

# Your Drinking Water Quality Report



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## Seal Rock Water District

Seal Rock Water District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider

### Look Inside For Laboratory Tap Water Results

Issued June 2018, contains water quality data for the year 2017. You can have confidence in the quality of your drinking water. The Seal Rock Water District consistently delivers water that meets or exceeds all federal and state standards.



Seal Rock State Park:

#### Are you wondering...

- ...Where your drinking water comes from?
- ...How your drinking water is treated?
- ...About the quality of your drinking water?



### SRWD Changes Distribution Method of Water Quality Report

Beginning in 2013, SRWD notified customers in their water bill informing them that the water quality report is available Online for viewing instead of mailing the entire report to everyone in the District. Those with Internet access will be able to view or download the entire report at their convenience. We will also be happy to mail the report to those who request a copy. Please visit the District's [website](http://www.srwd.org) to view this and other important information.

#### Our Mission:

*“With a goal to become a leader in the source water and distribution industry, SRWD will strive to become the supplier of choice for high quality reasonably priced water to meet the growing needs of the Central Oregon Coast”*

# The Water You Drink

## Seal Rock Water District Water Quality Report

Safe, reliable drinking water is a basic life necessity. Seal Rock Water District (SRWD) understands this, and appreciates the opportunity to provide this essential service to the Seal Rock community every day. We believe it is important for our customers to understand where their water comes from, how safe it is, and what actions we take for its continuing quality. In accordance with federal guidelines, this report provides the information you need to know about the water you enjoy.

### Is Your Water Safe?

SRWD consistently delivers drinking water that meets or is better than state and federal regulatory limits. The test results are shown on the following pages. Although the District's water supplies are tested for several regulated and unregulated constituents, only those that have been detected in the water are included in this report. Frequency of testing varies per federal and state requirements.

Some people may be more vulnerable to constituents in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised people, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care

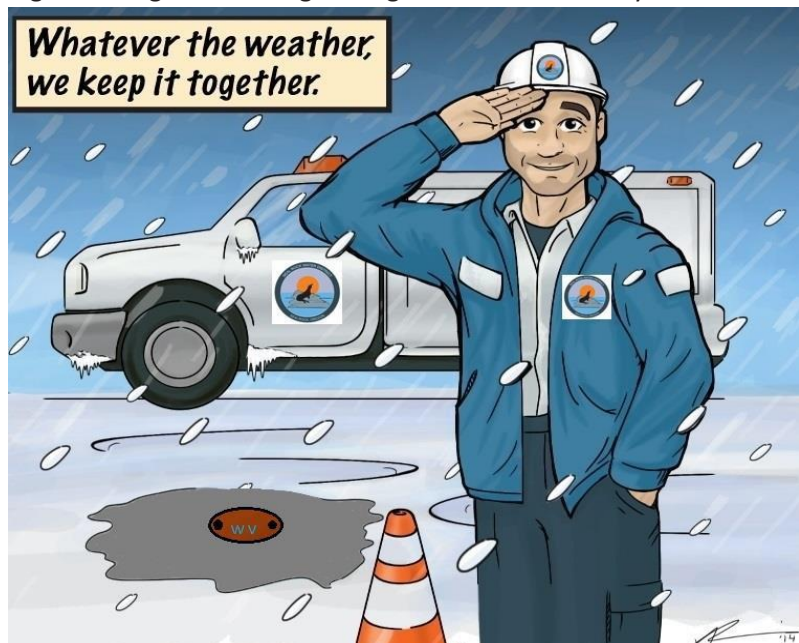
Providers. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial constituents. These are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).



The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) completed a source water assessment in October 2013 to comply with the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments. This assessment identified minor screening issues associated with the District Driftwood reservoir. As a result all screening was removed and replaced to insure that water quality was not compromised. Due to the District's high level of response to the maintenance needs of the system, the District received recognition from the OHA as an Outstanding System Performer. Systems earning this designation recognize significant benefit as system evaluation and assessment from the State is less frequent.

You can have confidence in the quality of your drinking water. SRWD consistently delivers water that meets or exceeds all federal and state standards.

For questions, contact SRWD [info@srwd.org](mailto:info@srwd.org), (541) 563-3529, or visit our Web site at [www.srwd.org](http://www.srwd.org).



# About SRWD

Seal Rock Water District is the largest water district on the Oregon Coast located in Lincoln County, between Newport and Waldport. The current boundaries of the District were formed in 1956 by the merger of two separate contiguous water districts.

