

**IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**Carpinteria Valley Water District Has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes**  
**Above Drinking Water Standards**

09/11/08

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we at the Carpinteria Valley Water District are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received on September 4, 2008 show that our system exceeds the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Total Trihalomethanes. The standard MCL for Total Trihalomethanes, measured as an average of several samples taken every month at specified locations in the District and then averaged as a "rolling annual average" over four three-month quarters, is **0.080** milligrams per liter (mg/L). One milligram per Liter is the same as one part per million. Although our August monthly (not rolling annual) average of samples taken in the District measured 0.07219 mg/L, the rolling annual average level of Total Trihalomethanes over the last year (four quarters) was **0.082** mg/L.

**What should I do? You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

**What does this mean? This is not an immediate risk.** If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**What happened? What is being done?**

We have been close to the MCL in past years, and exceeded the standard in November of 2005. What happened this year was related mostly to increased use of Cachuma water, especially during the months of March through June of this year when Zaca Fire impacts to Lake Cachuma water quality were severe. Not having our new Headquarters Well on-line to blend our higher quality groundwater was also a problem.

We are now increasing our Headquarters Well production and use of higher quality groundwater to blend with the lower quality Cachuma water to meet the MCL. **We anticipate resolving the problem within three months.** With the likelihood of receiving \$2 million in Proposition 50 grant funds to assist us with the re-drilling of the El Carro Well and some important pipeline improvements to greatly improve our groundwater production capability we anticipate much greater success in the near future in meeting the Trihalomethanes standard.

***Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.***

For more information, please contact Charles Hamilton, General Manager, at (805) 684-2816 x 112 or write to CVWD 1301 Santa Ynez Avenue, Carpinteria, CA 93013.

State Water System ID#: 4210001.



# Carpinteria Valley Water District

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## GENERAL MANAGER

*Charles B. Hamilton*

September 17, 2008

Dear Customer,

The notice on the other side of this page was published in the Coastal View News on September 11, 2008.

As stated in the notice, with the planned El Carro Well and Pipeline Improvement Project, the District is now taking important steps to meet the current Total Trihalomethanes and all other state and federal drinking water standards. Already making a significant difference now are recent additions to our waterworks system, namely our new 3 million gallon Foothill storage tank and new Headquarters well, as well as new covers on the large Carpinteria and Ortega Reservoirs, all part of the District's comprehensive Capital Improvement Program to improve water quality.

More stringent state and federal standards, however, are also on the way, and will require even greater efforts. One of those efforts now in the planning stage includes a major improvement at the Cater Treatment Plant in Santa Barbara through which all of our Cachuma and State water passes and is treated. It will likely include the use of ozone before the water is filtered and treated with chlorine to reduce the amount of organic material in the water, and thereby reduce the formation of disinfection byproducts such as Trihalomethanes. Other actions yet to be planned and scheduled may include pipeline improvements within the Carpinteria Valley. Please feel free to participate with the Board of Directors and staff as we discuss and formulate our plans, by attending Board or Board Committee meetings.

I encourage you to call me at 684-2816 or e-mail me at [charles@cvwd.net](mailto:charles@cvwd.net) with any questions or concerns. Please know that while there is no immediate health risk associated with the District's current violation of the TTHM standard, as stated in the notice, we have a great sense of urgency about our plans and actions to meet and stay in compliance with all state and federal drinking water standards.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Hamilton  
General Manager