

2008 Consumer Confidence Report

(2007 Water Quality Data)

Photo: June Davis, DWR

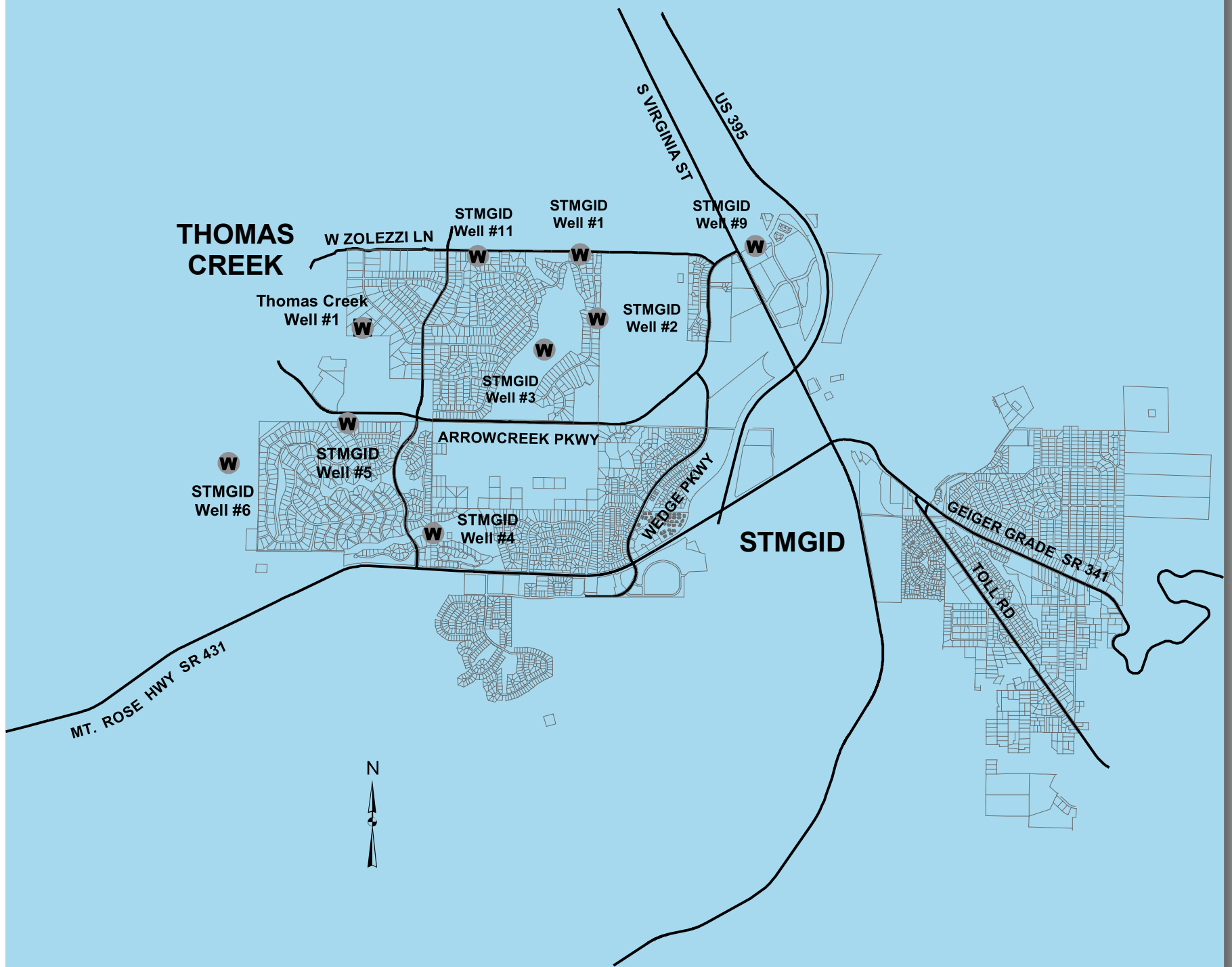
STMGID
WASHOE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

