For our system, the major water source originates from spring snowmelt flowing down the Tuolumne River to storage in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Our pristine Sierra water source meets all federal and state criteria for watershed protection. We also maintain stringent disinfection treatment practices, extensive bacteriological-quality monitoring, and high operational standards. As a result, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have granted that no filtration is required for the Hetch Hetchy water source. In other words, the source is so clean and protected that we are not required to filter water from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

Hetch Hetchy water is supplemented with surface water from two local watersheds. Rainfall and runoff in the Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant. Rainfall and runoff from the 23,000-acre Peninsula Watershed in San Mateo County are stored in the Crystal Springs, Sunol, and Pilarcitos reservoirs and are filtered and disinfected at the Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant.

In 2012, the Hetch Hetchy Watershed provided the majority of our total water supply, with the remainder contributed by the two local watersheds.
Contaminants and Regulations
More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that 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 that 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production, and mining activities.

Reducing Lead from Plumbing Fixtures
Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and devices associated with service lines and home plumbing. There are no known lead service lines in our water distribution system. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but water cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Lead levels at your home may be higher at all homes as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested. Additional information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791, or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

In addition to efforts to protect water sources from lead contamination, we are taking actions to minimize customer exposure to lead in water by:
- Completing replacement of brass meters with lead-free automated water meters by the end of 2013.
- Offering, in partnership with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, free lead test vouchers for clients enrolled in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.
- Offering low-cost water tests for lead ($25 per tap). To request a test, call 877-737-8297.

Special Health Needs
The following is standard language required by the USEPA for inclusion in all US water agency annual water quality reports.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those with cancer and those receiving chemotherapy, may be more vulnerable to certain organisms and those capable of causing disease. Ingestion of disinfectant residuals may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should talk to their health care providers about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

In general, immunocompromised persons, such as those with cancer and those receiving chemotherapy, may be more vulnerable. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Key Water Quality Terms
Following are definitions of key terms referring to standards and goals of water quality noted on the adjacent data table.

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which is not expected or required to result in risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which is not known or expected to result in risk to health. MCLGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which is not known or expected to result in risk to health. MCLGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Turbidity: A water clarity indicator that measures cloudiness of the water. Water clarity is determined by the concentration of suspended material in water, which reduces the transmission of light. There is no turbidity MCL for filtered water. The limits are based on the TT requirements for filtration systems in the State drinking water regulations.

Treatment Technology (TT): A process required intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant remaining in drinking water after all treatment processes that may be used to minimize the potential for disinfectant byproducts to form. Additional disinfectants are used in drinking water to control microbial contaminants.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PWS): MCLs and MCLGs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Regulatory Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Follow all directions for testing, and use only the type of test kit recommended by the USEPA. Additional water quality data may be obtained by calling our Water Quality Division toll-free number at (877) 737-8297.