

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, City of Sublimity

## May 1, 2016

The City of Sublimity is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of the water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

### Report Purpose

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Alan Frost at 503-769-2860. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. They are held on the second Monday of each month in the City Council Chambers located at 245 N.W. Johnson Street.

The City of Sublimity routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

### The Water System

The City of Sublimity's water source is groundwater. The City owns and operates four wells located within or near the City of Sublimity. The City delivers about 150,000,000 gallons of water a year to its users. The source of the water has been identified as the Columbia Basin Aquifer.

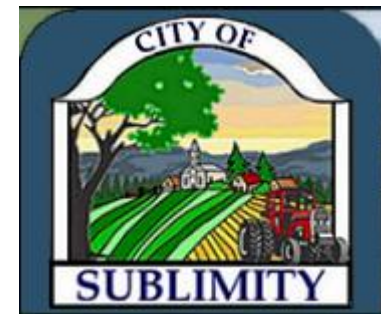
### Source Water Assessments (SWAs)

The City of Sublimity has a source water protection plan available at our City Hall office. The plan can be read any time during normal business hours. The plan provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. Moderate to high risk contamination sources within the drinking water protection area includes; pesticide/fertilizer/petroleum storage, handling, mixing and cleaning areas, wells and abandoned wells, irrigated crops, cemeteries-pre 1945, feed and supply businesses, and truck loading /unloading depots. Further information concerning the source water assessment report is available at City Hall. The City is pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

### Definitions

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

- Contaminants – Substances or organisms that have a significant adverse effect on human health.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) 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.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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.

- If a contaminant exceeds an Action Level (AL) the System is required to select an appropriate Treatment Technique (TT) and make its best efforts to reduce the contaminant level below the Action Level. If these efforts are unable to reduce the contaminant level enough, the System must inform you of the steps you can take to protect your health against the effects of the contaminants.
- Minimum Detection Level (MDL): The smallest amount of a contaminant that can be identified with present technology.
- Acute Risk: Exposure to concentrations above the MCL for short periods of time that may cause health problems. Bacteria and nitrate are examples of acute risks.
- Chronic Risk: Exposure to concentrations above the MCL for long periods of time that pose health problems.
- Treatment: Chemicals added by the system to the water before it is distributed to correct deficiencies or insure the quality of the source water during delivery to users. The City of St. Paul uses chlorine and potassium permanganate, with sand filtration for treatment.

### Microbiological Contaminants

Total Coliforms are ubiquitous bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator in drinking water that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Total Coliform bacteria live on our skin, plants in our yard and on the grass of our lawns. This year coliforms were not detected in any routine samples and testing.

### Contaminants Detected in the Systems Drinking Water

As you can see by the table, our system had no detection violations. We're proud that your drinking

water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water **IS SAFE** at these levels.

**Drinking Water Health Risks**

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described 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.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation No	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
<b>Total Coliform Bacteria</b>		<b>ND</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples</b>	<b>Naturally present in the environment</b>
<b>Arsenic</b>		<b>ND</b>	<b>ppb</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes</b>
<b>Nitrate (as Nitrogen)</b>		<b>ND</b>	<b>ppm</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits</b>
<b>Nitrite (as Nitrogen)</b>		<b>ND</b>	<b>ppm</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits</b>
<b>TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]</b>		<b>ND</b>	<b>ppb</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80 or 100</b>	<b>By-product of drinking water chlorination</b>
<b>Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)</b>		<b>ND</b>	<b>Mg/l</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.060</b>	<b>By-product of drinking water chlorination</b>

**Total Coliform**

The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

**Disease Susceptibility**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 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 (800-426-4791).

**Water Problems**

***Please feel free to call Alan Frost at 503-769-2860 or our City Hall office at 503-769-5475 if you have any questions.***

Alan Frost and the City of Sublimity Staff work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all of the City's water customers help protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.