

Substances That Could Be in Water

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) 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 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.

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 can 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

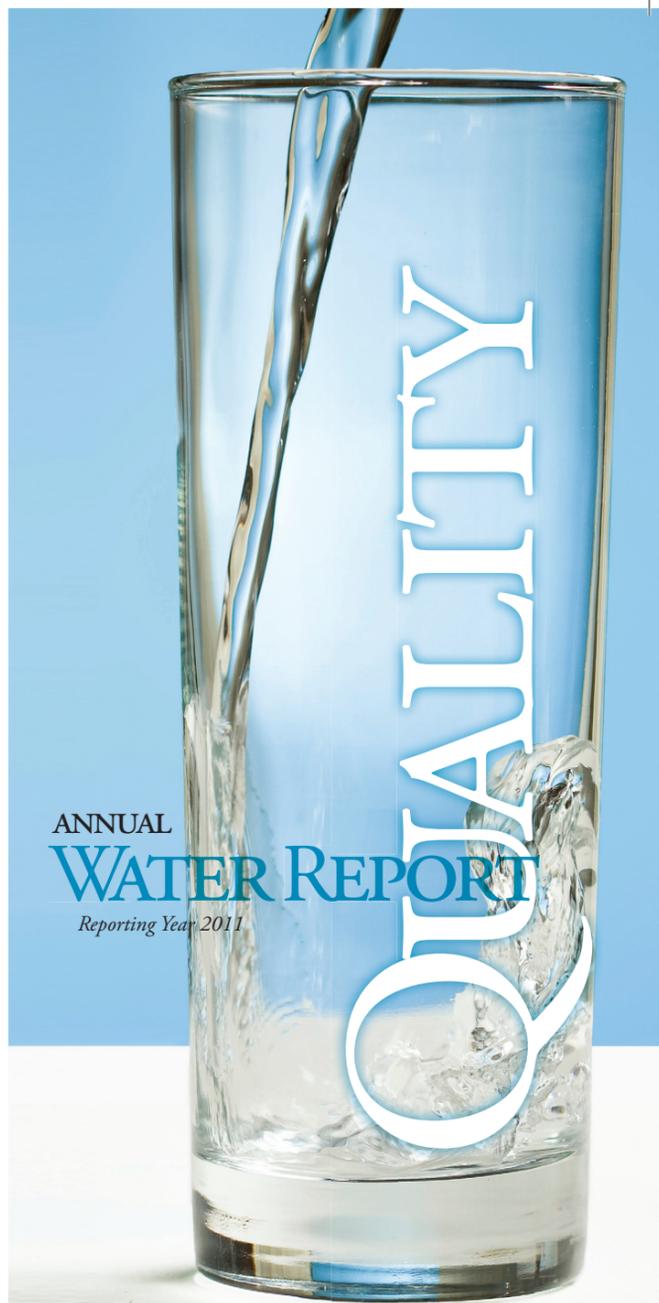
More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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Ramona Municipal Water District
105 Earllham
Ramona, CA 92065

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

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Presented By
Ramona Municipal Water District

PWS ID#: 3710019

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Greg Marty, Water Quality Department, at (760) 789-1330.

Tap water is cheaper than soda pop. (Fact: Tap water is cheaper than soda pop. And, water has no sugar or caffeine.)
You can refill an 8 oz. glass of tap water approximately 15,000 times for the same cost as a six-pack of soda pop. And, water used 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, beginning at 2 p.m., at Ramona Community Center, 434 Aqua Lane.

Community Participation

Board of Directors
Bryan Wadlington, President
Darrell Beck, Vice President
Everett "Red" Hager, Secretary
Joe Zenovic, Treasurer
Kit Kessinger, Director
David Barnum, General Manager

Fact or Fiction

Water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. (Fiction: You can actually chill very pure water past its freezing point (at standard pressure) without it ever becoming solid.)
A typical shower with a non-low-flow showerhead uses more water than a bath. (Fiction: A typical shower uses less water than a bath.)
Methods for the treatment and filtration of drinking water were developed only recently. (Fiction: Ancient Egyptians treated water by siphoning water out of the Nile River to settle. And, Hippocrates, known as the father of medicine, directed people in Greece to boil and strain water before drinking it.)
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In December 2002, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California completed its source water assessment of its Colorado River and State Water Project supplies. Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to recreation, urban/stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting Metropolitan Water District by phone at (213) 217-6850.

