

**TWENTYNINE PALMS WATER DISTRICT  
72401 HATCH ROAD  
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277-2935**

## **2011 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT MAY 2012**

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

**The Twentynine Palms Water District** is pleased to provide you with our 2011 Consumer Confidence Report. Included in this report are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

**Your water comes from 9 different well sites** that are pumped from four different underground aquifers. Well #4, Well #14 and Well #17 pump water from the Fortynine Palms Groundwater Basin. Well #9, Well #11, Well #12 and Well #15 pump water from the Indian Cove Groundwater Basin. Well #16 pumps water from the Eastern Groundwater Basin. Well #TP-1 pumps water from the Mesquite Springs Groundwater Basin.

**Source Assessments.** In April of 2002, the District completed source water assessments for all active drinking water wells. Wells 4, 14 and 16 are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with the contaminants detected in the water supply: septic systems, high density housing, office buildings/complexes, schools and parks. In addition, all wells are vulnerable to one or more of the following activities: automobile repair shops, private wells, historic gas stations, roads, highways, fleet terminals and maintenance areas. However, no contaminants have been detected. A copy of the completed assessment is available at the Twentynine Palms Water District main office or at the Department of Health, San Bernardino District Office, 464 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 437, San Bernardino, CA, 92401.

**Our regular Board of Directors Meetings** are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m., in the District's administration building located at 72401 Hatch Road in Twentynine Palms. Board meetings are also televised on cable channel 10 at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday and 5 p.m. on the first Sunday of the next month following the meeting. The public is invited to attend. To confirm meeting dates, times and locations, please contact the District Secretary (760-367-1792 x 308) or visit our website at [www.29palmswater.org](http://www.29palmswater.org).

**If you have questions** about this report or the fluoride variance, please contact Mike Wright, General Manager (760-367-7546).

### **WATER QUALITY DATA**

In this report, you might find terms and abbreviations that you may not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, the District has provided the following 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.

## WATER QUALITY DATA (Continued)

- **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 Standard (PDWS):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment techniques.
- **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.
- **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).

**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 agricultural, 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, 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 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.

Unless otherwise noted, the following data presented in this table lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2011 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State 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.

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD (PDWS)						
	Sample Date	Avg. Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors</b>						
Chlorine (ppm)	2011	.22	.03-.62	[MRDL=4.0 (as C <sub>12</sub> )]	[MRDLG=4 (as C <sub>12</sub> )]	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	2011	2.77	1.1-5.4	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Arsenic (ppb)	2011	5.58	3.1-8.6	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes.
Chromium (ppb)	2009	6.0	ND-29	50	(100)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	2011	1.46	.27-3.0	2.0*	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrate, NO <sub>3</sub> ) (ppm)	2011	12.06	3.0-32	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2011	9.07	ND-21	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium (pCi/L)	2011	11.1	4.3-19	20	0.43	Erosion of natural deposits.

DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER - Collected at customer tap							
	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Lead and Copper</b>							
Copper (ppm)	2011	30	.09	None	1.3	.3	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
<b>DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD (SDWS)</b> There are no PHGs or MCLGs for contaminants with secondary drinking water standards because these are not health based levels, but set on the basis of aesthetics.							
	Sample Date	Avg. Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant	
<b>Contaminant</b>							
Chloride (ppm)	2009	12.3	8-22	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.	
Odor--Threshold (units)	2009	1	1	3	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials.	
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	2009	290	200-570	1600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence.	
Sulfate (ppm)	2009	19.2	9.0-75	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.	
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	2009	181	130-350	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.	
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Turbidity (units)	2009	.08	0.10-0.70	5	N/A	Soil runoff.	
<b>DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b> Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the USEPA and the California Department of Health Services to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.							
	Sample Date	Avg. Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant	
<b>Chemical or Contaminant</b>							
Boron (ppb)	2009	80	ND-340	N/A	N/A	Naturally-occurring element.	
Hardness (ppm)	2009	64	47-83	N/A	N/A	Generally found in ground and surface water.	
Sodium (ppm)	2009	40.8	15-110	N/A	N/A	Generally found in ground and surface water.	
Vanadium (ppb)	2009	9.0	4.6-20	N/A	N/A	Naturally-occurring element.	

**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).

**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. Twentynine Palms 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 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>.

**Nitrate** in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. 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 the 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 seek advice from your health care provider.

**Arsenic.** 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 affects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The United States 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.

