

“Western’s water is safe and healthy to drink and meets all water quality standards. You can trust in us to safely secure your water supply year-round.” Jeff Sims, Deputy GM



Thank you

for opening Western’s Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2011, which gives you a ‘behind the scenes’ look at our water quality monitoring and testing. Western Municipal Water District is excited to provide this information to you, our consumers. Please know that it’s because of our dedicated staff and rigorous standards for high-quality drinking water that our water supply meets or exceeds all quality standards.

The District is happy to report there were major achievements this year regarding water reliability and savings for our consumers. Upgrades and expansion of the Western Water Recycling Facility were completed, providing more recycled water to our service area for irrigation purposes. Western helped secure a \$4 million Bureau of Reclamation grant to fund a portion of the expansion of the Chino Desalter facilities, which will produce an additional 10,600 acre-feet of potable water per year. Another victory this year was the refinancing of Western’s Murrieta Community Facilities District bonds, saving \$4.5 million for a portion of our Murrieta Division customers.

As you will find, we have included much more than a chart full of numbers in this report. I invite you to use it as a tool for learning more about your water and Western. Please know that this report is in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), which require that all water agencies produce an annual water quality report for customers about their drinking water.

We welcome you on this journey to a better understanding of water, from where your water comes from to how we protect and serve you high-quality water through our treatment processes.



John Rossi
General Manager

Securing Your Water Supply

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Si desea más información, por favor contacte Matt Buck en community affairs a Western Municipal Water District, 951.571.7285 o mbuck@wmwd.com.



Securing Your Water Supply

WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside, CA 92518

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Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



Do you know how good your tap water is?

Western’s annual water quality report takes you inside the world of your high-quality drinking water, spanning the months of January through December 2011. Your water is safe and healthy to drink, meeting or exceeding all water quality standards. For those individuals with special health concerns, please refer to the article inside entitled *Special Health Information*.

Note: Industrial and commercial users, including hospitals, medical centers and health clinics, please forward this report to your Environmental Compliance Manager.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Si desea más información, por favor contacte Matt Buck en community affairs a Western Municipal Water District, 951.571.7285 o mbuck@wmwd.com.

Lead and Copper Testing

The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) was developed to protect public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water. The most common source of lead and copper in drinking water is corrosion of plumbing materials. Plumbing materials that can be made with lead and copper include pipes, solder, fixtures and faucets. The LCR established an action level of 15 ppb (parts per billion) for lead and 1.3 ppm (parts per million) for copper based on the 90th percentile level of tap water samples. This means no more than 10 percent of the samples can be above either action level. The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for copper is 1.3 ppm; there is no MCLG for lead. The number of homes tested for the LCR in Riverside was 39; Murrieta, 28; and Rainbow, 8. Lead and copper are sampled on a state mandated three year testing cycle with sampling conducted at the customer’s tap.

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. Western Municipal 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 two 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

Lead and Copper Testing (Inorganic) – regulated at customer’s tap

	Lead (ppb)	Copper (ppm)
Action Level @ 90th Percentile	15	1.3
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	N/A*	1.3
Riverside		
90th percentile value	ND*	0.120
# over action level	0 of 39	0 of 39
Murrieta		
90th percentile value	ND*	0.180
# over action level	1 of 28	0 of 28
Rainbow		
90th percentile value	12	0.306
# over action level	1 of 8	0 of 8

* Please see abbreviations to the right of the Water Quality Table.

in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Thirty-nine homes were tested in the Riverside service area within the last three year testing cycle, completed in June 2010. Twenty-eight homes were tested in the Murrieta service area within the last three year testing cycle, completed in July 2010. Lead and copper are sampled on a state mandated three year testing cycle. Sampling is required within the distribution system. Eight homes were tested in the Rainbow service area with the last three year testing cycle completed in June 2009.

Why is There Anything in My Water?

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 U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

Sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water due to these activities include:

- **Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture, livestock operations and wildlife.**
- **Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.**
- **Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the California Department of Public Health prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates bottled water. For more information, log onto the website at cdph.ca.gov.



