

2010 Consumer Confidence Report



The 2010 Water Quality / Consumer Confidence Report

Regulating Drinking Water Quality

Water utilities in California have provided an annual report to their customers since 1991, which summarizes the prior year's water quality and explains important issues regarding their drinking water. In 1996, the United States Congress reauthorized the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which was originally passed in 1974 and later amended in 1986. The 1996 reauthorization called for the enhancement of nation-wide drinking water regulations to include important components such as source water protection and public information. This year's water quality report covers water quality testing from calendar year 2010 and has been prepared in compliance with the consumer right-to-know regulations required by the SDWA 1996 amendments.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are the public agencies responsible for drafting and implementing regulations that ensure your tap water is safe to drink. USEPA and CDPH establish drinking water standards that limit the amount of contaminants in water provided to the public. CDPH also establishes water quality standards for bottled water that provide for the same protection of public health.

If you have questions about your water or the District, please contact us for answers...

For information about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact Mr. Tom Mortenson at (626) 856-5990. The Board of Directors meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5:30 PM at 14521 East Ramona Blvd. in the city of Baldwin Park. These meetings are open to the public.

Si usted tiene preguntas acerca de su agua potable o el Distrito, por favor ponte en contacto con nosotros para obtener este formulario en español.

Valley County Water District regularly tests your drinking water using CDPH-approved methods to ensure its safety. Over 100 compounds have been monitored in Valley County Water District's water supply. Only the detected constituents are reported in the accompanying table. Again, in 2010, the water delivered to you by Valley County Water District met or surpassed all the State and Federal drinking water standards.

In addition, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Watermaster), who manages our groundwater basin, continuously and vigilantly reviews upcoming State and Federal drinking water regulations. Watermaster has been proactive when monitoring unregulated contaminants in the Main San Gabriel Basin to ensure the water supply meets water quality standards.

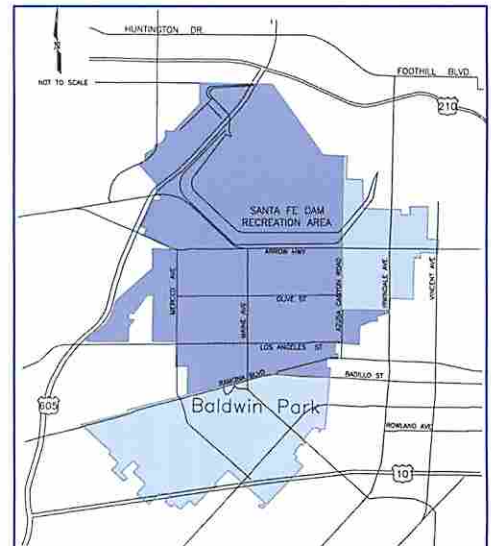
Source of Supply

Valley County Water District's water supply comes from groundwater wells located in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. However, as a result of historic industrial discharges, several of Valley County Water District's groundwater wells are contaminated and have been taken out of service. Water treatment facilities have been constructed at Valley County Water District to clean up groundwater contamination.

In addition, Valley County Water District purchased water from Covina Irrigating Company (CIC) in 2010. CIC pumps groundwater from the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. Valley County Water District also purchased water from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), as a regional wholesaler of imported surface water. This water is a blend of Colorado River water delivered through MWD's Colorado River Aqueduct and surface water from Northern California delivered through the State of California Water Project Aqueduct. MWD's water is filtered and disinfected at the Weymouth Filtration Plant in La Verne.

Drinking Water Source Assessment

In accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for Valley County Water District was completed in December 2002. The purpose of the drinking water source assessment to



**Valley County Water District
Service Area**

2010 VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Chemical	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Most Recent Test Year	Typical Source of Contaminant
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PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Health-Related Standards

RADIOLOGICALS							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	(0)	<3	ND - 7.6	No	2008	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta (pCi/L)*	15	(0)	4.2	ND - 9.7	No	2008	Decay of man-made or natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	(0)	<1	ND - 2.2	No	2008	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	1.2	ND - 3.4	No	2008	Erosion of natural deposits

INORGANIC CHEMICALS

Aluminum (ppm)*	1	0.6	<0.05	ND - 0.2	No	2010	Used as surface water filtration aid
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	<2	ND - 4.0	No	2010	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	<0.10	ND - 0.14	No	2010	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm) - naturally occurring	2	1	0.28	0.20 - 0.30	No	2010	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm) - treatment related	Optimal Range 0.7 - 1.3		0.8	0.7 - 1.0	No	2010	Water additive for dental health
Nitrate as NO3 (ppm)	45	45	10	ND - 29	No	2010	Leaching from fertilizer use
Perchlorate (ppb)**	6	6	<4	ND - 4.9	No	2010	Industrial discharge into groundwater

SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards, Not Health-Related

Aluminum (ppb)*	200	600	<50	ND - 200	No	2010	Used as surface water filtration aid
Chloride (ppm)	500	NA	34	12 - 94	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Color (color units)*	15	NA	<1	ND - 1	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3	NA	1.2	1 - 2	No	2010	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600	NA	514	370 - 1,000	No	2010	Substances that form ions in water
Sulfate (ppm)	500	NA	57	19 - 250	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000	NA	333	240 - 630	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5	NA	0.07	ND - 0.23	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED CHEMICALS OF INTEREST