We are governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners elected to four-year terms by District voters. The Board of Commissioners, with help from our staff, set our policies and procedures. We invite the public to attend SRWD’s Board of Commissioners meetings, held on the second Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. at the SRWD office. For more information about the meetings, visit [www.srwd.org](http://www.srwd.org) or call (541) 563-3529.

## What We Do

We don’t often pause to consider the incredible value of a safe, reliable water supply — and the water system that delivers it — in our everyday lives. But have you ever stopped to consider the beneficial uses of tap water outside of your home? You may not realize it, but as your community water provider, SRWD is responsible for much more than making sure quality water comes out of your tap. For example, we deliver...

### ...public health protection

In a world where an estimated 3 million people die every year from preventable waterborne disease, our water system allows us to drink from any public tap in the District with a high assurance of safety. SRWD water supplies meet rigorous federal and state health protective standards.

### ...fire protection

A well-maintained water system is critical in protecting our community from the threat of fire. A system that provides reliable water can be the difference between a small fire and an urban inferno. The ability to suppress fires also influences new home construction, business location decisions and insurance rates.

### ...support for the economy

Communities cannot succeed without a safe and sustainable water supply. Tap water is critical for day-to-day business operations and is often a primary ingredient in the products they create.

### ...the overall quality of life we enjoy

Any measure of a successful society — low mortality rates, economic diversity, productivity, and public safety — is in some way related to access to safe water. We often take for granted that safe water is always accessible to drink, to wash our clothes, to water our lawns and for a myriad of other purposes.



*SRWD Distribution Operators safely maintain over 65-miles of distribution system.*



*Friendly and courteous SRWD Administration Staff:*



*Fire protection is an important function of SRWD*

## SRWD Board of Commissioners

*Board President*  
*Mr. John Garcia*

*Board Secretary*  
*Mrs. Sandra Mies-Grantham*

*Board Treasurer*  
*Mr. Glen Morris*

*Commissioner*  
*Mr. Rob Mills*

*Commissioner*  
*Mrs. Karen Otta*

# Providing Quality Water

Clean water is essential to the health and wellbeing of our community. SRWD places great importance on delivering quality water to every tap every day. No matter what route your water has taken, our goal is to provide safe, quality water. SRWD staff is responsible for testing water quality throughout the distribution system to make sure it meets or exceeds regulatory standards and customer expectations, and reporting results to the proper authorities. The Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Program is responsible for promoting compliance with drinking water standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include 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 include;

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria which may come from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally- occurring or result from urban stormwater 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, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

SRWD's water system is monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to monitoring water flows and pressure, our state-of-the-art Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system monitors several water quality parameters and security alarms. If the system identifies anything out of the ordinary, alarms alert an operator to the possible problem to allow for corrective actions if needed.

## The Water Testing Process

The quality and safety of your water is our number one priority. To meet our commitment to quality water every time you turn on your tap, we constantly monitor the water by taking samples. Once these samples are taken, the testing process proceeds as follows:

- Samples are refrigerated and taken to a lab certified for testing drinking water.
- The lab sends the test results directly to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Drinking Water Program
- This Water Quality Report (sampling results from the past year) is provided to customers once a year.

### What Happens If One Of The Samples Is Outside Of The Acceptable Range?

Each element has different regulations to adhere to if they fall outside of the acceptable range. In the extremely rare occurrence that a parameter falls outside of the range, we will re-sample it. If it still falls out of the range, we will take whatever action is necessary to rectify the situation and follow the proper notification procedures.

### Advanced Technology Enables Water Providers to Look For More Substances than Ever

As technology improves, water providers have detected extremely small levels of substances. An example includes pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) in certain water sources. These substances have been found at trace levels that are measured in parts per trillion (ppt). A part per trillion is equivalent to one second in 32,000 years or one cent (\$0.01) in ten billion dollars (\$10,000,000,000).

The fact that a substance is detectable does not mean the substance is harmful to humans. Research regarding the identification of various substances in water is continually improving. Ultimately, as measurement and water treatment technologies continue to improve, we are able to provide our community with expanded information and better water. For more information about PPCPs, including how to properly dispose of them (not flushing them down the drain), visit [www.epa.gov/ppcp](http://www.epa.gov/ppcp).