WATER QUALITY TABLE: CALENDAR YEAR 2011

REGULATED AT THE WATER SOURCE											
Primary Drinking Water Standards Mandatory Health Related Standards	Units of Measure	State/Fed MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Riverside (a)		Murrieta (a)		Rainbow (a)		Primary Sources	
				Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range		
Aluminum	ppb	1000	600	66	ND 100	ND	ND	ND	ND	Residue from water treatment process erosion of natural deposits	
Arsenic	ppb	10	0.004	ND	ND 2	ND	ND 4.2	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits	
Chromium (Total)	ppb	50	(100)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	Discharge from steel/pulp mills erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	0.7	0.5 0.9	0.57	0.30 0.80	0.83	0.7 0.9	Erosion of natural deposits water treatment	
Nitrate (NO ₃) (b)	ppm	45	45	8.2	ND 26	ND	ND 1.5	ND	ND	Industrial waste discharge agricultural practice leaking septic tanks	
Perchlorate	ppb	6	6	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	Industrial waste discharge	
Radiological											
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	(0)	3	ND 13	ND	ND 4.03	ND	ND 3	Erosion of natural deposits	
Gross Beta	pCi/L	50	(0)	ND	ND	ND	ND 5	ND	ND 5	Erosion of natural deposits	
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	3.70	ND 14	2.03	ND 4.81	1	ND 2	Erosion of natural deposits	
Secondary Standards - Aesthetic Standards											
inorganic Chemicals											
Chloride	ppm	250 (secondary)	N/A	71	25 88	99	88 120	96	88 98	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	
Hardness	ppm	NS	N/A	107	48 220	169	100 220	160	100 220	Erosion of natural deposits	
Manganese	ppb	50	NL = 500	18	ND 35	13	ND 25	ND	ND	Leaching from natural deposits	
Sodium	ppm	NS	N/A	34	28 41	75	54 100	64	54 74	Erosion of natural deposits	
Sulfate	ppm	250 (secondary)	N/A	42	22 72	90	49 150	110	78 150	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	ppm	500 (secondary)	N/A	229	150 420	408	300 510	380	300 460	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	
Physical Properties											
Color	Units	15 (secondary)	N/A	ND	ND 3	ND	ND 5	ND	ND 10	Naturally occurring organic material	
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	900 (secondary)	N/A	383	230 590	697	390 900	630	390 840	Substance that forms ions when in water	
Turbidity (c)	NTU	5	N/A	ND	ND 0.26	0.22	ND 0.66	0.22	ND 1.7	Soil runoff	
Other Parameters Tested											
Alkalinity	ppm	N/A	N/A	86	24 160	118	71 190	89	71 110	Dissolved as water passes through limestone deposits	
Calcium	ppm	N/A	N/A	31	14 70	45	29 65	40	29 50	Dissolved as water passes through limestone deposits	
Chlorate	ppb	N/A	NL = 800		50		70		70	By product of drinking water chlorination industrial processes	
Magnesium	ppm	N/A	N/A	8.6	7 -10	14	10 20	16	13 20	Naturally occurring	
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA)	ppt	NS	3; NL = 10		ND 2		3 5		3 5	Industrial processes by product of naturally occurring drinking water chloramination	
Potassium	ppm	N/A	N/A	2.2	1.6 3	2.8	1.1 3.8	3.4	3.0 3.8	Naturally occurring	
Other Paramters Tested											
Boron	ppb	N/A	NL = 1000	106	ND 130		130		130	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits industrial wastes	
Chromium VI (d)	ppb	N/A	N/A	ND	0.14 2.7	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	Erosion of natural deposits	
Vanadium	ppb	NS	NL = 50	ND	ND 6	ND	ND	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits	

REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM											
Disinfection By-products				Riverside (a)		Murrieta (a)		Rainbow (a)			
				Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range		
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	80 (e)	N/A	26	7.5 23	40	ND 35	52	16 52	By product of drinking water disinfection	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	60 (e)	N/A	15	ND 18	21	ND 17	23	5 20	By product of drinking water disinfection	
Bromate	ppb	10 (e)	0.1	3.90	ND 7.6	5.2	ND 12	5.2	ND 12	By product of drinking water ozonation	
Microbiological											
Total Coliform	%	5	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment	
Disinfectant											
Chloramines	ppm	[4]	[4]	1.6	0.1 2.9	1.5	0.1 3.5	2	1.2 2.7	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment	