STMGID

2008 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

| Constituent | Units | MCL | MCLG | STMGID Well #1 | STMGID Well #2 | STMGID Well #3 | STMGID Well #4 | STMGID Well #5 | STMGID Well #6 | STMGID Well #9 | STMGID Well #11 | Thomas Creek Well #1 |
|---------------------------|-------|---------------|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Primary Standards | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antimony | µg/L | 6 | 6 | (Min / Max) N.D. / 4 RAA 1 | (Min / Max) N.D. / 4 RAA 1 | (Min / Max) N.D. / 4 RAA 1 | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | (Min / Max) N.D. / 4 RAA 1 | (Min / Max) N.D. / 4 RAA 1 | N.D. |
| Arsenic | µg/L | 10 | 0 | N.D. / 12 RAA 5 | N.D. / 12 RAA 5 | N.D. / 12 RAA 5 | 1 | 1 | N.D. | N.D. / 12 RAA 5 | N.D. / 12 RAA 5 | 1 |
| Barium | mg/L | 2 | 2 | 0.06 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.001 | 0.33 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.08 | 0.05 |
| Benzene | µg/L | 5 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0.14 | - | - |
| Chromium | µg/L | 100 | 100 | 4 | 4 | 2 | N.D. | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Fluoride | mg/L | 4 | 4 | N.D. | N.D. | 0.1 | N.D. | N.D. | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.15 | N.D. |
| Nitrate (as N) | mg/L | 10 | 10 | 0.87 | 0.66 | 0.79 | 0.36 | 0.59 | 0.43 | 1.2 | 0.89 | 0.26 |
| Toluene | mg/L | 1 | 1 | 0.00013 | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | 0.00014 | N.D. | N.D. |
| Distribution Samples | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Haloacetic Acids | µg/L | 60 | 0 | 0 - 3 | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Trihalomethanes | µg/L | 80 | 0 | 0 - 13 | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Secondary Standards | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chloride | mg/L | 400 | 250 | 2.0 | 23 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 18 | 3.9 | 1.1 |
| Copper | mg/L | 1 | 1 | N.D. | N.D. | 0.004 | N.D. | 0.003 | N.D. | 0 | 0.003 | 0.014 |
| Fluoride | mg/L | 2 | 2 | N.D. | N.D. | 0.1 | N.D. | N.D. | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.15 | N.D. |
| Iron | mg/L | 0.6 | 0.3 | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | 0.03 | N.D. | 0.05 |
| Magnesium | mg/L | 150 | 125 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 2.2 | 12 | 12 | 2 | 13 | 13 |
| Manganese | mg/L | 0.1 | 0.05 | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | 0 | N.D. | 0.002 |
| pH | | 6.5 to 8.5 | 6.5 to 8.5 | 8.0 | 8.3 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.4 | 8.2 |
| Sulfate | mg/L | 500 | 250 | 3.5 | 6 | 8.9 | 11 | 3 | 2.9 | 7 | 2.9 | 2.7 |
| Total Dissolved Solids | mg/L | 1000 | 500 | 200 | 250 | 160 | 144 | 148 | 157 | 200 | 200 | 160 |
| Zinc | mg/L | 5 | 5 | N.D. | N.D. | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.1 | 0.01 | N.D. | 0.022 |
| Additional Constituents | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boron | mg/L | No MCL | | N.D. | 0.4 | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | N.D. | 0.52 | N.D. | N.D. |
| Calcium | mg/L | No MCL | | 19 | 25 | 14 | 29 | 17 | 18 | 8 | 20 | 17 |
| Hardness | mg/L | No MCL | | 93 | 108 | 68 | 81 | 92 | 94 | 20 | 103 | 92 |
| Potassium | mg/L | No MCL | | 6.4 | 5 | 5 | 3.2 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6.5 | 5 |
| Silica | mg/L | No MCL | | 63 | 60 | 66 | 40 | 59 | 58 | 72 | 67 | 62 |
| Sodium | mg/L | No MCL | | 12 | 17 | 7 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 42 | 14 | 13 |
| Radiochemistry | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross Alpha | pCi/L | 15 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 | N.D. | 2 | 8 |
| Gross Beta | pCi/L | 50 | 0 | 16 | 12 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 11 |
| Uranium | µg/L | 30 | 0 | 5 | 4 | N.D. | 18 | 3 | 3 | N.D. | 4 | - |
| Radium 226 + Radium 228 | pCi/L | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | N.D. | 1 | - |
| Radon | pCi/L | No MCL | | 880 | 860 | 960 | 990 | 690 | 710 | 400 | 1000 | 450 |
| Leachable Lead and Copper | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Action Levels | | 90th Percentile Concentrations | | | | | | | | |
| Lead | µg/L | 15 | | N.D. | | | | | | | | |
| Copper | mg/L | 1.3 | | 0.2 | | | | | | | | |

The following constituents were sampled in 2007 and not detected at any STMGID wells: aluminum, asbestos, color, foaming agents (MBAS), nitrite, odor, silver, and additional synthetic organic and volatile organic compounds.



