

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT, 1999

MELODY WOODS MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

During 1999, Melody Woods Mutual Water Company (MWMWC) conducted more than 350 tests for nearly 80 drinking water contaminants. Of this number, 66 contaminants were analyzed for us when we participated in an evaluation of small water system sources conducted by the American Water Works Association. The State required us to report monthly on 4 components and an annual analysis of 4 other components. MWMWC voluntarily conducted the balance of the tests. We reported one violation for presence of pathogens and have had a continuing problem with high levels of manganese. Please see the **Violation** paragraph located later in this report. This report is an overview of our water quality in 1999. Included are details of our source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. As a mutual water company we all have a vested interest in the company's performance and should all be aware of and involved in its operation. For information about your water quality, call Tom Gray at 353 - 3750. Operational questions can be directed to Dale Pennington at 353 - 2556.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-436-4791.

MWMWC gets all of its water from one well - we call well # 3 - located just off of Summit Road between Melody Lane and Mt. Charlie Road. After the water is pumped from the well, it is treated to remove contaminants and to disinfect it to protect you against microbial contaminants. The State is performing an assessment of our source water that will be completed by January 2001. We will report the results to you and tell you how to get a copy of the report when it is available.

Our Water Board meets on the last Tuesday of each quarter (March, June, September, and December) at 7:30 PM in the home of one of the board members. Contact Dale Pennington at 353 2556 to determine which member is hosting the meeting for the quarter of interest to you.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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 runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- **Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the California Department of Health Services (Department) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. MWMWC treats our water according to the Department's regulations. The Department's Food and Drug Branch regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

In the following table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

<i>Public Health Goal (PHG)</i>	- 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.
<i>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)</i>	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.
<i>Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)</i>	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically or technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.
<i>Regulatory Action Level (AL)</i>	The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
<i>Not Applicable (n/a)</i>	Does not apply.

Not Detectable (nd) Not detectable at the testing limit.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion(ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l) One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) Picocuries is a measure of radioactivity in water.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detect	Unit of Meas.	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of the Contaminant
Manganese*	Y	128 ppb	ppb	50 ppb	n/a	Naturally present
Iron*	N	83 ppb	ppb	300 ppb	n/a	Naturally present
Nitrate	N	ND	ppm	n/a	45 ppm	Animal waste, fertilizer, etc.
Nitrite	N	ND	ppb	n/a	1,000ppb	Animal waste, fertilizer, etc.
MtBE	N	ND	ppb	n/a	5 ppb	Gasoline additive

* Denotes average values for 12 monthly measurements

In addition to the components reported in the above table, we test monthly for the presence of coliform in our water. In 1999 we had one episode of a presence of coliform. When this happens, we are required to measure at additional sites up and downstream from the original site within 24 hours and at the same 5 sites the following month. The repeat measurements were all negative.

We also test for lead and copper. These tests are unique in that they include the household plumbing in determining the results. A number of households (5) having the highest potential for the presence of lead and/or copper because of the materials used in the home plumbing are selected for testing. Results are reported on a 90% basis - i.e. if 90% of the tested sites are within the MCLs - we are in compliance. The MCLs are: 0.015 mg/L for lead and 1.0 mg/L for copper. In 1999 our 90th percentile level for lead was 0.0003 mg/L and 0.135 mg/L for copper.

Violations we experienced were for manganese and coliforms. Since the coliforms did not show up in subsequent testing, we can assume that there was an error in the initial sampling, either in the laboratory analysis or in our sample handling. Although the manganese value is higher than the MCL/MCLG, it should be noted that there is no known health impacts from manganese. The problem with manganese in our water is aesthetic since it makes the water look dirty and can cause staining of clothing and plumbing fixtures.

All of the above results are based on analysis by certified laboratories.

Prepared by: Tom Gray, February 2000