Alkalinity as CaCO3 (ppm)	Not Regulated	NA	156	63 - 170	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Bicarbonate as HCO3 (ppm)	Not Regulated	NA	195	150 - 210	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Boron (ppb)	NL = 1,000	NA	<50	ND - 130	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	NA	54	44 - 71	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Hardness as CaCO3 (ppm)	Not Regulated	NA	188	84 - 300	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Grains of Hardness (gpg)	Not Regulated	NA	11	4.9 - 18	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	NA	13	9.0 - 28	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (ppt) **	NL=10	3	<2	ND - 2.4	No	2010	Industrial discharge into groundwater
pH (pH Units)	Not Regulated	NA	7.8	7.6 - 8.6	No	2010	Hydrogen ion concentration
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	NA	3.9	3.4 - 5.0	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	NA	30	12 - 98	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Vanadium (ppb)	NL = 50	NA	<1	ND - 3.1	No	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

MCL = maximum contaminant level; MCLG = maximum contaminant level goal; NA = not applicable; ND = not detected; NL = notification level; PHG = public health goal;
 gpg = grains per gallon; ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter; ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter; ppt = parts per trillion or nonograms per liter;
 NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units; µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter; < = average is less than the reporting limit; pCi/l = picoCuries per liter;
 * Detected only in Metropolitan Water District treated surface water; ** Detected only in Covina Irrigating Company groundwater

LEAD AND COPPER CONCENTRATIONS AT RESIDENTIAL TAPS

Chemical	Action Level (AL)	PHG	90th Percentile Value	Site Exceeding AL/ Number of Sites	AL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.14	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	ND<5	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Thirty residences are tested every three years for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of samples was collected in 2008. Copper was detected in 20 samples; none exceeded the regulatory action level (AL). Lead was not detected in any of the 30 samples. The AL is the concentration of lead or copper which if exceeded in more than ten percent of the samples tested, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY

Chemical/Bacteria	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Results	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)*	80	15	ND - 71	No	Byproduct of chlorine disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)*	60	3.9	ND - 21	No	Byproduct of chlorine disinfection
Coliform Bacteria** (% Positive)	5 (MCLG = 0)	2.1%	--	No	Naturally present in the environment
Chlorine Residual (ppm)*	(4 / 4)	0.79	0.2 - 3.0	No	Drinking water disinfectant

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal; MCLG = maximum contaminant level goal
 * The table shows the highest running annual average for 2010, and the range of the individual results for samples collected in 2010.
 ** The result is the highest percentage of positive samples collected in a month during 2010. Coliforms are bacteria used as an indicator that if present, indicates other potentially harmful microorganisms may be present. No more than 5.0% of the monthly samples may be Coliform - positive; therefore, the MCL was not violated in 2010.

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TREATED SURFACE WATER

Turbidity - Combined Filter Effluent	Treatment Technique	Turbidity Measurements	TT Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
1) Highest single turbidity measurement	0.3 NTU	0.06	No	Soil Runoff
2) Percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	No	Soil Runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, an indication of particulate matter, some of which might include harmful microorganisms. Low turbidity in Metropolitan's treated water is a good indicator of effective filtration. Filtration is called a "treatment technique" (TT). A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water that are difficult and sometimes impossible to measure directly.

About Lead in Tap Water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Valley County Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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 in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Nitrate

Nitrate in your tap water may have exceeded one-half the MCL in 2010, but it was never greater than the MCL. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above the MCL of 45 parts-per-million (ppm) is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 ppm may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.



promote source water protection by identifying types of activities in the proximity of the drinking water sources which could pose a threat to the water quality. The assessment concluded that Valley County Water District's sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: gas stations, chemical/ petroleum processing and storage, automobile repair shops, fleet/ truck/bus terminals, food processing, landfills/dumps, leaking underground storage tanks, dry cleaners and metal plating/ finishing/ fabricating. In addition, the sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: pesticide/ fertilizer/ petroleum storage and transfer areas, railroad yards/ maintenance/ fueling area. A copy of the complete assessment is available at Valley County Water District at 14521 Ramona Boulevard, Baldwin Park, CA 91706. You may request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting Mr. Tom Mortenson at 626-856-5990.

In January 2002, Covina Irrigating Company completed its drinking source water assessment. The assessment showed that CIC's sources are considered most vulnerable to gas stations and underground tanks. A copy of the complete assessment can be requested by contacting Valley County Water District at 14521 Ramona Boulevard, Baldwin Park, CA 91706. You may also request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting Mr. Tom Mortenson at 626-856-5990.

Every five years, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is required by CDPH to examine possible sources of drinking water contamination in its State Water Project and Colorado River source waters. Metropolitan's most recent Watershed Sanitary Surveys were completed in December 2006 (Colorado River) and June 2007 (State Water Project). Both source waters are exposed to storm-water runoff, recreational activities, wastewater discharges, wildlife, fires and other watershed-related factors that could affect water quality. Water from the Colorado River is considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. Water supplies from Northern California's State Water Project are most vulnerable to contamination from urban/stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater. A copy of the summary of either Watershed Sanitary Survey can be obtained by calling Metropolitan at (213) 217-6850.

Potential Contaminants in Drinking Water

Sources of drinking water generally 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, 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.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally- occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), visit USEPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water website at www.epa.gov/safewater/ or visit CDPH website at www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater.

Immuno-compromised people

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. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Water Quality Standards

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and CDPH prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water standards established by USEPA and CDPH set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial pathogens.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Notification Level (NL):** An advisory level which, if exceeded, requires the drinking water system to notify the governing body of the local agency in which users of the drinking water reside (i.e. city council, board of directors, and county board of supervisors).

Water Quality Goals

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and CDPH have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by USEPA.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.