2013 Water Quality Report

City of El Monte Water Department

This report reflects water quality testing conducted during 2012.

Your 2012 Water Quality Report

Introduction

The City of El Monte is committed to keeping you informed about the quality of your drinking water. This water quality report is provided to you annually. It includes information describing where your drinking water comes from, the constituents found in your drinking water and how the water quality compares with the regulatory standards.

Regularly scheduled meetings of the City of El Monte's City Council are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 11333 East Valley Boulevard, El Monte, California, 91731-3293. These meetings provide an opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of your water.

We Go to Great Lengths to Ensure the Continued Quality of Your Water

Where Does Our Drinking Water Come From?

The City of El Monte's water supply comes from groundwater in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin extracted by production wells located in the City of El Monte. The water is disinfected with chlorine before it is delivered to your home.

What Is the Quality of Our Drinking Water?

The City of El Monte routinely tests for chemical and biological contaminants in your drinking water in accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) monitoring requirements.

The chart in this report shows the results of our testing for the year 2012. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants in groundwater do not change frequently. Some of our data, although representative, are more than one year old.

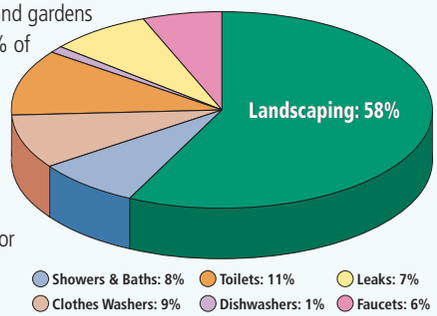
The chart lists all the contaminants detected in your drinking water that have Federal and State drinking water standards. Detected unregulated contaminants of interest are also included.

During 2012, drinking water provided by the City of El Monte met or surpassed all Federal and State drinking water standards, except for Total Coliform bacteria. We remain dedicated to providing you with a reliable supply of high quality drinking water.

How Residential Water is Used in Southern California

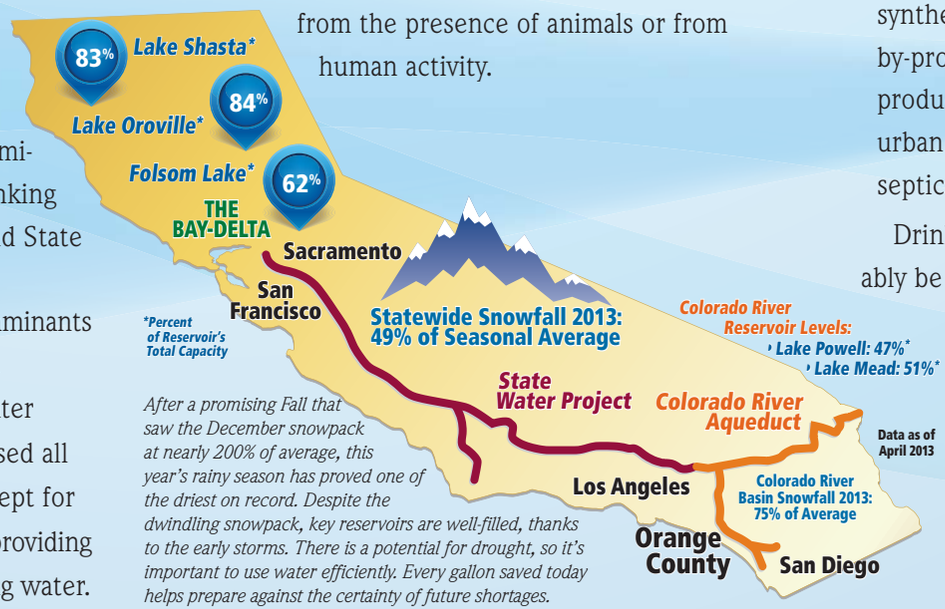
Outdoor watering of lawns and gardens makes up approximately 60% of home water use. By cutting your outdoor watering by 1 or 2 days a week, you can dramatically reduce your overall water use.

Visit www.bewaterwise.com for water saving tips and ideas for your home and business.



What Contaminants May Be Present in the Sources of Our Drinking 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.



After a promising Fall that saw the December snowpack at nearly 200% of average, this year's rainy season has proved one of the driest on record. Despite the dwindling snowpack, key reservoirs are well-filled, thanks to the early storms. There is a potential for drought, so it's important to use water efficiently. Every gallon saved today helps prepare against the certainty of future shortages.

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.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.

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

Important Information Everyone Should Know About the Quality of Our Drinking Water

Are There Any Precautions the Public Should Consider?

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, elderly persons, 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).

About Lead in Tap Water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious 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. The City of El Monte 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://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm.

About Nitrate

Although nitrate in your drinking water never exceeds the MCL of 45 milligrams per liter (mg/L), nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity.

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 ask for advice from your health care provider.

Drinking Water Source Assessments

In accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of El Monte was completed in December 2002. The purpose of the drinking water source assessment is to promote source water protection by identifying types of activities in the proximity of the drinking water sources which could pose a threat to the water quality.

The assessment concluded that the City of El Monte's sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: airport maintenance/fueling areas, dry cleaners, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, fleet/truck/bus terminals and gasoline stations.

In addition, the sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: boat services/repair/refinishing and leaking underground storage tanks.

A copy of the complete assessment is available at the City of El Monte Water Department, 3990 Arden Drive, El Monte, California 91731. You may request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting Mr. Victor Jimenez at 626-580-2250.

What are Water Quality Standards?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and CDPH prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water standards established by USEPA and CDPH set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **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.
- **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.
- **Secondary MCLs** are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

How are Contaminants Measured?

