

A SHARED RESOURCE

Pinellas County Utilities' 1998 Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report

When you drink Pinellas County's tap water you're drinking clean, high quality water. Pinellas County Utilities (PCU) proudly reports that the water we provide our customers meets or exceeds all Federal and State standards for safe drinking water. PCU first provided this report to all of our customers in 1998, one full year before the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) required all public water systems to produce a similar report.

All the information contained in this report has been collected and reported in accordance with the rules and regulations of the USEPA and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Each day, County employees are working around-the-clock to ensure that the water provided to you meets these standards and your expectations for safety, reliability and quality.

We hope that you will take a few minutes to review this important information. If you have any questions about this report, or Pinellas County Utilities, please do not hesitate to call our office at 727/464-4714. A customer service representative will be happy to assist you.

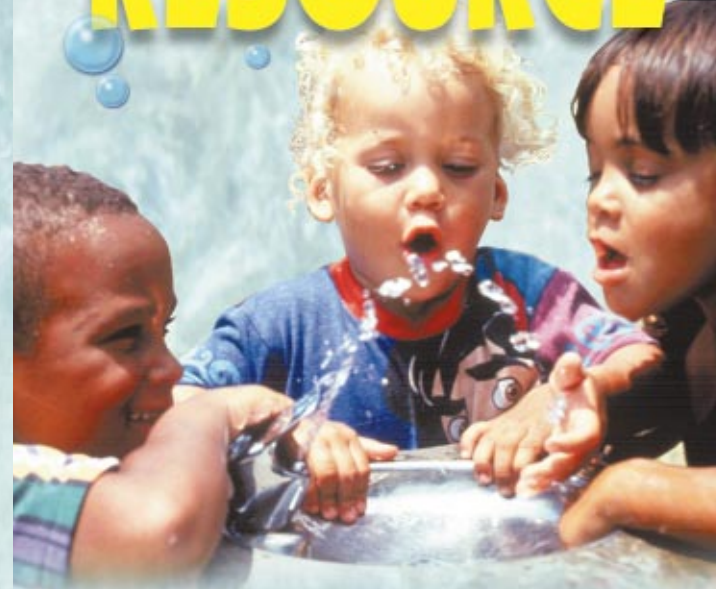
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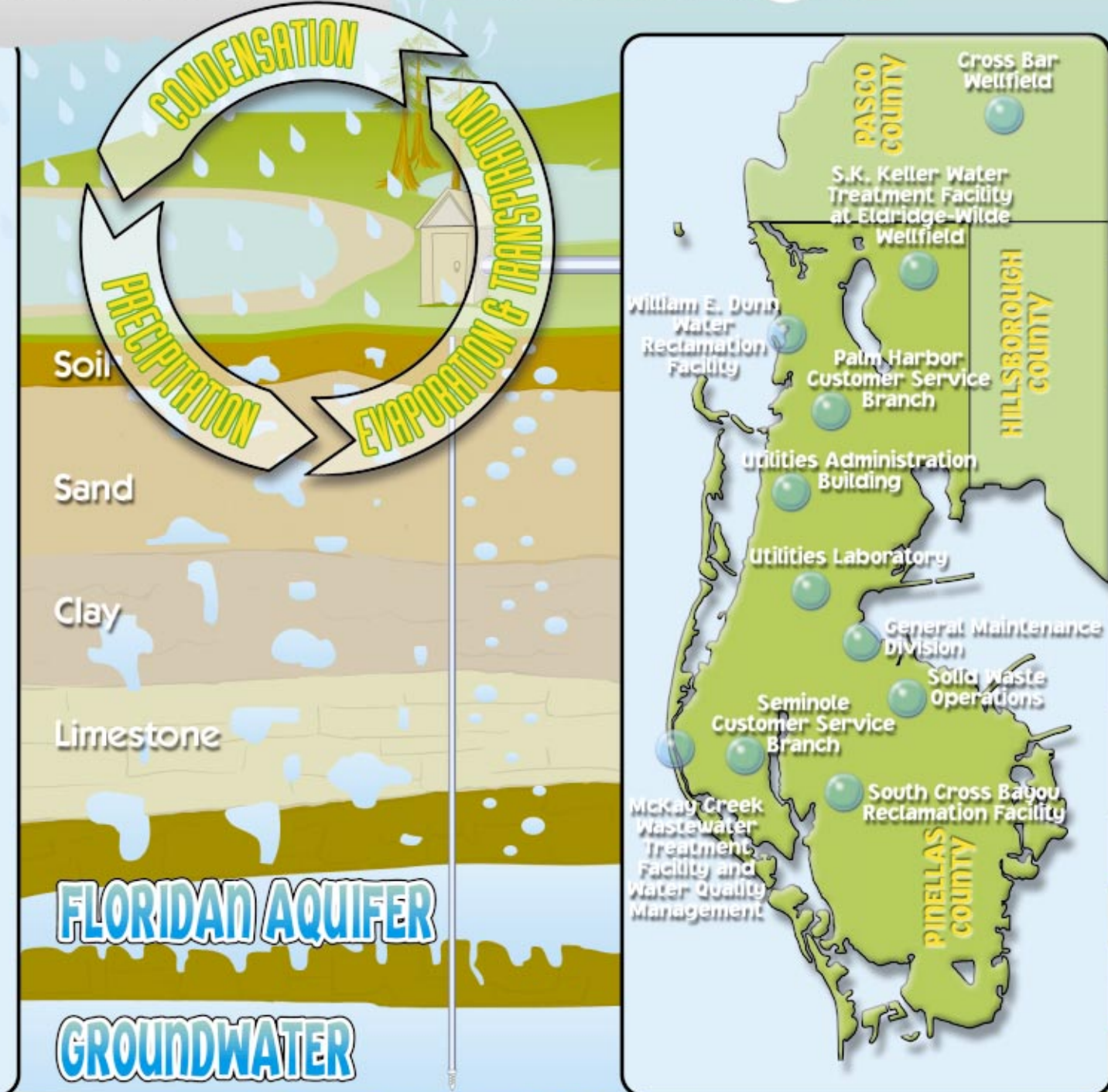
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OUR GROUNDWATER SOURCE

