

# San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project

## Water Quality: Our Highest Commitment

The San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project allows us to strengthen our drinking water sources by blending a small amount of local groundwater with surface water supplies we receive from the Regional Water System. By diversifying in this way, we are helping to meet the long-term water supply needs of the City, while making our current water supply less vulnerable to risks and challenges such as climate variability, earthquake, and drought.

For the past decade, the SFPUC has collected water quality data from the Westside Basin aquifer. With this extensive testing and data collection, we know that our local groundwater is a high quality source of water. By blending this local groundwater supply with supplies from the Regional Water System, we can continue to provide our customers with reliable drinking water now and into the future.

### Safety First

Our drinking water will continue to be safe and meet or exceed all State and Federal drinking water standards with the San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project. All project wells have been designed to protect our water quality at standards even higher than the State's well design standards. Groundwater from these wells will be blended with supplies from the Regional Water System, and the water delivered to our customers will continue to surpass all health-based drinking water standards set by the California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Groundwater from the shared Westside Basin aquifer has been extensively tested and monitored, and has been supplying drinking water to Daly City, San Bruno, and South San Francisco for over 100 years. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) has stated, "We believe the evidence is clear that the plan to blend groundwater with surface water supplies will not create any adverse health consequences."

### Maintaining the Quality of Our Drinking Water

With the project, groundwater will be pumped and blended in small quantities with surface water supplies from the Regional Water System at Sunset and Sutro Reservoirs. Initially, the project will blend an average of 1 million gallons of groundwater per day – in these reservoirs. The project will eventually contribute a average of 4 mgd of groundwater to the supply – in the Sunset and Sutro Reservoirs. Because water is blended in the reservoirs with surface water supplies from the Regional Water System, and not added directly into the distribution system, we are able to maintain consistent water quality throughout the distribution area. Additionally, the amount of groundwater that will be blended with surface water supplies at the reservoirs is a small percentage, and the resulting water will not have distinguishable difference in taste or smell from our current tap water.

### Quality at the Source

Our local groundwater source is the Westside Basin aquifer. The basin extends over a 45 square mile area from beneath Golden Gate Park and the Sunset District in San Francisco to Burlingame in San Mateo County. The portion of the basin in the City is a protected aquifer, hundreds of feet deep, that provides high quality groundwater suitable as a drinking water supply. We have established, and currently maintain, a groundwater monitoring network for the Westside Basin aquifer to collect groundwater data from numerous locations and depths within the aquifer. Over 10 years of monitoring has allowed us to confirm the basin's water quality and select locations for groundwater wells. We will continue monitoring to track any changes to the basin once our groundwater wells start operating.

The most recent annual Groundwater Monitoring Report is available at [www.sfwater.org/sfgroundwater](http://www.sfwater.org/sfgroundwater).



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## A Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring Program

As part of the project, we have developed a comprehensive water quality monitoring program that will sample and analyze both the water from individual groundwater wells and the blended water supplied to customers. The monitoring program has been reviewed and approved by the State Water Board and sets out a long-term monitoring schedule for the groundwater wells and the blended/treated water. In addition to the long-term monitoring schedule, more frequent monitoring is planned during the initial start up of each new well after construction. This more frequent monitoring will allow us to characterize steady-state chemical concentrations in the groundwater, guide the optimization of operations, and confirm treatment performance. The table to the right outlines the parameters that are analyzed as part of the monitoring program.



## Keeping our Customers Informed about Water Quality

The levels of the various compounds and minerals in our water supply may vary over time, but will always be well below thresholds set by the State and Federal guidelines, and never exceed the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) or Secondary MCL (SMCL) determined by the State Water Board or the EPA. An MCL is the legal threshold limit on the amount of a substance that is allowed in public water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act. To keep our customers informed about their water supply during the start up phase of project implementation, we are updating the results of water quality monitoring of the blended water and posting them at: [www.sfwater.org/sfgroundwater](http://www.sfwater.org/sfgroundwater).

## Parameters Included in the Monitoring Program

| AT INDIVIDUAL WELLS                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Total coliform and E.Coli                                                                                                                                                                        |
| General Chemistry parameters (dissolved minerals, total dissolved solids, hardness, pH)                                                                                                          |
| Inorganics with primary MCLs (metallic elements and anions)                                                                                                                                      |
| Chrome 6                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Nitrate                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs) with MCLs                                                                                                                                                      |
| Semi-volatile synthetic organic chemicals (SVOCs) with MCLs including pesticides and herbicides                                                                                                  |
| Components with SMCLs (including metallic elements, color, odor and turbidity)                                                                                                                   |
| Radionuclides, naturally occurring                                                                                                                                                               |
| IN BLENDED/TREATED WATER                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Total coliform                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Chrome 6                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Nitrate                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Manganese                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| pH                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| PESTICIDE AND HERBICIDE MONITORING                                                                                                                                                               |
| We also test for 44 pesticide and herbicide compounds as required for all drinking water sources by the State Water Board. We have not detected any of these compounds in our groundwater wells. |

We want you to know about the San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project and our Local Water Program!

If you are interested in more detailed project information, please visit [sfwater.org/sfgroundwater](http://sfwater.org/sfgroundwater) for information on:

- Water quality data
- Westside Basin groundwater monitoring report
- Frequently asked questions
- Environmental documents
- Project glossary and other resources