\* **The current State limit for fluoride in drinking water** permits an MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) of 2.0 milligrams per liter (mg/L). On January 21, 1993, the Twentynine Palms Water District was granted a **variance** from the California Primary Drinking Water Standard for fluoride, which states "The District shall not serve water containing fluoride levels in excess of 3.0 milligrams per liter (mg/L) or 75% of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Primary Drinking Water Standard (currently at 4.0 mg/L), whichever is higher." This variance was granted due to the elevated levels of naturally occurring fluoride in our source water. The beneficial effects of fluoride in drinking water approach a maximum at concentrations of 1.0 to 1.5 mg/L. Higher fluoride levels may cause dental fluorosis and in severe cases can be identified as mottled areas of the teeth. Based on dental research, fluorosis can only occur during the tooth-forming period, which is approximately before the age of 12. There are no other known ill effects, at the levels typically served by the District, of any kind found associated with fluoride in drinking water. As such it is recommended that children under the age of 12 use an alternative drinking water supply. The variance from the Primary Drinking Water Standard for fluoride shall be in effect for a period of up to 30 years from the date of issuance subject to the following provisions:

1. Every five years, beginning in January 1998, the District shall submit a report to the Department of Health Services evaluating community acceptance of the fluoride levels being served.
2. The Department of Health Services advises the District in writing of its findings that there is no significant public opposition from the community served by the District and that the variance does not pose an unreasonable risk to the consumer's health.

Other provisions to the variance include:

1. That the variance may be withdrawn upon reasonable notice by the Department of Health Services, if the Department determines that the community no longer accepts the fluoride level authorized by the variance.
2. The District shall provide quarterly consumer notification of the variance in accordance with Section 64464.6 of the California Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations.
3. A fluoride monitoring plan, approved by the Department of Health Services, that monitors and reports all fluoride levels in the distribution system and water produced by all sources.

The District maintains acceptable levels of fluoride through the use of wells with lower levels of fluoride being pumped as much as possible when water demand on the system dictates. In April 2004, the Department of Health Services issued a permit to the District allowing full operation of the Fluoride Removal Plant, which currently is producing approximately one million gallons a day (1 MGD) of potable drinking water. The plant extracts water from the Mesquite Springs aquifer to remove high levels of naturally occurring fluoride. This aquifer is a significant source of water for the District and on-going studies will determine future production rates from the plant to better manage our groundwater resources.

**Water Conservation.** Water is earth's most precious resource. And with the Morongo Basin's desert climate, unpredictable rainfall, and growing population, we cannot take our water supply for granted. We must use water wisely to ensure we have an adequate, high-quality water supply, both now and in the future. Not only do conservation efforts help save this precious resource, they can also help reduce water bills. It's a win-win situation.

Conserving water is easy to do. From our end, the District tries to reduce water loss through water distribution system leaks by maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure regularly. Below are 10 easy ways you can conserve water, both indoors and out:

- Take shorter showers and install low-flow showerheads.
- If you don't already have an Ultra Low-Flush toilet, put one in. Do not use the toilet to dispose of trash.
- While waiting for hot water to reach your tap, catch the flow in a watering can for use later around the house or garden.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth, doing dishes by hand, shaving or washing the car.
- Water plants only when they need it and try morning watering when evaporation loss is at a minimum. Be sure to adjust your sprinklers to avoid water runoff into streets and gutters. In times of drought, water with a hose.
- Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints.
- Run only full loads when washing dishes and clothes.
- Avoid washing down paved areas. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- When washing the car use a bucket of water. Use the hose only to rinse.
- Create your own water-wise landscape (also called xeriscape). You can have beautiful landscape solutions that work in our climate.

For additional water conservation information please visit our website at [www.29palmswater.org/cons.html](http://www.29palmswater.org/cons.html). Please also visit the District's native and drought tolerant demonstration garden, between the hours of 8am-4pm Mon-Fri, located at 72401 Hatch Road, Twentynine Palms.

**Water Protection.** Household chemicals and waste can pollute our water supply if we do not use them correctly and dispose of them properly. If they are flushed down the drain, they may end up in our groundwater. You can protect our water quality by using and disposing of household chemicals and waste with care. Do not throw them in the trash; take them to a hazardous waste collection facility instead. You can also reduce/eliminate herbicide and pesticide applications as well as recycle used oil and other automotive products. For more information regarding disposal please call Oily Cat at 1-800-645-9228.