IT ALL STARTS WITH A DROP OF RAIN!

PCU's water starts with a safe and reliable source of groundwater. What is groundwater? It is water that has fallen as rain, then absorbed into the ground where it travels through layers of sand, clay and limestone. Percolation through these layers acts as a natural filtering process before the water is trapped in an underground lake or stream known as an aquifer*. It is here, deep underground in the Floridan Aquifer, that PCU draws its water supply.

Wellfields serving our system are located in northeastern Pinellas County and in central Pasco County. From these wellfields the water is then pumped to the S.K. Keller Water Treatment facility. At the treatment facility water undergoes four treatment processes. First a polyphosphate inhibitor is added to control corrosion in the distribution system and home plumbing. Next the water is aerated for the removal of natural elements such as hydrogen sulfide which has a displeasing odor. Then the water is chlorinated to disinfect against bacteria. Lastly, the pH (acid-alkali) is adjusted using sodium hydroxide for stabilization. The water is then pumped to your home or business through more than 1,285 miles of pipes in the PCU distribution system.



*The Floridan Aquifer, a thick sequence of porous limestone, is considered to be one of the largest aquifers in the nation and varies from 2,000 feet thick near the center of the state to a few hundred feet in coastal areas.

The majority of the text in this publication is mandated by The Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

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The highly skilled professionals working in PCU's state-approved laboratory analyze more than 85,000 samples of treated and untreated water a year. The water supply is regularly tested for more than 550 contaminants. In every case, the levels of contaminants found were below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) allowed by the USEPA attesting to the superior quality of our groundwater supply.

What do all the numbers mean?

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

Our Water Sources



The sources of drinking water (both tap 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

A Note To Our Customers About Lead And Drinking Water:

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1 (800) 426-4791.

Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

A Note To Our Customers About Nitrates:

As a precaution, we will notify physicians and healthcare providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

Your Participation is Welcome!

The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. except for the monthly public hearing, usually the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend and participate in public comment at the 5th floor assembly room in the Pinellas County Courthouse at 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida. Meetings are televised live and repeated during the week on the Pinellas County Government Access TV Channel (PCGA TV-18). The meetings are closed captioned for the hearing impaired. The agenda is publicized on the County website at www.co.pinellas.fl.us/bcc/.

Tampa Bay Water's Governing Board meets the third Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at 2535 Landmark Avenue, Clearwater, Florida. To view their agenda, visit their website at: www.tampabaywater.org or call 727/796-2355.

PINELLAS COUNTY UTILITIES' WATER MEETS OR EXCEEDS ALL FEDERAL AND STATE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS!