

# VALHALLA WATER ASSOCIATION

## 2013 WATER QUALITY REPORT

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*This report covers the water quality data from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012*

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### Welcome

We're pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the quality of the water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

We are also committed to providing each member with the information they need to understand the potential health risks that may be associated with drinking water. We have developed a sizable library of information, as well as knowledgeable operators, and all members are encouraged to learn as much as they can about the water they drink.

This annual report shows our water quality test results for the year of 2012, with a brief explanation of the significance of those results and their potential effect on your health. In general, the test results show a stable system with no significant water quality trends. No water contamination problems were noted, and the water system infrastructure has operated smoothly throughout 2012.

In addition to this annual report, significant water quality issues are reported in our quarterly billing statements, and as necessary, critical issues are distributed as flyers. Since 2001, Valhalla Water has maintained a website on the internet. All the information found in this report, plus links to state and federal water-related websites can be found at our website:

[www.valhallawater.org](http://www.valhallawater.org)

Finally, anyone having questions about their water, or the contents of this report, should call **Duncan Baird at (818) 359-1657**.

### The Valhalla Water Source

The sole source of water for the system is one well located at 2256 Stonyvale Road. It is approximately 30 feet deep with an average water level at 15 feet below the well head. The well casing is 10 inches in diameter and houses a 1/2 HP Grunfos submersible pump. The capacity of the well has been tested to provide at least 55 gallons per minute, but the current pump is drawing only 25% of that amount. There are no sources of surface or subsurface contamination within 150 feet of this well, and its location within the Angeles National Forest protects it from the general risk of industrial contamination from underground storage tanks, chemical dumping sites, or run-off from chemical processing plants.

### The Water Treatment Process

The Valhalla Water system does not routinely treat its water with any chemicals, nor does it process the water through any physical filtration devices. All physical and chemical water

characteristics tested to this date have indicated that our source water **meets all California and USEPA requirements**.

### **Membership Commitment**

The Valhalla Water Association was formed in 1943 by Earl Ulrich as a Mutual Benefit Trust to provide water for the properties located from 2256 Stonyvale Road to 2446 Stonyvale Road. There are 17 service connections, providing water to a current population of approximately 8 permanent residents and 12 transient residents. The system is officially classified as a **Public Community Water System** under state laws, and holds *state permit #1900599*. System operations and improvements are accomplished through the volunteer efforts of its membership. No member of the association receives any compensation for their time in the operation, maintenance, or improvement of the water system.

### **EPA Information regarding water contaminants**

The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs, ponds, 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.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily pose a health risk to those who drink it. The US EPA has established limits for the levels of certain contaminant, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. Water users need only be concerned when contaminant levels exceed those limits. This report identifies the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) established by the EPA for each contaminant reported.

**More information about water contaminants and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or by Internet to <http://www.epa.gov/gateway/science/water.html>.**

### **Contamination Risks with Valhalla Water**

Of all the sources of water, well water (like Valhalla water) is generally not subject to the same contamination risks as surface water. Most of the toxic contaminants, such as pesticides and industrial chemicals, are produced and used on the surface where they have less chance of reaching underground source waters than surface source waters. However, these man-made chemicals will leach through the soil, and if they reach an aquifer, will contaminate the water coming from that aquifer. Additionally, groundwater will certainly contain some level of naturally occurring contaminants found within a particular aquifer.

Periodic testing of groundwater is therefore required to ensure that any contaminants that may be found in the water remain below those levels established by the EPA. The testing will focus on the following contaminants:

- BIOLOGICAL -** Biological agents can change the taste or odor of water, or more importantly, cause disease. These include viruses, bacteria, algae, mosquito larvae, alive or dead, and their metabolic products. Most recently, Cryptosporidium has drawn attention as particularly nasty protozoan found in water.
- PHYSICAL -** Physical agents change the sensory qualities of water for domestic use. These include the water's color, turbidity, temperature, taste, and odor.
- CHEMICAL -** Chemical agents alter the mineral content and chemical composition of water. These include the water's hardness, alkalinity, toxicity, and the presence or absence of such elements as:
- Inorganic Chemicals** like Fluoride, Lead, Iron, and Copper.
- Organic Chemicals** like Chloroform, Toluene, and Vinyl Chloride.
- RADIOLOGICAL -** Radiological agents can make water radioactive to a certain degree. These include uranium, radium, radon, and any number of man-made derivatives.
- LEAD & COPPER -** Lead and copper can be harmful to human health over a prolonged period of time. These elements are typically leached out of the fixtures of the water system.