Abbreviations

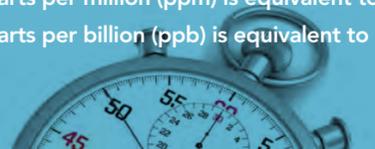
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level	PHG	Public Health Goal
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	ppm	parts per million
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	ppb	parts per billion
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	ppt	parts per trillion
		pCi/L	picoCuries per Liter
		Units	A measure of the relative color or odor in the water
N/A	Not Available		
ND	Not Detected	µS/cm	microSiemens per centimeter
NL	Notification Level	<	Less than
NS	No MCL Standard	[]	Brackets refer to MRDL or MRDLG
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units; a measure of the suspended material in water		

Footnotes

- (a) Groundwater from the Bunker Hill Basin was purchased from the city of Riverside to supplement imported water from the Metropolitan Water District's Henry J. Mills Treatment Plant. The data presented for Murrieta reflects the characteristics of groundwater distributed to the service area. Water was also imported from Metropolitan Water District's Robert F. Skinner Treatment Plant to supplement groundwater. The information for the Rainbow system reflects the quality of water obtained from Metropolitan's Skinner Plant.
- (b) Nitrate levels in California are measured as NO₃⁻, and the MCL is 45 ppm. The EPA regulates nitrates as N⁻, and the MCL is 10 ppm. Both measurements represent the same nitrate concentration.
- (c) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. We monitor it because it's a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of filtration systems, where used.
- (d) For Murrieta and Rainbow systems: single sample result represents both average and range.
- (e) Compliance to the MCL is based on running annual average only, not range parameters. Individual measurements, shown in the range, that are above the MCL do not indicate an exceedance of the regulatory standard.

Understanding the Numbers

- ◆ Parts per million (ppm) is equivalent to 1 second in 11.5 days.
- ◆ Parts per billion (ppb) is equivalent to 3 seconds in 100 years.



Measurement Terms

This water quality table provides data on the levels of constituents detected and how these compare to state and federal standards. If you have questions, suggestions or comments about the information contained in this Water Quality Report, or for additional copies, please contact Matt Buck, community affairs representative, at 951.571.7285 or via email at mbuck@wmwd.com.

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. There are several secondary standards set by the state; the standards listed in our water quality table are the most conservative set by the state. Individual measurements above the secondary MCL listed in the table do not indicate an exceedance of the regulatory standard.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Adding a disinfectant is necessary to control 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 using disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Notification Level (NL): The level at which notification of the public water system's governing body is required. Prior to 2005, NL was known as the Action Level (AL).

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

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Regulatory Action Level (AL): 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.

IMPORTED WATER

In Western's Riverside Service Area, water is supplied from Northern California through the State Water Project via the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant. The Rainbow community receives Colorado River water via Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Robert F. Skinner Water Treatment Plant.

GROUNDWATER

A small portion of Western's water supply is groundwater from the Bunker Hill Basin that's delivered via the city of Riverside for the Riverside Service Area. Groundwater production wells also deliver a portion of the water supply in Murrieta. This groundwater, which has been a source of drinking water for decades, comes from a groundwater basin that lies beneath Murrieta. Imported Colorado River water and State Water Project water are also provided in our Murrieta area via the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Robert F. Skinner Water Treatment Plant.

Drinking Water Hotline

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.



WHERE YOUR WATER comes from

- General District
- Retail District

Board of Directors

- Charles D. Field
Division 1
- Thomas P. Evans
Division 2
- Brenda Dennstedt
Division 3
- Donald D. Galleano
Division 4
- S.R. "Al" Lopez
Division 5

Our Service Areas

Riverside Service Area

The communities of Orangecrest, Mission Grove, El Sobrante, Eagle Valley, Temescal Canyon, Woodcrest, Lake Mathews, portions of Mead Valley and Perris, and March Air Reserve Base.

Murrieta Service Area

A 6.5 square mile portion of the city of Murrieta located west of the I-15 freeway including historic downtown Murrieta.

Rainbow Service Area

A small area of unincorporated Riverside County south of the city of Temecula.



Special Exceptions
Kidney Dialysis/Aquariums

Customers who have unique water quality needs and who use specialized home treatments, such as kidney dialysis machines, should make the necessary adjustments to remove chloramines. Like chlorine, chloramines are toxic to dialysis water. Customers who have fish tanks in their homes or businesses should also take precautions to remove chloramines prior to adding water to tanks. Effective treatments include using granular-activated carbon filters or using chemicals specifically designed to remove chloramines.

Western's Water Monitoring and Treatment Process



Western's mission is to provide safe, secure drinking water for our customers.

