

**2011 Consumer Confidence Report  
Annual Water Quality Report  
Edwards Air Force Base  
MAIN BASE**

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

**INTRODUCTION**

This is an annual report on the water quality delivered by Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB). The Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight tests the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of 1 January – 31 December 2011. **We are pleased to report our water system has met all drinking water requirements outlined by USAF, State, and Federal Standards.**

**WHERE OUR WATER COMES FROM**

The EAFB Main Base Drinking Water System draws water from two sources:

1. On-base ground water wells.
2. Surface water supplied by the Antelope Valley East Kern (AVEK) Water Agency.

We have nine on-base ground water wells supplying the EAFB Main Base Drinking Water System. The water from these wells travels to a booster station where it is chlorinated. We add additional chlorine to maintain microbial control as the water travels through our system. The water is then pumped into the base distribution system.

In addition to the ground-water wells, the EAFB Main Base Drinking Water system receives water from the Antelope Valley East Kern (AVEK) Water Agency through a water main to blend with the well water to ensure the supply meets all drinking water requirements outlined by USAF, State and Federal Standards. The water we receive from the AVEK Water Agency is supplied in finished drinking water quality form (this water line serves other AVEK customers such as the city of Boron). The AVEK Water Agency supply is primarily from the California Aqueduct, a surface water source. As a water wholesaler, the AVEK Water Agency published their 2011 Water Quality Report earlier this year which is located at <http://www.avek.org/2011%20LA%20County%20AWQR.pdf>.

**TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT**

**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.

**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).

**ND:** not detectable at testing limit

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

**Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS):** MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Level:** The level of lead and copper at which 90% of drinking water samples taken in a system are below. This level is compared with the MCL for lead and copper to determine system compliance.

**Level Detected:** Laboratory analytical result for a contaminant; this value is evaluated against an MCL or AL to determine compliance

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT	
<b>ppm:</b> parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)	<b>Range:</b> The range of the highest and lowest analytical values of a reported contaminant.
<b>ppb:</b> parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)	
<b>pCi/L:</b> picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)	

*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, which can be naturally-occurring or resulting 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 septic systems.
- *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 resulting from oil and gas production and mining activities.

**WATER MONITORING RESULTS SUMMARY**

*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.*

**Tables 1 – 4 list all of the primary drinking water standard 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 California Department of Public Health Services requires us to monitor 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, is more than one-year old.

<b>Table 1</b> <b>Detection of Coliform Bacteria</b> <b>1 Jan – 31 Dec 2011</b>				
Microbial Contaminants	Highest No. of Detection	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical source of Bacteria
Coliform, Total	1	No more than 1 positive monthly sample	0	Naturally present in the environment
Coliform, Fecal or <i>E.coli</i>	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive	0	Human and animal fecal waste

<b>Table 2</b> <b>Lead and Copper</b> <b>Jul 2009</b>						
Contaminant	Samples Collected	90 <sup>th</sup> % Level Found	Exceeding MCL	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	30	ND	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	30	0.502	0	1.3	0.3	Natural deposits

<b>Table 3</b> <b>Primary Drinking Water Standard</b> <b>1 Jan – 31 Dec 2011</b>						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Violation	Highest level detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	No	13.9 See NOTE	ND - 13.9 (8.77 avg)	10	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium (ppb)	No	7.48	ND - 7.48	50	2.5	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L)	No	0.63	ND - 0.63	2.0	1.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum plants
Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> ) (ppm)	No	0.288	ND - 0.288	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

**Table 3**  
**Primary Drinking Water Standard**  
 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2011

<b>Chemical or Constituent</b> (and reporting units)	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Highest level detected</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>PHG (MCLG)</b>	<b>Typical Source of contaminant</b>
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	<b>No</b>	57.33	ND - 88.6 (42.81 avg)	80	n/a	By-product of chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	<b>No</b>	41.2	ND - 41.2 (16.21 avg)	60	n/a	
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)  2008 results	<b>No</b>	9.56	3.63 - 9.56	15	0	Radioactive mineral deposits
Perchlorates (ppb)	<b>No</b>	ND	ND	6	n/a	Use of Perchlorate containing munitions

**Table 4**  
**Secondary Drinking Water Standard**  
 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2010

<b>Chemical or Constituent</b> (and reporting units)	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>PHG (MCLG)</b>	<b>Additional information</b>
Hardness (ppm)	<b>No</b>	N/A	17.33	none	N/A	It is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring
Alkalinity (ppm)	<b>No</b>	N/A	110.0	none	N/A	
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	<b>No</b>	N/A	590.0	1600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	<b>No</b>	N/A	383.33	1000	500	
Color (units)	<b>No</b>	N/A	5	15	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Turbidity (National Turbidity Units)	<b>No</b>	N/A	1.445	5	N/A	Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

### **Arsenic**

The water in the EAFB drinking-water system is a blend of EAFB well water and AVEK water. This method is referred to as arsenic blending and was approved by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in January 2006. We do this to ensure compliance with the EPA-established standard of 10 ppb for arsenic.

**NOTE:** The “highest level detected” represents the concentration of arsenic directly from ONLY one well and the average is of all the wells in use.

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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 the USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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).

### **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT**

The Civil Engineering (CE) Department at EAFB produced the 2003 Source Water Assessment, completed 18 June 2003, and it is on file in the CE office (661-277-5000). Possible contaminating activities for the wells surveyed in this assessment include nearby abandoned wells, storm drainage discharge, above ground water storage tanks, and nearby roads. The health risks from these activities are diminished through weekly monitoring of the potable water system. AVEK also provides a Source Water Assessment for the water they distribute. This is a new state requirement and lists the Physical Barrier Effectiveness, Inventory of Possible Contaminating Activities, Vulnerability Ranking, Assessment Map, Assessment Summary, and Public Notification procedures.

#### **For more information, contact:**

95<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron/Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight (661-277-3272) or 95<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing/Public Affairs (661-277-1454)

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/index.cfm>

## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Turn water off when shaving and brushing your teeth.  
Run only full loads in washing machine and dishwasher  
Adjust lawn sprinklers to water the grass not the street.  
Take shorter showers. Turn water off while lathering up.  
Use the garbage can rather than the garbage disposal.  
*Water is a natural resource not to be wasted.*

