Range	Major Source	Violation
Gross Alpha	Crystal Springs Reservoir	2007	pCi/L	5	NA	0.74	0.47-1.00	Erosion from natural deposits	NO
	Pilarcitos Well Field	2007				0.89	0.55-1.37		NO
	Denniston Well Field	2007				0.67	0.32-1.04		NO
	Stone Dam	2007				0.10	ND-0.36		NO

Secondary Drinking Water Standards - Aesthetic Standards									
Constituent	Source Tested	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	PHG	Detected Level	Range	Major Source	Violation
					(MCLG)				
Aluminum (see page 8)	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	Weekly	ppb	200	NS	18	18-320	Treatment process	Yes 1/7/2008
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	Monthly				ND	NA		NO
Chloride	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	2/13/2008	ppm	500	NS	18	NA	Leaching from natural deposits: seawater influence	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	3/27/2008				42	NA		NO
Color	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	Monthly	Color Units	15	NS	<2	ND - 2	Natural organic materials	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	3/27/2008				<2	NA		NO
Iron	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	Monthly	ppb	300	NS	ND	NA	Leaching from natural deposits	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	Weekly				ND	NA		NO
Manganese	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	10/2/2008	ppb	50	NS	ND	NA	Leaching from natural deposits	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	Weekly				ND	NA		NO
Odor	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	Monthly	TON	3	NS	0	NA	Organic matter and minerals	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	3/27/2008				0	NA		NO
Specific Conductance (conductivity)	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	1/7/2008	µmhos	1,600	NS	95	NA	Substances that form ions when in water: seawater influence	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	3/27/2008				377	NA		NO
Sulfate	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	2/13/2008	ppm	500	NS	7	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	3/28/2008				20	NA		NO
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	Monthly	ppm	1,000	NS	92	20-175	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant					254	180-355		NO
pH	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	Daily	pH	NS	NS	8.0	7.0 - 9.2	Rock and soil types in watershed/treatment process	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant					8.0	7.0 - 8.6		NO
Alkalinity	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	Monthly	ppm	NS	NS	37	14 - 83	Naturally occurring minerals	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant					124	98 - 170		NO
Calcium	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	Monthly	ppm	NS	NS	13	6 - 23	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant					25	20 - 33		NO
Hardness	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	Monthly	ppm	NS	NS	45	21 - 89	Leaching from natural deposits	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant					3/27/2008	90		NA
Magnesium	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	Monthly	ppm	NS	NS	4	1 - 8	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant					3/27/2008	8		NA
Potassium	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	2/13/2008	ppm	NS	NS	0.7	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	3/27/2008				0.8	NA		NO
Silica	SFPUC	2008	ppm	NS	NS	7.8	4.1 - 11.4	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Sodium	Nunes Water Treatment Plant	10/2/2008	ppm	NS	NS	23	NA	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
	Denniston Water Treatment Plant	3/27/2008				50	NA		NO
Total Organic Carbon	Nunes Treatment Plant	Monthly	ppm	NS	NS	1.5	0.8 - 2.0	Naturally decaying matter	NO