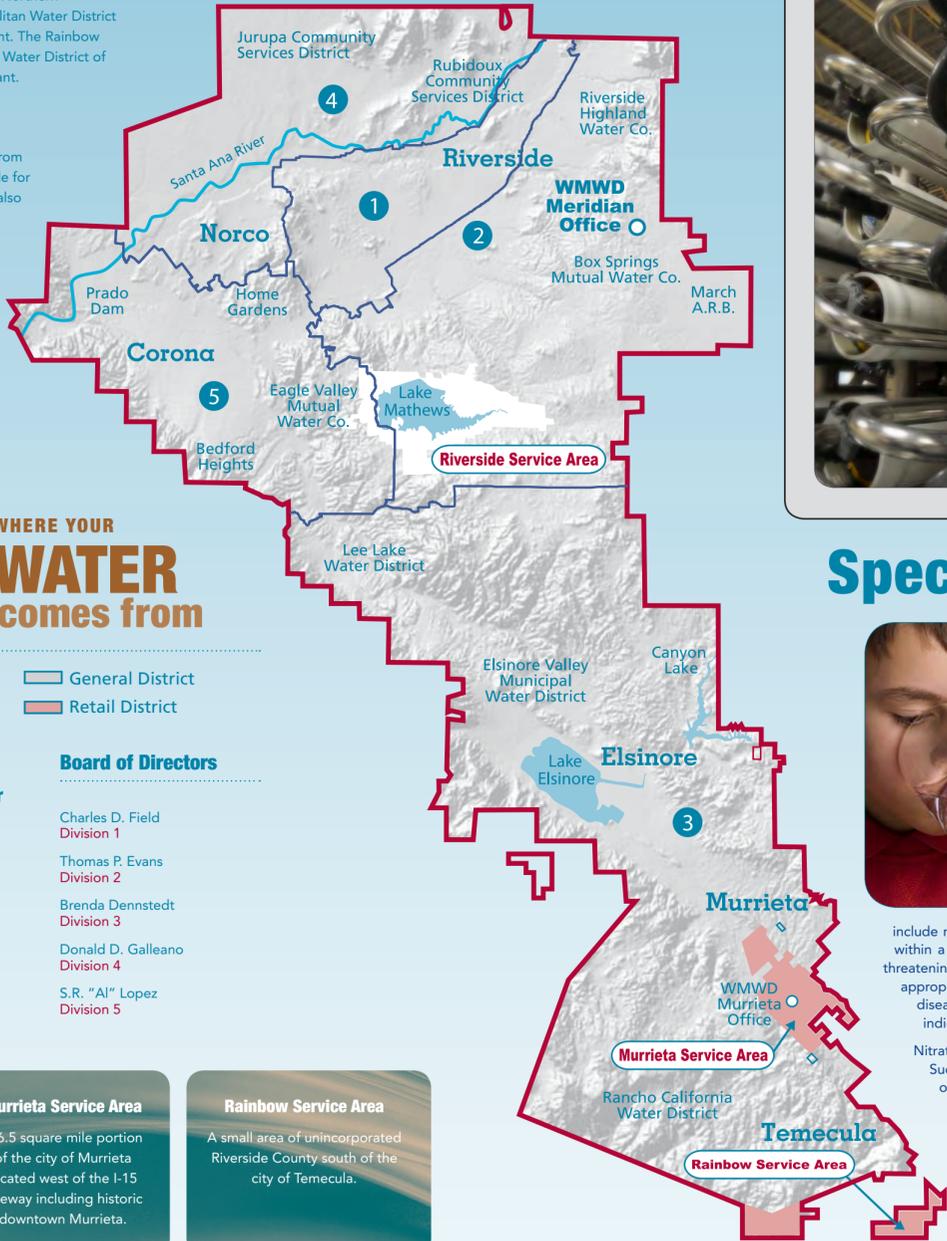
Western water quality staff work with the Metropolitan Water District, the California Department of Public Health and independent certified testing laboratories to continuously monitor the quality of the water supplies. Metropolitan, the supplier of much of the water Western provides to its customers, has one of the most sophisticated water quality monitoring and treatment programs in the world. It performs continuous water monitoring and conducts several hundred water quality tests per day. Western then performs additional daily, weekly and monthly testing with more than 87 routine bacteriological samplings and more than 27 physical samplings taken from more than 40 different locations. These samples are compared to more than 175 state and federal standards.

disinfectant used to prevent re-growth of potentially harmful bacteria in the water distribution system. It's approved by the Environmental Protection Agency as a disinfectant for drinking water and has been used safely for years. Chloraminated water is safe to drink because the digestive process neutralizes the chloramines before they enter the bloodstream. Chloraminated water is also safe for all other daily uses, including bathing and cooking. In addition, using chloramines as the residual disinfectant results in lower overall levels of disinfection by-products such as trihalomethanes.