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. Contaminants are measured in:

- parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L); *(3 drops in 42 gallons – a large bathtub)*
- parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L); *(1 drop in 14,000 gallons – an average swimming pool)*
- parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/L); *(1 drop in 14,000,000 gallons – an average lake)*

What is a Water Quality Goal?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and CDPH have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

- **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 USEPA.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment 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.
- **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.

City of El Monte 2012 Water Quality Table

Constituent and (Units)	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG, (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	DLR	GROUNDWATER SOURCES Average Results (a)	GROUNDWATER SOURCES Range (a) Minimum – Maximum	Most Recent Tests	Typical Origins
Primary Drinking Water Standards — Health Related Standards							
MICROBIOLOGICAL							
Total Coliform (b)	1	[0]	NA	3*	(0 – 3)	2012	Naturally present in the environment
DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL (c)							
Chlorine Residual (mg/L)	[4]	[4]	NA	0.43	0.2 – 0.92	2012	Drinking water disinfectant
DISINFECTANT BY PRODUCTS (c)							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (µg/L)	80	NA	0.5	1	ND – 17	2012	By product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (µg/L)	60	NA	1 – 2	0.3	ND – 1	2012	By product of drinking water disinfection
ORGANIC CHEMICALS (d)							
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (µg/L)	5	0.06	0.5	0.71	ND – 3.1	2012	Discharge from industrial activities
Trichloroethylene (TCE) (µg/L)	5	1.7	0.5	0.6	ND – 4.9	2012	Discharge from industrial activities
INORGANIC CHEMICALS							
Copper (mg/L) (e)	AL = 1.3	0.3	0.05	0.47	0 of 30 Samples Exceeded AL	2012	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Fluoride (mg/L)	2	1	0.1	0.47	0.25 – 0.74	2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (µg/L) (e)	AL = 15	0.2	5	ND	1 of 30 Samples Exceeded AL	2012	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Nitrate as NO_3 (mg/L)	45	45	2	20	6.3 – 35	2012	Leaching from fertilizer use
RADIOACTIVITY (f)							
Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/L)	15	(0)	3	<3	ND – 6.7	2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	1	3.7	1.9 – 6.4	2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary Drinking Water Standards — Aesthetic Standards, Not Health-Related							
Turbidity (NTU)	5	NA	NA	0.16	ND – 0.49	2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride (mg/L)	500	NA	NA	17	7 – 28	2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	NA	0.5	42	20 – 61	2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1,000	NA	NA	263	132 – 430	2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600	NA	NA	531	377 – 695	2012	Substances that form ions in water
Other Constituents of Interest							
Hardness as $CaCO_3$ (mg/L)	NA	NA	NA	254	171 – 355	2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (mg/L)	NA	NA	NA	19	15 – 24	2012	Erosion of natural deposits

NOTES

AL = Action Level; **MRDL** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; **PHG** = Public Health Goal; **ND** = Not Detected at DLR; **DLR** = Detection Limit for purposes of Reporting; **MRDLG** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal; **NA** = No Applicable Limit; **µg/L** = parts per billion or micrograms per liter; **<** = Detected but average of all samples is below the DLR; **pCi/L** = picoCuries per liter; **µmho/cm** = micromhos per centimeter; **MCL** = Maximum Contaminant Level; **MCLG** = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal; **NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Units; **mg/L** = parts per million or milligrams per liter

* In August 2012, our water system failed the drinking water standard for Total Coliform because Coliforms were present in three samples collected in the distribution system. However, Fecal coliforms and *E. Coli*, which may cause health problems, were not present in the same samples where Total Coliform were present. In addition, follow-up samples were all absent for Total Coliform. Total Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

(a) The results reported in the table are average and range (minimum and maximum) concentrations of the constituents detected in your drinking water during 2012 or from the most recent tests, except for TTHM, HAA, Lead, Copper and Chlorine Residual which are described below.

(b) The result is the highest number of positive samples collected in a month during year 2012.

(c) Samples were collected in the distribution system in 2012. The highest running annual averages for Chlorine Residual, TTHM and HAA are reported as "Result." The maximum and minimum of the individual results for chlorine residual, TTHM and HAA are reported as "Range."

(d) All wells and treated water were sampled in 2012.

(e) Lead and Copper samples were collected at 30 residences in September 2012. The 90th percentile concentrations are reported in the table. Copper was detected in 22 samples. No Copper samples exceeded the Action Level and the system was in compliance because the 90th percentile was less than the Action Level. Lead was detected in three samples and one of the samples exceeded the Action Level.

(f) Wells were sampled in 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011 and 2012 for radioactivity according to the monitoring requirements.

For more information or if you have questions about this chart, please contact:
Mr. Victor Jimenez, City of El Monte Water Department
3990 Arden Drive, El Monte, California 91731 • Phone: (626) 580-2250

Want Additional Information? There's a wealth of information on the internet about Drinking Water Quality and water issues in general. Some good sites — both local and national — to begin your own research are:

City of El Monte Water Department: www.ci.el-monte.ca.us/Government/Water.aspx

California Department of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/DDWEM.aspx

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: http://water.epa.gov/drink/ • Water Education Foundation: www.watereducation.org

California Department of Water Resources: www.water.ca.gov • Water Conservation Tips: www.bewaterwise.com • www.wateruseitwisely.com

Questions about the quality of your water? Contact us for answers.

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact Mr. Victor Jimenez at 626-580-2250.

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Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información ó traducción, favor de contactar a Mr. Victor Jimenez, Telefono: 626-580-2250

此份有關你的食水報告，內有重要資料和訊息,請找他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

City of El Monte
Water Department
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El Monte, California 91731

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