The Valhalla Water Association monitors all water characteristics and contaminants required by state and federal laws. Biological testing for Coliform bacteria is performed monthly since this type of contamination poses the most immediate risk to health. ***There were no coliforms found in Valhalla water during 2012. (See data table on next page)***

Physical and chemical contaminants are monitored every 3 years. The Valhalla Water Quality Reports for 2011 and 2012 reflects these results taken in 2010 and 2011. ***General mineral, physical, and inorganic and organic contaminants were not tested in 2012, but these tests will be conducted this year, and the results will be reflected in next year's Water Quality Report.***

Radiological testing is conducted every 4 years. ***Valhalla water was not tested for radiological contamination in 2012, but these tests will be conducted this year, and the results will be reflected in next year's Water Quality Report.***

Lead and Copper contamination is conducted according to a schedule determined by the LA County Department of Public Health. ***Valhalla water was not tested for lead and copper contamination in 2012, but these tests will be conducted this year, and the results will be reflected in next year's Water Quality Report.***

## A Special NOTE Regarding Biological Contaminants:

The federal *Safe Drinking Water Act* requires water used for domestic purposes to be **free from disease-producing (pathogenic) organisms**. These organisms included bacteria, protozoa, spores, viruses, cysts, and helminths (parasitic worms).

Unfortunately, the specific pathogenic organisms present in water are not easily isolated and identified. The techniques for comprehensive bacteriological examination are complex and time-consuming. Therefore, it has been necessary to develop tests which indicate the relative degree of contamination in terms of an easily defined quality. The most widely used test involves the detection of the **Coliform group of bacteria**, which are always present in fecal wastes and vastly outnumber pathogenic organisms. Coliform bacteria normally inhabit the intestinal tract of man, but are also found in most animals and birds, as well as in the soil.

### Biological Testing

Bacteriological tests are required every month for a system the size of Valhalla. Under the law, no Coliforms can be found in any Valhalla water sample. If Coliforms are detected in any routine water sample, four follow-up samples are taken immediately to confirm the extent of Coliforms in the system. If Coliforms are present in the follow-up samples, this is confirmation of the initial positive test results, and the water system is deemed to have exceeded the bacteriological contaminant limits set by law. In this event, the **LA County Department of Public Health** is contacted for assistance in identifying the source of bacteriological contamination. With the Department's advice, a notice is sent to all water users within two weeks informing them of the contamination and what is being done to find and correct the problem.

It is important to understand that a **POSITIVE** Total Coliform does not mean that there are pathogenic organisms in the water. It only indicates the potential presence of pathogenic organisms.

## Bacteriological Analyses

TEST MONTH	Sample Date	Sample Type	Sample Location	Testing Lab	Test Results
March 2012	06/07/11	Routine	A	MWH	A
April 2012	04/27/11	Routine	A	MWH	A
May 2012	05/20/11	Routine	A	MWH	A
June 2012	06/27/11	Routine	A	MWH	A
July 2012	07/20/11	Routine	A	MWH	A
August 2012	08/27/11	Routine	A	MWH	A
September 2012	09/20/11	Routine	A	MWH	A
October 2012	10/27/11	Routine	A	MWH	A
November 2012	11/20/11	Routine	A	MWH	A
December 2012	12/20/11	Routine	A	MWH	A

MWH Laboratories in Monrovia has been purchased by **Eaton-Eurofins Analytical**

**A = Absence of Coliforms** (this is a good result)

**P = Presence of Coliforms** (this is a bad result)

## *Violations*

Valhalla water DID NOT test above any regulated MCL during 2012, and there were no contamination violations during 2012. There was, however, one procedural violation, issued in March of 2012 for failing to sample for coliforms on a monthly basis.

After the Station Fire in 2009, the system was left with less than 15 active service connections, and less than 25 permanent residents. Based on discussions with the LA County Department of Public Health in 2010, the system was allowed to follow a quarterly coliform sampling schedule. In April of 2010, the system was shut down until June of 2011, when quarterly sampling of coliforms was resumed and samples were taken for June, September, and December of 2011, and March of 2012. This sampling frequency was reviewed by the county in March, 2012, and a Notice of Violation was sent to Valhalla for failing to sample coliforms in July, August, October, November of 2011, and January, February of 2012.

After further discussions with the LA County Department of Public Health, it was determined that if Valhalla wanted to maintain its originally permitted status as a Public Community Water System with over 15 service connections, it needed to resume the monthly sampling frequency. Valhalla resumed that frequency in March, and the sampling dates for 2012 are depicted in the data table located earlier in this report.