...one of the most sophisticated water quality monitoring and treatment programs in the world.

Additional Riverside Service Area supply comes from groundwater similar to our Murrieta Service Area. Within the Murrieta Service Area, the water delivered to the customer's tap is chloraminated at each well site before entering the distribution system. The imported water supplied from the Metropolitan Water District's Skinner Water Treatment Plant is also chloraminated and is delivered to the Rainbow Service Area.

Water delivered within the Riverside Service Area, which comes from the Metropolitan Water District's Mills Water Treatment Plant, has been through a complex treatment process. The treatment plant uses ozone as the primary disinfectant and chloramines as its residual disinfectant. Chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, are a type of



Special 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 800.426.4791.

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may spread through means other than drinking water. Our water quality monitoring indicates no Cryptosporidium organisms in the Mills, as well as Skinner, source and finished water.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L is a health risk for infants less than six months old. 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 skin. Nitrate levels above 45 mg/L 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. At 8 ppm, Western's nitrate level is well below 45 mg/L level set by state and federal standards.



Securing Your Water Supply

Western's Water Testing



Drinking water in Western's service area comes from Northern California via the State Water Project, the Colorado River and local groundwater.

The imported water reaches Riverside County and is treated at either Metropolitan Water District's Mills Treatment Plant or its Skinner Treatment Plant. The water is filtered to remove any particulates and then disinfected to remove any harmful microorganisms by ozone – a highly energetic form of oxygen. Treated – or finished – water, including the groundwater, is then dosed with a combination of chlorine and ammonia, which forms chloramines, to maintain a residual disinfectant level keeping the water pathogen free.

After it's treated, the water enters a distribution system stretching more than 70-square miles. Western operations staff is committed to providing quality drinking water to customers and, therefore, conducts daily, weekly and annual sampling of the water.

Water samples are tested in the field to determine pH (a measure of acidity/alkalinity) and residual disinfectant. Samples are also delivered to a California State Certified Laboratory, E.S. Babcock & Sons Laboratories, Inc., for further microbiological testing, as well as organic and inorganic chemical testing.

The laboratory uses analytical devices as simple as pH meters or as complex as gas chromatographs and mass spectrometers. The results are delivered to the California Department of Public Health on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis ensuring that only the highest quality drinking water is provided to our customers.

Water Quality

Getting the Most Out of Groundwater

A local, secure water source is a top priority for Western. The District's Arlington Desalter and our lead role on the Chino Basin Desalter Agency's two Chino desalters exemplifies Western's commitment to water supply reliability through technology, providing local, high-quality drinking water in the region.

Like water from the ocean, groundwater contains salts and other matter that must be taken out before we can drink it, so it's pumped out of the ground and desalted in both the Chino basin and Riverside areas.

The city of Corona and Western have recently partnered, expanding the role of Western's Arlington Desalter and the Chino Desalters. A pipeline connecting Western's distribution system to Corona's will allow the desalter to begin directly sending high-quality drinking water to the city's residents as early as the summer of 2013.

Western is also seeking additional grant funding to continue the Chino Desalters expansion to create an additional 10.5 million gallons per day of new water in the Inland Empire by 2015. Expansion includes new wells, upgrading treatment capacity and improving the reliability of the facilities.



Western Fights for Customers

Western works hard to protect you, our customers, in keeping our rates as low as possible. Board Member Tom Evans, who is Western's representative at the Metropolitan Water District, the agency Western purchases much of our water from, championed a diminished rate increase for the coming years. Related to Metropolitan's rates is a current issue receiving quite a bit of press: San Diego County Water Authority's (SDCWA) legal and PR campaign to shift costs to other Metropolitan member agencies – Western included!

SDCWA's lawsuit seeks to avoid paying its share of water transportation costs – and to shift those costs onto other member agencies through a change in Metropolitan's rates. Why is this important to you? Western's priority is keeping water rates low and fair, and we are fighting this challenge by SDCWA. We will keep you apprised of news on the situation and our work to protect you and your rates.

