

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please feel free to contact Mark Ban, Assistant General Manager, Water Resources and Operations, at (760) 365-8333.

QUESTIONS?

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

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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, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and that 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.

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

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.

Community Participation

You are invited to attend Hi-Desert Water District's Board of Directors meetings normally scheduled on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month beginning at 6 p.m. Meetings are held at the District's administration office at 55439 29 Palms Hwy. Information on regular meetings is available online at www.hdwd.com or by calling (760) 228-6267.

Your Elected Board of Directors:

- Roger Mayes - President
- Sheldon Hough - Vice President
- Sarann Graham - Director
- Bob Stadum - Director
- Dan Munsey - Director

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

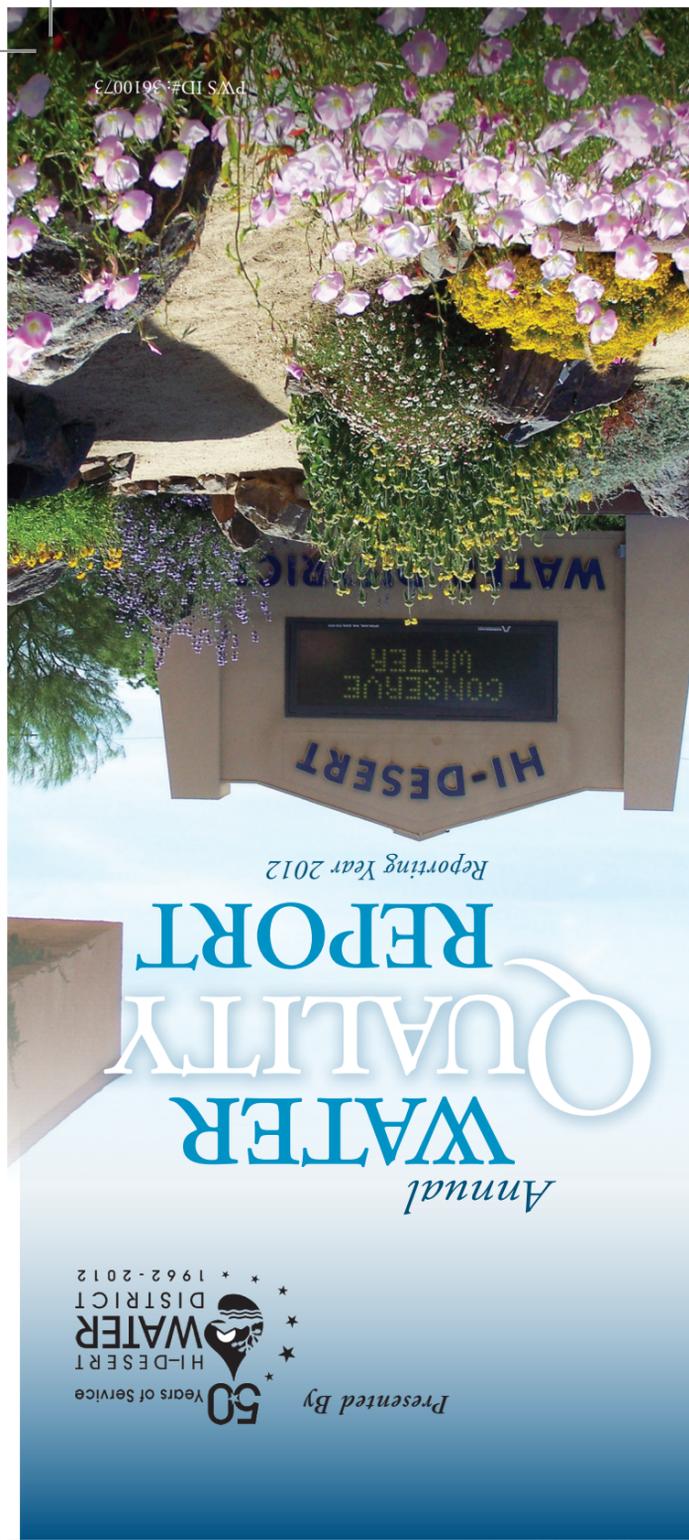
The greatest known potential contaminant within the District is septage caused from septic tank discharges. Septage can infiltrate the groundwater supply causing nitrate contamination in excess of maximum contaminant levels (MCL). Nitrates in excess of the MCL can cause a condition known as Methemoglobinemia, also referred to as blue-baby syndrome. The District is working hard to address this issue by moving forward with the construction of a Waste Water Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility that will reduce the number of septic tanks that are polluting our aquifer.

Hi-Desert Water District
55439 29 Palms Hwy
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

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Meeting the Challenge

“Our mission is to provide a safe, reliable water supply and wastewater reclamation system for the customers of the Hi-Desert Water District in an efficient and financially responsible manner.”

Hi-Desert Water District (the District) is once again proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2012. 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 the customers of the District. 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.