WHY WE TEST THE WATER

The Washoe County Department of Water Resources (DWR) is known as “the water place” because it is a leader in providing integrated water resources. These services are critical to the region's quality of life. They include utility services (water, sewer, and reclaimed water) and water resource planning services (flood management, remediation of contaminated groundwater, and development of water resource plans).

The DWR is committed to be the leader in the provision of integrated water resource services to our community. Our mission is to provide quality product and service to our community through teamwork, accountability and professionalism.

Regular testing of the water resources is one way we fulfill that mission. This report summarizes water quality data for the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

HOW TO READ THE WATER QUALITY CHART

The far left column, titled Constituents, lists the naturally occurring and man-made inorganic contaminants that are monitored by DWR, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. The Primary Standards are monitored to ensure the water is safe to drink, and the Secondary Standards are monitored to ensure the water is aesthetically pleasing.

The second column, titled Units, describes the units of measure for that constituent. The third column, titled Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water defined by the EPA. The fourth column, titled Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), is the level of a contaminant in the drinking water in which there is no known or expected risk to health defined by the EPA.

The remaining columns show what contaminant level, if any, was contained in the water sources. In most cases, the water served to customers is a blend of the sources listed. The map shows the sources that supply water to the system.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included 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 before we treat it include:

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 water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from a health care provider. EPA/Center for Disease Control guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires states to develop a Source Water Assessment (SWA) for each public water supply that treats and distributes raw source water in order to identify potential contamination sources. For results of the source water assessment, please contact the DWR at 775-954-4600.

WELL HEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM

Much of the water we use everyday comes from wells operated by the Washoe County Department of Water Resources (DWR). Well Head Protection Programs (WHPPs) help ensure the safety of your drinking water by protecting underground aquifers from contamination. The WHPPs developed by the DWR meet or exceed all State and Federal requirements and are specific to our region. For more information about Well Head Protection in your community or to learn how you can help protect the groundwater, contact the DWR at 775-954-4600. You can view the WHPP for your community online at www.washoecounty.us/water.

WATER TREATMENT

To ensure water quality meets the EPA arsenic and antimony standards, STMGID has been participating in the EPA's Arsenic Treatment Demonstration Program and is conducting arsenic removal and distribution system blending. Treated and blended STMGID water currently meets EPA standards for antimony and arsenic. For more information regarding STMGID arsenic and antimony treatment and blending, contact the DWR.

ARSENIC

While your drinking water meets the EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The EPA standards balance the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of cancer.

GROSS BETA EMITTERS

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta particle and photon radioactivity in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of cancer.

LEAD AND COPPER

DWR has completed monitoring in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule (Rule). According to the Rule, the 90th percentile lead and copper concentrations are not to exceed action levels of 15 µg/L for lead and 1.3 mg/L for copper. Please refer to the table for the most recent lead and copper results. If you would like more information regarding the Rule or would like to participate in future sampling please contact our office.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

STMGID Water System has been monitoring for unregulated contaminants (UCs) as part of a study to help the EPA determine the occurrence in drinking water of UCs and whether or not these contaminants need to be regulated. At present, no health standards (for example, maximum contaminant levels) have been established for UCs. However, we are required to publish the analytical results of our UC monitoring in our annual water quality report. If you would like more information on the EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

DEFINITIONS

In this report you may find terms or abbreviations that may not be familiar. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Action Level | the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. |
| Color Units (CU) | is the standard unit of measure for water color. |
| Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) | is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal as feasible using the best available treatment technology. |
| Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) | is the level of a contaminant in drinking water in which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. |
| Micrograms per liter (µg/L) | one microgram per liter corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000 (same as parts per billion or ppb). |
| Milligrams per liter (mg/L) | one milligram per liter corresponds to one penny in \$10,000 (same as parts per million or ppm). |
| Million fibers per liter (MFL) | one million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers. |
| Millirems per Year (mrem/yr) | measure of radiation absorbed by the body. |
| Non-Detects (N.D.) | laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present. |
| Parts per Million (ppm) | or milligrams per liter (mg/l) |
| Parts per Billion (ppb) | or micrograms per liter (µg/l) |
| pH | is a measure of acidity. A pH value of less than 7 is acidic; values greater than 7 are alkaline. |
| Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) | is a measure of water radioactivity. |
| Running Annual Average (RAA) | is a computed average of all monitoring data collected during the year. |
| Threshold Odor Number (TON) | is the standard unit of measure for water odor. |

The symbol "<" means less than.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding water quality or the material in this report, please contact the Washoe County Department of Water Resources at:

4930 Energy Way · Reno, NV 89502 · (775) 954-4600

www.washoecounty.us/water