

ENSURING THE HIGHEST WATER QUALITY

The SFPUC Water Quality Division regularly collects and tests water samples from reservoirs and designated sampling points throughout the system to ensure that the SFPUC's water meets or exceeds federal and state drinking water standards.

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it will dissolve naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Such substances are called contaminants. Drinking water, including bottled water, may contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.



GET INVOLVED

We welcome your input on important water issues. Visit www.cityofpaloalto.org for details about upcoming public meetings.

- CITY COUNCIL, CITY HALL
- 1st three Mondays of the month, 7pm
- UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (UAC), CITY HALL
- 1st Wednesday of each month, 7 pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WATER QUALITY

- City of Palo Alto Utilities, Water Transmission
(650) 496-6967
- City of Palo Alto
www.cityofpaloalto.org/water
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) **www.sfwater.org**
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Drinking Water
www.epa.gov/safewater
- U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline
(800) 426-4791

HEALTH CONCERNS & REGULATIONS

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) **www.cdph.ca.gov**
- U.S. EPA **www.epa.gov**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- California Department of Public Health
<http://bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov>



Palo Altans are lucky to have pristine snowmelt from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir flowing from their faucets. Avoid the high cost, lower quality and environmental impact of buying bottled water, and enjoy a glass of tap water today!

WHERE OUR WATER COMES FROM

Palo Alto gets its water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) regional water system. Over 80% of the water we purchase comes from high Sierra snowmelt in Yosemite National Park. The remaining supply comes from local watersheds in Alameda and Santa Clara counties. All water, tap or bottled, comes originally from rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells.

The primary source of Palo Alto's water is snowmelt flowing down the Tuolumne River to the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, where it is stored. This pristine water source meets all federal and state criteria for watershed protection. Based on the SFPUC's disinfection treatment practice, extensive bacteriological-quality monitoring and high operational standards, the State has granted the Hetch Hetchy water source a filtration exemption. *In other words, the source is so clean and protected that the SFPUC is not required to filter water from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.*

The Hetch Hetchy water is supplemented with surface water collected from two local watersheds. Rainfall and runoff collected from the Alameda Watershed in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties is captured in the Calaveras and San Antonio Reservoirs. Rainfall and runoff from the Peninsula Watershed in San Mateo County is stored in four reservoirs, Crystal Springs (Lower and Upper), San Andreas, Pilarcitos and Stone Dam. The water from these watersheds is treated by coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection and in some cases ozonation. Fluoridation, chloramination and corrosion control treatments are provided for the combined Hetch Hetchy and local watershed supplies.



WHY BUY BOTTLED WATER?

WE HAVE THE HIGHEST QUALITY TAP WATER RIGHT HERE IN PALO ALTO!

WATER THAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS ALL STATE AND FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER.



City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) customers are fortunate to have access to high quality water flowing from the faucet—the pristine snowmelt from the **Hetch Hetchy Reservoir**.

HETCH HETCHY RESERVOIR WATER IS SO **CLEAN & PROTECTED** THAT THE SFPUC IS NOT REQUIRED TO FILTER IT.

TAP VS BOTTLED

In taste tests, tap water consistently ranks at or **ABOVE THE LEVEL** of bottled water.



47.8% of all bottled water is derived from tap water.
Source: Food and Water Watch

In California, tap water costs around one tenth of a cent per gallon.



SINCE BOTTLED WATER IS 0.90 CENTS A GALLON, IT IS **560 TIMES MORE EXPENSIVE** THAN TAP WATER.

BOTTLED WATER PRODUCES UP TO

1.5 MILLION TONS
OF PLASTIC WASTE
WORLDWIDE PER YEAR.

CREATE A WATER-WISE GARDEN!



Removing thirsty irrigated lawn and devoting more landscape area to groundcover, shrubs and trees that are **WATER EFFICIENT CAN BE BEAUTIFUL AND PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS.**

More tips at www.cityofpaloalto.org/resiwater