



2012 Consumer Confidence Report

With water Quality being our top priority the City of Ceres is pleased to distribute this report to the City of Ceres residents. It provides important information about where your water comes from and the work we perform each day to assure that the water delivered to your tap is safe to drink. It also provides data about what is in your water and how water quality tests on your drinking water compare to federal and state drinking water standards. During 2012 customers received 2.7 billion gallons of water from 15 groundwater wells located within the City of Ceres. The City's water distribution system contains more than 154 miles of pipeline that moves the groundwater from the source to your tap.

One of the most significant areas of water use for homes and businesses is water used outside for landscape irrigation, which represents approximately 30 percent of your annual water demand. During the hot summer months this percentage increases to 50 percent of customers total water demand. There are simple and cost-effective measures that Ceres customers can take to help reduce their outside irrigation water use. For example, set your landscape irrigation controller off during winter months. Keep your turf grass at a height between 2½ to 3 inches tall to help lower evaporation and promotes lawn root growth. Try watering between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on your watering days and never on Mondays which is a non watering day. Replace damaged and poorly spraying sprinkler valves and heads to use water wisely or invest in an efficient drip irrigation system which delivers water only to the plants' roots. Utilize mulch and bark around plants, shrubs and trees to help reduce evaporation of water, mitigate weed growth, and enjoy benefits of healthier plants.

Starting 2012, the City of Ceres began metering water services as part of a State mandate. The use of meters will help make consumers aware of their water usage, which will help conserve water. The City of Ceres Water Division successfully implemented an online web portal in 2011 that enables Ceres residents the ability to view and monitor their water consumption, receive usage reports, receive leak alerts and set water usage targets. The portal enables residents to view their water usage on an hourly, daily, monthly and yearly base's with several additional viewing options such as a side by side comparison of their water consumption from previous usage to their current usage. The portal can be accessed via the internet at <http://meterportal.ci.ceres.ca.us/ktupProd/>.

Within the City of Ceres we have 10,224 single family resident accounts that use on average 494 gallons per day. Out of our single family residents the top 10 percent of water consumer's use on average 1,075 gallons per day. To educate the public on city watering rules and regulations the City of Ceres has recently hired two seasonal conservation employees that will be out monitoring city resident's usage to help reduce the demand on the water system. If you see water wasters please call (209) 538-5732.

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, the City of Ceres, 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 guide posts and direction for water managements practices. The chart in this report includes different types of water quality goals:

- **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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health set by the 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 set by the 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.

Although, the City of Ceres is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing. Elevated levels of lead in drinking water can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. 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 levels of lead in your water you can find information on testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Additionally, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people 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* at 1-800-426-4791.

Nitrate

In 2012, the average nitrate level found in the City water supply was 27.49 milligrams per liter. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of blood to carry oxygen in infants, pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should seek advice from your health care provider. Please note that the confirmed highest nitrate level found in the City water supply in 2012 was 37.0 mg/L.

Arsenic

While your drinking water meets the current EPA standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. The USEPA lowered the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic to 10 parts per

billion, ppb, effective in 2006. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Please note that the confirmed highest arsenic level found in the City water supply in 2012 was 24 ppb, which was addressed by taking the well offline.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic organism that, when ingested, can cause diarrhea, fever, and other gastrointestinal symptoms. The organism comes from animal and/or human wastes and may be in surface water. If it is ever detected, *Cryptosporidium* is eliminated by an effective treatment combination including sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

The USEPA and the Federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from USEPA's Safe Drinking Water hotline at 1-800-426-4791 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time (6 a.m. to 2 p.m. in California).

Disinfection of drinking water was one of the major public health advances in the 20th century. Disinfection reduces waterborne disease epidemics caused by pathogenic bacteria and viruses, and it remains an essential part of our drinking water treatment today. Chlorine disinfection which is added to your drinking water at the source of supply (groundwater well) has almost completely eliminated the risks of microbial waterborne diseases. The "residual" chlorine helps to prevent the growth of bacteria in the pipes that carry drinking water from the source into your home. However, chlorine can react with naturally-occurring materials in the water to form unintended chemical byproducts, called disinfection byproducts (DBPs), which may pose health risks. It is important to provide protection from these microbial pathogens while simultaneously ensuring decreasing health risks from disinfection byproducts. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the USEPA to develop rules to achieve these goals.

Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) are the most common and most studied disinfection byproducts (DBPs), found in drinking water treated with chlorine. In 1979, the USEPA set the maximum amount of total THMs allowed in drinking water at 100 parts per billion as an annual running average. Effective in January 2002, the Stage 1 Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts Rule lowered the total THM maximum annual average level to 80 parts per billion and added HAAs to the list of regulated chemicals in drinking water. Your drinking water complies with the Stage 1 Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

During the 2012 calendar year the Water Division performed routine maintenance on the city's water system. This included repairing 25 service leaks, 12 main line breaks, replaced 54 meter valves and repaired or replaced 15 fire hydrants damaged in car accidents. Additionally, over 1000 meter audits were performed to confirm accuracy of newly installed meters and the meter reading system. As well residential meters in several track areas were removed from alleys and relocated to the front of resident's homes. In an effort to ensure performance and water quality city employees flushed 4 miles of water mains and exercised over 300 fire hydrants and water main valves. In addition, well pump efficiency testing was performed on all domestic wells and 3 standby generators were installed to provide water during power outages. The well located at Hatch and Moffet was rehabilitated and the ground work was laid for 2 new wells to be brought online.

Chemical	MCL (Legal Limit)	PHG (MCLG)	Average Level Detected	Range of Results	Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Microbiologicals							
Total Coliform Bacteria	5.00%	0	0.01	0 to 1	2012	No	Naturally present in the environment
Radiologicals							
Gross Alpha(pCi/L)	15	0	6.79	3.91 to 14.40	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0	7.07	2.2 to 13	2012	No	Decay of man-made or natural deposits
Inorganic Chemicals							
Arsenic (ug/L)	10	4	6.2	2.1 to 24	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (BA) (ug/L)	1000	2,000.00	67	64 to 70	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Flouride (mg/l)	2	1	0	0	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate as NO ³ (mg/l)	45	45	27.49	9.10 to 37	2012	No	Agriculture runoff and sewage
Selenium (ug/L)	50	30,000	0	0	2012	No	Agriculture runoff and sewage
Organic Chemicals							
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ug/L)	0.2	1.7	0.18	<0.010-0.18	2012	No	Soil Runoff
Trichloroethane (PCE) (ug/L)	5	0.06	0	0	2012	No	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, auto shops
Secondary Regulated Chemicals							
Chloride (mg/L)	500	n/a	71	32 to 110	2012	No	Runoff/leaching of natural deposits
Color (color units)	15	n/a	1	1 to 1	2012	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Manganese (µg/L)	50	n/a	0.02	ND to 0.08	2012	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (odor units)	3	n/a	ND	ND	2012	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600	n/a	593.5	565 to 622	2012	No	Substances that form ions in water
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	n/a	0	0	2012	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1,000	n/a	395	390 to 400	2012	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU Units)	5	n/a	0.35	0.34 to .35	2012	No	Soil Runoff
PH (PH Units)	5	n/a	8.16	8.15 to 8.17	2012	No	Physical measure of water acidity
Unregulated Chemicals							
Total Alkalinity as COC3 (mg/l)	n/a	n/a	155	140 to 170	2012	n/a	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Hardness as CaCO ³ (mg/L)	n/a	n/a	190	170 to 210	2012	n/a	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (mg/l)	n/a	n/a	96	92 to 100	2012	n/a	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	80	n/a	5.42	2 to 8	2012	No	By-product of water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ug/L)	60	n/a	1.44	1.20 to 1.70	2012	No	By-product of water disinfection
Disinfection							
Chlorine Residual	4	4	0.51	0 to 1.50	2012	No	Used to disinfect drinking water

Questions about your water?

Contact us for answers. For information or concerns about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact Jeremy Damas at (209) 538-5797, or send email to Jeremy.damas@ci.ceres.ca.us. You may also address your concerns at the regularly scheduled City Council Meetings held at City Council Chambers at 2701 Fourth Street, Ceres. City Council meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month (unless the Monday is a holiday, then the meeting will be held on Tuesday). Please feel free to participate in these meetings. The City firmly believes in the public's right to know as much as possible about the quality of their drinking water and the health of their watershed. Your input and concerns are very important to us.

For more information about the health effects of the listed contaminants in the following tables, call the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 Ceres: www.ci.ceres.ca.us

Water Education Foundation: www.watereducation.org

California Department of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management:

www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

www.epa.gov/safewater/

California Department of Water Resources: www.water.ca.gov

Water Conservation Tips: www.bewaterwise.com ●
www.wateruseitwisely.com

This report contains important information about your drinking water.

Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

ال شرب مياه ب لادكم عن همة معلومات ي تضمن ال تقرير هذا
ي فهم شخص مع ال تحدث أو وترجمته

Arabic

この報告はあなたの飲用水についての重要な情報を含んでいます。

それを翻訳するか、あるいはそれを理解している誰かと話してください。

Japanese

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo, o hable con alguien que comprende.

Spanish

这份报告包含有关你的喝酒水的重要信息。

翻译它，或跟理解它的某人讲话。

Chinese

이 보고서에는에 대한 중요한 정보를 물었습니다.

번역하거나 다른 사람과 이야기를 이해하고 이었습니다.

Korean

یہ ودا شام پندنی آب دربارہ مهمی اطلاعات حاوی گ زارش این

یہ اشد فہم قابل کہ کسی بازدن حرف یا است ترجمہ

Persian