

2012 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: Descanso Community Water District Report Date: 7/1/2013

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 and may include earlier monitoring data.

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

Mahalaga ang impormasyong ito. Mangyaring ipasalin ito.

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。

Chi tiết này thật quan trọng.
Xin nhờ người dịch cho quý vị.

Type of water source(s) in use: Groundwater

Name & location of source(s): Two groundwater wells supplied by a local aquifer.

Drinking Water Source Assessment information: An assessment of the drinking water sources for the Descanso Community Water District was completed in February 2003. No man-made contaminants have been detected in the groundwater.

The sources are considered vulnerable to the following activities (although not associated with any detected chemicals): grazing and other animal operations, agricultural and irrigation wells, and low-density septic systems. A copy of the completed assessment and sanitary survey will be available at Descanso Public Library: 9545 River Dr., Descanso, CA 91916

For more information, contact: Julianna Seevers Phone: (619) 249-6304

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.

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.

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 Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs 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 taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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

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 (µg/L)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

ppq: parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/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 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 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 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 provide the same protection for public health.

The following tables 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 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.

SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER						
Lead and Copper (complete if lead or copper detected in the last sample set)	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	5	ND	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	5	0.282	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	2011	46	NA	none	none	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	2010	200	NA	none	none	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

*Any violation of an MCL or AL is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A <u>PRIMARY</u> DRINKING WATER STANDARD							
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2012	26*	26	15	0	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2006	7.4	7.1 – 7.4	50	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2011	0.2	NA	2.0	1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Uranium (pCi/L)	2012	22*	NA	20	0.43	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	2008-09	0.68	ND – 1.6	5*	0.05	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2008-09	1.5	ND – 4.0		0.019	No	Erosion of natural deposits

*Combined MCL for Ra-226 and Ra-228

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A <u>SECONDARY</u> DRINKING WATER STANDARD							
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	2011	57	56 – 58	500	NS	No	Runoff/Leaching from natural deposits; Seawater influence
Color (color units) ¹	2010	20	NA	15	NS	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Iron (ppm) ¹	2012	2.05	1.0 – 3.35	0.3	NS	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppm) ¹	2012	0.218	0.178 – 0.281	0.05	NL = 500	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Odor (units)	2010	2	NA	3	NS	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2010	600	NA	1,600	NS	No	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate (ppm)	2011	70	62 – 78	500	NS	No	Runoff/Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2010	380	NA	1000	NS	No	Runoff/Leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU) ¹	2010	15	NA	5	NS	No	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	2011	0.06	< 0.05 – 0.12	5	5	No	Runoff/Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

¹ Iron, manganese, color, and turbidity were measured in our source water at levels that exceed the Secondary MCLs. These limits were set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects, such as color, taste, and the staining of plumbing fixtures and laundry. Exceeding the Secondary MCLs does not pose any health risk.

Disinfection Byproducts						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
TTHMS (Total Trihalomehtanes) ppb	2012	15	NA	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAAs (Haloacetic Acids) ppb	2012	3	NA	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Unregulated Chemical or Constituent	Sample Date	Level Detected	Notification Level	Range of Detections
Boron (ppm)	2011	<0.05	1	<0.05 - 006

*Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

Additional Water Quality Parameters of Interest

This table shows average levels of additional water quality parameters, which are often of interest to consumers. Values shown here are averages of operating data for 2011. Values may vary from day to day. There are no health-based limits for these substances in drinking water.

Additional Constituents (Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facility or within the Distribution System)				
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Average Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Substance (units)
Alkalinity as CaCO3 (ppm)	2010	130	NA	Alkalinity as CaCO3 (ppm)
Calcium (ppm)	2011	55	NA	Calcium (ppm)
Chlorine (ppm) (RAA)	2011	1.18	0.50 – 1.75	Chlorine (ppm) (RAA)
Radon (pCi/L)	2011	3905	208 – 6394	Radon (pCi/L)
Sodium (ppm)	2011	46	NA	Sodium (ppm)
Total Hardness as CaCO3 (ppm)	2010	200	NA	Total Hardness as CaCO3 (ppm)

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

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).

Lead-Specific Language for Community Water Systems: 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. Descanso CSD 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>.

**Summary Information for Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT,
or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement**

VIOLATION OF A MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, OR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT				
Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct the Violation	Health Effects Language
Gross Alpha	Our annual sample was above the MCL.	One sample	We are increasing our sample frequency to quarterly to evaluate the level.	Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Uranium	Our annual sample was above the MCL.	One sample	We are increasing our sample frequency to quarterly to evaluate the level.	Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have kidney problems or an increased risk of getting cancer.

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal for your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program (1-800-745-7236), the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or the National Safety Council Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-RADON).

Lead

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested and/or flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the USEPA 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. California American Water 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>. For more information, please contact the National Lead Information Center (800-LEAD-FYI) or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).