

Britz Colusa Ave. Water System

2011 WATER QUALITY REPORT

A Consumer Confidence Report

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of 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. The source of our drinking water is surface water from the California Aqueduct. This water reaches our water treatment facility through a pipeline owned and operated by the Westlands Water District. When this "raw" water reaches our treatment plant, we add alum and other chemicals that cause small particles in the water to adhere to one another, making them large enough to become filterable. The water is then filtered through layers of sand and anthracite. As smaller particles are removed, turbidity disappears and clear water emerges. Finally, as a precaution against bacteria, chlorine is added before the water is pumped into the storage tank and distribution system.

Some basic information about drinking water contaminants...

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, 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, which 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and California Department of Health Services (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 must 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

With the exception of Total Trihalomethanes, our drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. The Colusa Ave. Water System routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables on the following pages show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2011. If you have questions about this report or concerns about your water, please contact Mr. Brian Hughes at 559-884-2421.

DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

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.

Action Level

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

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety and are non-enforceable public health goals.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to public health goals and maximum contaminant level goals as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCL's are enforceable standards.

Parts per billion (PPB)

A measurement of the concentration of a substance roughly equivalent to one drop in 14,000 gallons or one penny in \$10 million.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS)

Primary maximum contaminant levels, specific treatment techniques adopted in lieu of primary MCL's, and monitoring and reporting requirements for MCL's that are specified in regulation.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS)

MCL's for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWS's do not affect the health at MCL levels.

Treatment Technique (TT)

A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Public Health Goals (PHG)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. Public health goals are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Please Note...

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).

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Department requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

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. Britz, Inc. 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>.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper	Sample Date	90 th percentile level detected	Number of samples exceeding AL	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	Typical source of contaminant
Lead (ppb)	9/22/2011	None Detected	NONE	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppb)	9/22/2011	None Detected	NONE	1300	170	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical source
Sodium (ppm)	Feb. 2011	30	N/A	none	none	Generally found in ground and surface water.
Hardness (ppm)	Feb. 2011	71	N/A	none	none	Generally found in ground and surface water.

TABLE 3 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical source
Uranium (pCi/L)	2007	1.05	ND – 1.29	20	0.43	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	Feb. 2011	2.8	N/A	45 (as Nitrate)	45 (as NO ₃)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2011	46.3	17 – 60	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids (5 sources) (ppb)	2011	18	4.4 – 35	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (ppm)	2011	1.10	0.49 – 2.13	[MRDL = 4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[MRDLG= 4 (as Cl ₂)]	Drinking Water Disinfectant added for treatment.

TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Sulfate (ppm)	Feb. 2011	32	N/A	500	n/a	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Aluminum (ppb)	Feb. 2011	400	N/A	1000	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Specific Conductance (uhmos/cm ²)	2011	245	210-280	1600	n/a	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	Feb. 2011	440	N/A	300	n/a	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

Micro Biological Contaminants (Distribution System Monitoring)

Contaminant	Highest # of Detections	No. of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	NONE	NONE	1	0	Naturally Present in the Environment

TABLE 5 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING TREATMENT OF SURFACE WATER SOURCES

Treatment Technique *	Conventional Filtration
Turbidity Performance Standards **	<u>Turbidity of the filtered water must:</u> 1. Be less than or equal to 0.30 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month. 2. Not exceed 1.0 NTU at any time.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance No. 1	100% see note (a) below
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year	0.27 NTU
The number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements	<u>NONE</u>

* A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

** Turbidity (measured in NTU) is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Turbidity results which meet performance standards are considered to be in compliance with filtration requirements.

Miscellaneous Notes and Summary Information for Surface Water Treatment

(a). This system records the turbidity of the filtered water every 15 minutes during operation. Turbidity from our facility must be below 0.30 NTU in at least 95% of the samples taken each month.