## How Does The EPA Set Drinking Water Standards?

The EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. The 1996 Amendments to Safe Drinking Water Act require the EPA to go through several steps to determine whether setting a standard is appropriate for a particular constituent, and if so, what the standard should be. Peer-reviewed science and data support an intensive technological evaluation, which includes many factors: occurrence in the environment; human exposure and risks of adverse health effects in the general population and sensitive subpopulations.



*SRWD Technician takes a water sample from one of the District's many sampling stations:*

## 2017 Water Quality Summary:

SRWD and the City of Toledo routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State Regulations. Results are submitted to the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Department.

Unregulated Volatile Organics (VOC)	Reporting Limit	Mill Creek Results	Siletz River Results	Units
Bromodichlormethane	0.0005	0.00170	0.00204	mg/L
Chlorodibromomethane	0.0005	0.00154	0.00051	mg/L
Chloroform	0.0005	0.00107	0.00308	mg/L

Secondary contaminants do not have health impacts, and therefore, do not have MCL's. Secondary parameters describe non-health related characteristics of drinking water.

Parameter	Unit Measurement	Measured Level		MCL	Likely Source Standards	Meet Standards
		Site #1	Site #2			
Total Trihalomethanes TTHMs	mg/L	0.0211	0.0186	0.080	By-products of naturally occurring organics and chlorine	Yes
Total Haloacetic Acids HAA5s	mg/L	0.0144	0.0135	0.060		Yes
Turbidity	NTU	Annual Average: 0.030 Highest Single Value: 0.12		0.3	Soil Erosion	Yes

### LEAD AND COPPER TEST RESULTS 2017

The District is required to test again in July 2020

Parameter	MCL	Goal	Maximum Reported Value	Range	Likely Source	Meets Regs
<b>Copper</b>	90% of homes tested must have copper levels less than 1.3 ppm	0 ppm	100% of homes tested had 0.000 copper levels	None of the 20 homes tested had copper levels above 1.3 ppm	Household Plumbing systems	Yes
<b>Lead</b>	90% of homes tested must have lead levels less than 15 ppb	0 ppb	100% of homes tested had 0.000 lead levels	None of the 20 homes tested had lead levels above 15 ppb	Household Plumbing systems	Yes

Seal Rock's water was tested for Asbestos in 2012 and none was detected. We are required to test again in 2019.

**Some abbreviations in the above table may not be familiar. Please refer to the following definitions:**

- **(MCL) Maximum Contaminant Level** - is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.
- **(MCLG) Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **(N/A)** – not applicable. **(ND)** - non-detect.
- **(NTU) Nephelometric Turbidity Units** - a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **Turbidity** – indicates how cloudy the water is. Turbidity is measured in NTUs.
- **(ppm) Parts per million** or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **(ppb) Parts per billion** or Micrograms per liter (µg/L) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

## **Safeguarding Against Lead and Copper In Drinking Water:**

Elevated levels of lead and copper in drinking water can cause serious problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Materials and components used in service lines and home plumbing are the primary sources of these substances. SRWD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. If water has been exposed to these substances by sitting for several hours, any threat can be minimized by flushing the tap for a minute or two before using the water.

If customers are concerned about lead and copper, they may wish to have their water tested. Information on testing methods and steps to take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## **WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION**

Water management consists of the prudent oversight by a water supplier to responsibly provide water resources for the benefit of users within its defined service area. Water conservation consists of any appropriate efforts toward a reduction in water losses, waste, or consumption. As water suppliers face growing demands upon their available resources, careful conservation planning is playing an increasingly important role in their management practices. In effect, conserved water increases the available supply without a commensurate increase in cost and effort to obtain that water. To view the District's WMCP please visit our website at [www.srwd.org](http://www.srwd.org). SRWD routinely evaluates the water distribution system for leaks, as a result last year the district completed improvements in various areas of the system, reducing the amount of unaccounted water. Operators continue monitoring the system in an effort to detect and repair system leaks to increase savings. In November 2015 the District began a \$6 million dollar system improvement project in an effort to build resiliency in the system, reduce water loss further, and improve deficient fire flows. These improvements include the installation of an Automated Meter Integration (AMI) system being funded through a grant provided through USDA Rural Development and is expected to be completed in the fall 2018.

### **Effective Water Loss Program**

The initial goal of a system-wide leak detection program should be to reduce the amount of unaccounted water to 15% of the total amount of treated water purchased. If the reduction to 15% is determined to be feasible and appropriate, then the water supplier should endeavor to achieve a reduction to 10% or less. The District anticipates that completion of USDA funded Phase-3 improvements, scheduled for completion in the fall of 2018 will decrease the amount of water loss, possibly enough to satisfy the goal of less than 15%. Once this goal has been reached, the District can aim for an objective of 10% unaccounted water.



