

# BRANDING IRON MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM NUMBER 1700542

## 2011 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

JULY 1, 2012

We test 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 January 1 - December 31, 2011.

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

### **Branding Iron MWC Source Information:**

Type of Water Source(s) in Use: Groundwater

Name & Location of Source(s): Well 01, Located in Kelseyville, CA

### **Drinking Water Source Assessment Information:**

An assessment of the drinking water source for Branding Iron MWC was conducted by the State Health Department in December, 2002. The well was determined to be located within 30 feet of a flowing creek, although not associated with any detected contaminants. The source is considered most vulnerable to the presence of certain transportation corridors, including state highways/freeways. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the California Dept of Health Services, 50 D St, Rm 200, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. The phone number is (707) 576-2145.

### **General Drinking Water Source Information**

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**, 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the 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.

### **Stay Connected!**

#### **Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Information**

Quarterly meetings held at the home of the current president. Contact Water Master for more information.

#### **Want to Contact Us?**

Water Master: Mr. Franz Waltenspuhl

Phone: (707) 279-2244

#### **Source Water Protection Tips for Consumers**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- ◆ Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides; they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source
- ◆ Pick up after your pets
- ◆ If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources
- ◆ Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center
- ◆ Volunteer for watershed cleanup in your community.

## Terms Used In This Report

**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.

**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  
**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.

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

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

**Variations 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)

**pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5 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 allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

**TABLE 1—SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA**

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest # of Detections	# of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive	0	Human and animal fecal waste

**TABLE 2—SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER**

*\*Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.*

Lead and Copper	No. of Samples Collected	90th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	5	7.6	0	15	0.2	Internal Corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	5	0.19	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

**TABLE 3—SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	11/2009	12	-	none	none	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	11/2009	37.0	-	none	none	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

**TABLE 4 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

*\*Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.*

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fluoride (ppm)	11/2009	0.39	-	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
TTHM's [Total Trihalomethanes](ppb) -Bromodichloromethane -Dibromochloromethane -Chloroform (Trichloromethane)	2011 2011 2011 2011	2 0.69 0.78 0.53	- - - -	80	n/a	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	2011	0.16	<0.10 - 0.80	[MRDL=4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	[MRDLG=4 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Gross Alpha (PCi/L)	6/2007	0.45	-	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits

**TABLE 5 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	11/2009	3.6	-	500	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	11/2009	10	-	15	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor (units)	11/2009	1	-	3	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials
<b>Iron (ppb)</b>	<b>11/2009</b>	<b>*830</b>	-	<b>300</b>	-	<b>Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes</b>
Manganese (ppb)	11/2009	40	-	50	-	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (uMho)	11/2009	120	-	1,600	-	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	11/2009	1.3	-	500	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	11/2009	490	-	1000	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (units)	11/2009	1.3	-	5	-	Soil Runoff

**Curious About Sodium and Hardness?**

*Hard water is found in over 85% of the United States' water supplies. Water hardness is commonly referred to on a hardness scale ranging from soft to slightly hard, moderately hard, and hard to very hard. Soft water can be corrosive to water pipes, while water that is too hard can cause visible discoloration or scales to form on plumbing and cooking fixtures.*

*Branding Iron's water is considered just slightly hard at a measurement of 37 ppm.*

*The most recent measurement for sodium at Branding Iron MWC is 12 ppm, and although there is no drinking water standard for sodium this measurement is unlikely to lead to adverse health effects.*

**ADDITIONAL GENERAL INFORMATION ON  
DRINKING WATER**

**Lead and Copper Information**

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. Branding Iron Mutual Water Company 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>.



**BRANDING IRON**

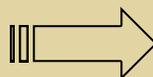
**MUTUAL WATER COMPANY**

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).

**SUMMARY INFORMATION FOR VIOLATION OF A MCL,  
MRDL, AL, TT,  
OR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT**

**Summary Information for Secondary Contaminant Exceeding an MCL:** \*Iron was found at levels that exceed the secondary MCL of 300 ug/L. The iron MCL was set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects (e.g., color, taste and odor) and the staining of plumbing fixtures (e.g., tubs and sinks) and clothing while washing. The high iron levels are due to leaching of natural deposits.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**One part per million (ppm) is approximately:**

- 1 second in 11.5 days
- Half an aspirin dissolved in a bathtub of water

**One part per billion (ppb) is approximately:**

- One minute in two thousand years
- One aspirin dissolved in an Olympic-sized swimming pool