California Tap Water: The Best Deal Around

Water is essential to our daily lives, but few people stop to consider its value and importance, especially when compared to bottled water and other everyday products.

Tap water costs less than a penny per gallon — a true bargain considering the energy and expertise it takes to treat and deliver safe and reliable water to your home. Like many basic services, however, the cost of treating and delivering water to your tap continues to increase for several reasons, including rising water treatment costs, aging water infrastructure, increasing energy costs and the cost of developing new water supplies, such as recycled water.

As a customer of Western, you're getting more than a product. You're getting a reliable service that includes ongoing maintenance, sophisticated water quality testing and treatment, and highly trained personnel. Simply put, tap water is one of the best deals around.



Working with Our Customers Toward Water Efficiency

In our state, water will always be a precious resource valued like no other, especially here in semi-arid Southern California. Legal restrictions and natural conditions also often limit the amount of water available for Riverside County.

Being efficient is now part of our lifestyle, and Western is here to help with several key programs that save water and money. Our host of programs include Free Efficiency Evaluations, Free Sprinkler Nozzles and Inland Empire Garden Friendly that provide real avenues to water efficiency achievement. Most of Western's programs are geared for outdoor water use as more than 60 percent of all residential water is used outdoors. Review and sign up for these programs at wmwd.com.

Back again this year due to its popularity and great success, the Inland Empire Garden Friendly program (iegardenfriendly.com) provides everyone throughout the region with easy access to water-wise plants for landscapes at The Home Depot. These plants are labeled with an Inland Empire Garden Friendly sticker, easily identifying

that these plants are good for our area's climate. The program was developed by Western in collaboration with many other partnering agencies. The Home Depot stores in the Inland Empire support the program by selling IEGF climate-appropriate plants and hosting a series of annual plant sales in April, May and June as well as in the fall.



The award-winning Free Sprinkler Nozzles Program (FSN), now in its third year, includes more than 15 counties in California with more than 524,000 water efficient sprinklers installed to date. Expected to save more than 3.4 billion gallons of water over a five-year period, the FSN program (FreeSprinklerNozzles.com) provides customers up to 25 free Toro® Precision™ Spray Nozzles. The FSN program was recently recognized by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, state assemblymen and state senators.

With your help in being water efficient today, our region will continue to prosper well into the future.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment lists possible contaminants that might affect the quality of your water sources.

In February 2010, the California Department of Public Health conducted an inspection of the Murrieta system and found the facilities were well managed, maintained and operated. They reported that Western continues to monitor the groundwater basin and evaluate the use of its groundwater resources. The Metropolitan Water District completed its source water assessment of its Colorado River source in March 2010 and the State Water Project supply in May 2012. The Colorado River source is considered to be most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff and increasing urbanization in the watershed and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation and wastewater. Metropolitan completed its Source Water Assessment that utilizes information collected in the watershed sanitary surveys in December 2002. Copies of complete assessments are available from Western Municipal Water District. Please contact Matt Buck, community affairs representative, at 951.571.7285 or visit us on the Web at wmwd.com for further assistance.

Water Reliability

Santa Ana River Water Rights – A Cornerstone to Our Region's Water Reliability



California's largest water rights project since 1970, the Santa Ana River Water Rights at Seven Oaks Dam collects stormwater runoff in the San Bernardino Mountains above Mentone.

Less rainfall this year was a good reminder of our water supply situation in California. Our reserves may be full one moment, but soon depleted again by the next string of dry years in our state. Fortunately, Western and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District collaborated on the Seven Oaks Dam project to provide our region an opportunity to collect local stormwater during wet years and save it for dry years.

Taking advantage of higher than normal rainfall amounts in 2011; the Army Corps of Engineers tested Seven Oaks Dam, successfully releasing water at 3,600 cubic feet per second into the Santa Ana River. Once operational, it's estimated that up to 14,000 acre-feet of storm water will be released from the dam down the Santa Ana River and diverted to refill local groundwater basins including Bunker Hill. Called water banking, water will feed into recharge ponds and trickle down through the soil to replenish our depleted groundwater basins. Water is captured and saved today for tomorrow.

Western operations staff is committed to providing quality drinking water to customers and, therefore, conducts daily, weekly and annual sampling of the water.