Where Does My Water Come From?

The Hi-Desert Water District relies on local groundwater supplies supplemented by imported State Water Project (SWP) water, which is used to recharge the groundwater basin. The District extracts approximately 3,000 acre-ft/yr from two aquifers and has a maximum allocation of 4,282 acre-ft/yr from the SWP.

The existing water system consists of 12 active groundwater wells, approximately 300 miles of distribution piping, 16 water storage reservoirs, and 18 pressure zones. The system maintains approximately 9,800 active service connections and serves over 24,000 residents in the Town of Yucca Valley and unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County known as the Mesa.

Important Health Information

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://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

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 we 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.

Treatment of Arsenic

Some wells within the District that extract water from deeper portions of the aquifer can exceed the State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic. Water from these wells requires treatment before being placed into the distribution system for consumption. Currently, the District treats one well, well 16e, for arsenic by utilizing an approved treatment technique known as blending. In this process, groundwater with high concentrations of arsenic is blended with groundwater from another source with low concentrations of arsenic. Water from the two sources is pumped to a blending tank where the concentrations of arsenic are reduced and then pumped into the system to the customers' taps.

The District must routinely monitor arsenic levels at this location and report to the California Department of Public Health on the effectiveness of the treatment process.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic ¹ (ppb)	2012	10	0.004	3.5	<2-12	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium (ppb)	2012	50	(100)	1.77	ND-6.3	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2012	2.0	1	0.41	0.3-0.8	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2012	15	(0)	9.34	5.34-13.34	Erosion of natural deposits
Halocetic Acids [HAAs]-Stage 2 (ppb)	2012	60	NA	1.27	ND-4	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate [as nitrate] ² (ppm)	2012	45	45	16.54	<1-45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewages; erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]-Stage 2 (ppb)	2012	80	NA	12.25	6.6-20	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria [Total Coliform Rule] (% positive samples)	2012	More than 5.0% of monthly samples are positive	(0)	0	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Uranium (pCi/L)	2012	20	0.43	12.59	12.59-12.59	Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL (MCLG)	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2012	500	NS	31.96	3.2-63	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Copper (ppm)	2011	1.0	NS	0.2	0-33	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Iron (ppb)	2012	300	NS	17.77	<100-160	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2012	1,600	NS	409	280-500	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2012	500	NS	25.22	2.2-42	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2012	1,000	NS	243.5	180-300	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2012	5	NS	0.14	<1-1.2	No	Soil runoff



Cloudy Water

Why does the water pouring from my tap seem cloudy? Air may be introduced to the District's distribution system as the water is produced by groundwater wells. The air becomes entrained within the water as it is placed under pressure within the District's pipelines and is released as you open your tap. This process can give the water a cloudy appearance. However, it does not pose any health risks. The water will begin to clear as it is allowed to sit for a few moments.



How much water does our community use?

On average, Americans use 183 gallons of water a day for cooking, washing, flushing, and watering purposes. The District's customers, however, utilize only about 120 gallons per day. The average family turns on the tap between 70 and 100 times daily. About 74 percent of home water usage occurs in the bathroom, about 21 percent in the laundry room, and about 5 percent in the kitchen.

Why do water pipes tend to break in winter?

Liquids generally contract when frozen and become more dense; however, the unique qualities of water cause it to expand by up to 9% when it freezes. That is why water pipes burst when temperatures reach the freezing mark.

How much water is used to create the food we eat each year?

The average American consumes 1,500 pounds of food each year; 1,000 gallons of water are required to grow and process each pound of that food. Thus, 1.5 million gallons of water is invested in the food eaten annually by just one person! This 200,000-plus cubic feet of water per person is enough to cover a football field four feet deep.

Is it okay to use hot water from the tap for cooking and drinking?

No, ALWAYS use cold water. Hot water is more likely to contain rust, copper, and lead from household plumbing and water heaters. These harmful substances can dissolve into hot water faster than they do into cold water, especially when the faucet has not been used for an extended period of time.

What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, do not use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing 7 PC (which is the code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum containers that have BPA-free liners.

Definitions

AL (Regulatory Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant that, 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 (picoCiuries 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).

Infrastructure Improvements

The District is dedicated to providing its customers with a dependable, safe, and efficient water supply. In order to ensure that this mission can be met for years to come, the District is currently making improvements to its water supply infrastructure. These improvements include: delivering 800 gallons per minute; a reservoir repair and rehabilitation project that consists of refurbishing the District's current water storage reservoirs; and the replacement of over 20,000 feet of old steel water main infrastructure to reduce leaks and enhance water quality.

The well with the arsenic level at 12 ppb is part of a blending treatment facility. The highest blended arsenic level out of the treatment facility was 2.2 ppb in 2012.

The well with the nitrate level at 45 ppm is part of a treatment facility. The highest nitrate level out of the treatment facility was 20 ppm in 2012.