The San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) purchases water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). This water is a blend of surface water from the Colorado River and runoff from the Northern California Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is treated at the Twin Oaks Valley Treatment Plant and MWD Lake Skinner Filtration Plant before reaching San Diego County.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Source Water Assessment

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

Important Health Information

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report, covering January 1 and December 31, 2011. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please share with us your thoughts or concerns about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

Meeting the Challenge

Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

| REGULATED SUBSTANCES | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|-----------------|---|-----------|--|
| | | | | Ramona Municipal Water District | | CWA Twin Oaks | | MWD Skinner | | | |
| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG] | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 2011 | 10 | 0.004 | NA | NA | 2.4 | NA | NA | NA | No | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes |
| Barium (ppm) | 2011 | 1 | 2 | NA | NA | 0.046 | NA | NA | NA | No | Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| Bromate (ppb) | 2011 | 10 | 0.1 | NA | NA | 6.2 | 3.2–9.1 | NA | NA | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Chloramines (ppm) | 2011 | [4.0 (as Cl ₂)] | [4 (as Cl ₂)] | 2.6 | 0.4–3.9 | 2.6 | 0.4–3.9 | NA | NA | No | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 2011 | 2.0 | 1 | NA | NA | 0.7 | 0.6–1.0 | 0.8 | 0.7–0.9 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L) | 2011 | 15 | (0) | NA | NA | ND | ND–3.7 | ND | ND–3 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L) | 2011 | 50 | (0) | NA | NA | ND | NA | ND | ND–5 | No | Decay of natural and man-made deposits |
| Haloacetic Acids (ppb) | 2011 | 60 | NA | 10.7 | 6.2–34.0 | NA | NA | NA | NA | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Nitrate [as nitrate] (ppm) | 2011 | 10 | 10 | NA | NA | 0.3 | 0.2–0.3 | NA | NA | No | Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | 2011 | 80 | NA | 38.8 | 31.0–60.0 | NA | NA | NA | NA | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Turbidity (NTU) | 2011 | TT | NA | NA | NA | 0.09 | ND–0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09–0.09 | No | Soil runoff |
| Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit) | 2011 | TT | NA | NA | NA | 100% | NA | 100% | NA | No | Soil runoff |
| Uranium (pCi/L) | 2011 | 20 | 0.43 | NA | NA | 1.5 | 1–2.1 | 1 | ND–2 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community ¹ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AL | PHG (MCLG) | AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE) | SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE | | | | |
| Copper (ppm) | 2010 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.34 | 0/30 | No | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives | | | | |
| Lead (ppb) | 2010 | 15 | 0.2 | 0 | 0/30 | No | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits | | | | |
| SECONDARY SUBSTANCES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | CWA Twin Oaks | | MWD Skinner | | | | | |
| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | SMCL | PHG (MCLG) | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE | | |
| Chloride (ppm) | 2011 | 500 | NS | 66 | NA | 72 | 62–83 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence | | |
| Color (Units) | 2011 | 15 | NS | NA | NA | 1 | NA | No | Naturally occurring organic materials | | |
| Manganese (ppb) | 2011 | 50 | NS | ND | ND–3.1 | NA | NA | No | Leaching from natural deposits | | |
| Odor–Threshold (TON) | 2011 | 3 | NS | 1 | NA | 9 | 3–24 | No | Naturally occurring organic materials | | |
| Specific Conductance (µS/cm) | 2011 | 1,600 | NS | 450 | NA | 630 | 390–840 | No | Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence | | |
| Sulfate (ppm) | 2011 | 500 | NS | 76 | NA | 110 | 78–150 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes | | |
| Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) | 2011 | 1,000 | NS | 270 | NA | 380 | 300–460 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits | | |
| Turbidity (NTU) | 2011 | 5 | NS | NA | NA | 0.05 | 0.04–0.08 | No | Soil runoff | | |
| UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | CWA Twin Oaks | | MWD Skinner | | | | | | | |
| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | TYPICAL SOURCE | | | | | |
| Alkalinity (ppm) | 2011 | 77 | NA | 89 | 71–110 | NA | | | | | |
| Boron (ppb) | 2011 | 120 | NA | 130 | NA | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes | | | | | |
| Chromium VI [Hexavalent Chromium] (ppb) | 2011 | 0.05 | ND–0.06 | 0.13 | NA | Industrial waste discharge; could be naturally present as well | | | | | |
| Hardness (ppm) | 2011 | 110 | NA | 160 | 100–220 | NA | | | | | |
| N-Nitrosodimethylamine [NDMA] (ppt) | 2011 | NA | NA | 4 | 3–5 | By-product of drinking water chloramination; industrial processes | | | | | |
| Sodium (ppm) | 2011 | 54 | NA | 64 | 54–74 | Naturally occurring | | | | | |
| TOC (ppm) | 2011 | 2.3 | 1.9–2.6 | 2.2 | 1.8–2.7 | Various natural and man-made sources | | | | | |

¹RMWD sampled for Lead and Copper in the 3rd Quarter of 2010.

Definitions

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

µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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. EPA.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NS: No standard.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

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

PHG (Public Health Goal): 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 EPA.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

TON (Threshold Odor Number): A measure of odor in water.

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