California drinking water regulations require that water delivered by public water systems be, at all times, pure, wholesome and potable, as required by the Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Acts. To accomplish this mandate, domestic water must meet strict standards, as established in the California Domestic Water Quality and Maintenance Regulations. This regulation includes primary and secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) and monitoring frequencies for specified microbiological, chemical and radionuclide contaminants. Primary contaminants are those that may have an adverse health effect. Secondary contaminants are those that may adversely affect the aesthetic quality of the drinking water. The regulation also provides the provisions necessary to accomplish the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. The state now has direct enforcement responsibility for all public water systems with 200 or more service connections.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes monitoring requirements and maximum contaminant levels. As the EPA develops new standards, California will amend state regulations, which establishes water quality requirements for local water supplies. This domestic water supplied by the City of Gilroy must meet all current regulations. This report includes the respective Public Health Goal (PHG) as established in the California Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations. This regulation includes primary and secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) and monitoring frequencies for specified microbiological, chemical and radionuclide contaminants. Primary contaminants are those that may have an adverse health effect. Secondary contaminants are those that may adversely affect the aesthetic quality of the drinking water. The regulation also provides the provisions necessary to accomplish the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. The state now has direct enforcement responsibility for all public water systems with 200 or more service connections.

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If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Leaded water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Gilroy is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has lead contamination, your water may have an unpleasant taste and odor. Lead in drinking water can also affect the development of the babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing lead. Studies have shown that children exposed in utero to high levels of lead may have reduced IQ and behavior problems and may develop hearing and learning disabilities.

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The City of Gilroy obtains its municipal water supply from ground-water well sources within the Gilroy Basin Area. The City operates a water treatment facility and water distribution system that supplies safe water to all parts of the City. The City is committed to providing a safe and reliable supply of excellent quality drinking water that meets federal and State regulations. The surface water treatment processes used in the City to ensure that the water supply is free of contamination and pathogens include treatment with ultraviolet disinfection and chlorine. The water produced by the City meets all federal and State regulations.

The City of Gilroy participates in the mandated triennial testing and reporting on lead and copper in our water. The results obtained in the most recent three years have been extremely low and show no signs of danger or concerns. In fact, the City has allowed to reduce the testing due to the lack of any concerns over our water. We will be substantially reducing the number of samples that we take away due to the results of our remaining quantity of testing. The City has taken the necessary steps to ensure that our water is safe for our residents and customers.

Perchlorate Monitoring Continues

The perchlorate contaminants present in the City of Gilroy’s water were identified as part of the national monitoring program, which is conducted by the USEPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The perchlorate contaminant was identified in our water in 2013 and continues to be monitored on an annual basis. The City has implemented a number of controls to reduce the concentration of perchlorate in our water, and we are working with our State Public Health officials to ensure that the level of perchlorate remains below the federal maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) of 20 ppb.

Water Conservation

The City of Gilroy is committed to providing its residents with safe and reliable drinking water. To meet the growing needs of our customers, the City of Gilroy is implementing various water conservation measures. These measures include:

1. Fix leaky faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
2. Install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets, and showerheads.
3. Wash only full loads of laundry.
4. Wash your car at a commercial car wash that recycles water.
5. Take shorter showers. Do not let the water run while shaving, brushing your teeth, or combing your hair.
6. Obey any and all water use restrictions and regulations.

Water treatment, including drinking water, may be required to be reported to the public in order to protect public health. The level of components in water treatment are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. These limits are set to ensure that drinking water is not polluted by substances that may affect the taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Water issues are complex and should be addressed by multiple stakeholders. The City of Gilroy would like to encourage residents to conserve water and to take active steps to reduce water consumption. The City will continue to monitor and test water quality and will provide updates on the results of these tests. The City encourages residents to conserve water and to participate in water conservation efforts. The City of Gilroy will be implementing a variety of water conservation measures in order to conserve water and to meet the needs of its residents.