### **Developing a Reliable Drinking Water Future**

SRWD is working with the State and local stakeholders in an effort to develop additional water supply sources. Other water providers in the region are also looking at their options to meet future source water needs. There is enough water for today—but steps need to be taken now to have an adequate supply to meet future demands and provide greater resiliency. Developing a primary water supply for the District supports the region's plans for responsible sustainable growth within the Oregon Coast range. While Toledo source water is high quality, proven, and abundant, in the event of a natural disaster the District's primary source of water will not be available. To continue to provide water to the Seal Rock Community in the event of an emergency will require developing a primary source of water within the District's boundaries. Not only will this effort serve to create sustainability, it will also meet the State resiliency plan. SRWD's portfolio of drinking water supplies already includes the Siletz River watershed and water purchased from the City of Toledo. Through a FEMA mitigation grant the District completed improvements to a new emergency intertie with the City of Newport in September 2015. In addition, the District has unused certificated water rights within the District's boundaries. All of these supplies have the ability to continue to provide water for the foreseeable future.

**The SRWD Board also stresses the need to keep customers informed on progress as the District moves forward in developing a more resilient water system. Discover more at [www.srwd.org](http://www.srwd.org) or contact the District at (541) 563.3529 or [info@srwd.org](mailto:info@srwd.org).**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How can I check for a water leak?

Finding water leaks can save you water, which means saving money on water bills. Please visit the District's website for helpful information on how to check for water leaks, and conservation tips.

### What Can I do to Conserve Water?

Water conservation is the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce our demand for water. This stretches our supplies farther. There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you. There are many effective ways to conserve water in and around your home. Look through this list for ways that will work for you. When you save water, you save money on your utility bills too. Saving water is easy for everyone to do:

- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- Some refrigerators, air conditioners and ice-makers are cooled with wasted flows of water. Consider upgrading with air-cooled appliances for significant water savings.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 25 gallons a month.
- Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time.
- Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
- Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save water and prevent damage to your home.
- Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up.
- Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 150 gallons a month.

### Is There An Easier Way To Have My Backflow Assembly Tested?

Do you have a backflow assembly? For your convenience, SRWD has a list of approved state certified backflow technicians available to complete annual testing of backflow devices within the District.



Property owners are responsible for having their backflow assembly tested annually. Annual testing and certification results must be delivered to the District.

## Smart Water Technology

In the spirit of this year's National Drinking Water Week theme, "Protect the Source," we want to recognize how successful technology and partnerships are conserving water resources to benefit the community throughout the Seal Rock Water District (SRWD) and the landscape that supplies our water.



As part of our ongoing commitment to maintain a high quality of life for our citizens through cost-effective, innovative systems, the District recently completed installation of an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system for our water utility system. Advanced metering supports the District's commitment to preserve and protect our environment. The technology not only takes meter readers off the road and reduces carbon emissions; AMI also enhances the District's ability to quickly detect and stop leaks in the transmission system while providing end-user customers with daily information that helps them improve their own water conservation efforts.

The project entails replacing every residential and commercial water meter in the District with new, state-of-the-art technology that wirelessly communicates usage data to the District office. This innovative system replaces monthly manual reads with multiple remote reads per day, allowing for better leak detection, increased billing accuracy, and improved customer service.

The data offers us a better understanding regarding the flow of water through the system which, in turn, will allow the District and our customers to control unaccounted-for water, reduce our demand on the stream, and "protect the source." Reducing the amount of water we remove from coastal streams, many of which are already impaired as a result of overallocated withdrawals, translates to better stream health and a more sustainable water supply for the future.

While the system is still in its infancy, the District has already received an overwhelming positive response from customers who have received notification of high water use generated through the AMI program. With the old system, high usage was detected only through monthly meter readings and generally left the customer with a high volume of water usage to pay for before fixes were made. With 2,525 connections, detecting water leaks early with AMI is already having a positive impact on the District, our customers and, ultimately, the environment.

SRWD is proud of the work we have done on this project, and we recognize that these environmental and rate-payer benefits are also made possible through partnership collaboration with our customers and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, which financed the system improvements through its Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program. Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility, and something the SRWD Board of Commissioners takes seriously. Water is a precious resource, using new technology like AMI allows communities like ours to ensure this precious resource is available for future generations.