

CITY OF BLYTHE SYSTEM 2012 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The City of Blythe operates 10 wells that deliver groundwater from depths between 250 and 650 feet. Six wells are inactive. Two of the four wells deliver water to a new 4.3 MGD iron and manganese removal facility. These wells are coupled to a looped distribution system. The City of Blythe uses chemical injection of sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) and a blended polyphosphate approved for human consumption in the distribution system. Chlorination of the City's water is done in order to destroy bacteria that could be unhealthy and to help eliminate taste and odor problems. The polyphosphate helps to control the oxidation or breakdown of the minerals that can cause problems with taste, odor and color (staining).

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, 2012

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien

City council meets every 2nd Tuesday of each month at City Hall at 6:00pm. Public comments, questions and concerns are welcomed.

The following are definitions of some of the 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.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs 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 aesthetic quality of the water such as taste, odor and color. There are no health risks associated with these 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.

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).

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

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) **Maximum**

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant 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. **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in a drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Micromhos. The concentration of the cations by conductivity.

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.

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, which 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which 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, USEPA and the State Department of Health Services (Office of Drinking Water) 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.

The Tables 1 and 2 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 requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems for pregnant woman and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines in home plumbing. Blythe, City of 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, flush your tap for 1-2 minutes before drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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 at Safe Drinking Water Hot Line or [HTTP://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

All 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).

A **Drinking Water Source Assessment** for the City of Blythe System was updated in June 2009. Interested persons may view it at the City of Blythe, Department of Public Works, 440 South Main Street, Blythe California during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays. City of Blythe source water is considered most vulnerable to the following activities *not* associated with any detected contaminants: Historic gas stations; known contaminant plumes; UST's-confirmed leaking tanks; historic dumps/landfills; dry cleaners; agricultural drainage; metal plating/finishing/fabricating; chemical /petroleum processing/storage; septic systems-high density and sewer collection systems. **There have been no contaminants detected;** however the source is still considered vulnerable to activities near the drinking water source. 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 you have any questions please contact Robert Brown, Dept. of Public Works at 922-6611 between the hours of 7:00 am and 4:00 pm.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF A CONTAMINANT

Microbiological Contaminants (to be completed only if there was a detection of bacteria)	Highest No. of detections	No. of months in violation	MCL		MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	(In a Mo.) 0	0	more than 1 sample in a month with a detection		0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	(In a year) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and one also detects fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i>		0	Human and animal fecal waste
LEAD AND COPPER 2010 RESULTS	No. of samples collected	90th percentile level detected	No. Sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	30	ND	1	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	30	0.43	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF A CONTAMINANT

Primary Drinking Water Standards

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	[MRDLG] PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Radioactive Contaminants					
Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/l)	ND	ND	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Chemicals					
Nickel (ppb)	ND	ND-11	100	12	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	ND	ND	10	0.004	
Fluoride (ppm)	0.3	0.2-0.3	2	1	
Nitrate as in NO3 (ppm)	ND	ND	45	45	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum
Volatile Organic Contaminants					
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	ND	ND	5	5	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Disinfection By-Products					
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	39.04	6.2-72	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	9.32	2.9-15	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	0.88	.68-1.22	[4]	[4]	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Secondary Drinking Water Standards

Aluminum (ppb)	ND	ND	1000	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Color (units)	6	10	15	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Copper (ppb)	ND	ND	1000	N/A	preservatives
Corrosivity	Non-Corrosive		NA	N/A	N/A
Foaming Agents (ppb)	ND	ND-80	500	N/A	Municipal and industrial waste discharge
Iron (ppb)	110	ND-340	300	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste
Manganese (ppb)	170	ND-170	50	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits
M.T.B.E. (ppb)	ND	ND	5	N/A	Leaking storage tanks, petroleum/chemical factories
Odor-Threshold (units)	ND	ND	3	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Silver (ppb)	ND	ND	100	N/A	Industrial discharge
Thiobencarb (ppb)	ND	ND	1	N/A	Runoff/leaching from rice herbicides
Turbidity (units)	0.56	0.3-1.3	5	N/A	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	ND	ND-0.1	5	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial waste
Total Dissolved Solids	1012	900-1200	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	1520	1400-1600	1600microhmos	N/A	Substance that form ions when in water
Chloride (ppm)	126	130-160	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	372	300-420	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste
Hardness (ppm)	538	430-580	N/A	N/A	Total calcium and manganese cations