

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT—2011

City of Crescent City
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2011 Annual Consumer Confidence Report

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City of Crescent City
377 J Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Continuing Our Commitment

The City of Crescent City is once again proud to present to you our annual consumer confidence report. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

We continually strive to adopt new and better methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

The City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Monday each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Del Norte County Flynn Center, 981 H Street, Board Chambers, Crescent City, CA. Please share with us your thoughts about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.



Where Does My Water Come From?

Water customers of the City of Crescent City are fortunate because we enjoy an abundant water supply from the Wild and Scenic Smith River. In 2010, over 719 million gallons (daily average of 1.97 mgd) was collected through our Ranney Collector, which is located about 2 miles upstream from the Dr. Fine Bridge.

Water Treatment Process

Using natural filtration through the sand and gravel bed 30 feet below the river, water is collected from intake lines (or fingers) driven into the gravel bed. Water is pumped southward to the treatment facility off Kings Valley Road, where chlorine and fluoride are added to meet State standards. This is the extent of treatment.

After treatment, the water enters the distribution system, consisting of booster pumps and storage tanks. The water is analyzed daily for: chlorine, fluoride, turbidity and acidity. In addition, weekly microbiological tests are analyzed from various locations throughout the system to further ensure healthy, high quality standards at your tap.

For the sake of simplicity, the results reported to you the users, are only those which are most commonly of interest to the public. All testing results are available at City Hall upon request. All pollutants required to be tested for have been tested. All results were below the California Department of Public Health's Maximum Contaminate Levels (MCL).

Important Health Information

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. U.S. EPA/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).

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all EPA and State drinking water health standards. The City of Crescent City vigilantly safeguards its water supply and once again, we are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.



Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Eric Wier, Utilities Director at (707) 464-9506.

Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken hundreds of samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants. All substances were under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The table below shows the most common contaminants. Test results for all of the samples taken are available at City Hall upon request.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES						
Substance (Unit of Measure)	No. of samples collected	Level Detected (90th % tile)	Sites Above			Typical Source of Contaminant
			AL	AL	PHG	
Lead (ppb)	20	3.8	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppb)	20	460	0	1300	170	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

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. The City of Crescent City 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, information about lead in your water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	08/02/2011	2.4	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring.
Hardness (ppm)	08/02/2011	59	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring.
Nitrate (as NO ³)	08/02/2011	ND	45 mg/L		Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Iron	08/02/2011	ND	0.3	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.
Manganese (ppm)	07/19/2010	ND	0.05	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits.
Aluminum (ppm)	08/02/2011	0.023	1	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes.

ROUTINE DAILY SAMPLING RESULTS

Parameter	Units	Average	Range	MCL
Fluoride	Mg/L	0.84	0.06-1.36	2
Chlorine Residual	Mg/L	1.13	0.66-1.65	N/A
PH	PH Units	7.50	7.1-7.9	N/A
Turbidity	NTU	0.27	0.10-1.20	5.0

Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the federal MCL of 4 mg/L over many years may get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children who drink water containing

More information on fluoride may be contained by contacting www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/Fluoridation.aspx.



The sources 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 sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife; Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or may 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, that 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, that can be naturally-occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Department of Public Health (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

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).

Table Definitions:

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 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 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

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.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

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

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 contaminants.

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.

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

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

Variances and Exemptions: Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

- ND: not detectable at testing limit
- ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
- ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
- ppq: parts per quadrillion or pictogram per liter (pg/L)
- pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

What is Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment, systems containing chemicals or water sources of questionable quality.

Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line. Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand) causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line.



Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed all industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that all potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer.

Contact www.epa.gov/safewater/crossconnection.html for more information on cross-connection contamination. You can also call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.