

# LAKEWOOD

News from the  
City of Lakewood

www.lakewoodcity.org  
City Hall: 562-866-9771



## Water Quality Report

April 2014 • Volume 35 • No. 2

### Lakewood's 2013 water quality report shows that the city's drinking water meets all state and federal drinking water quality standards.

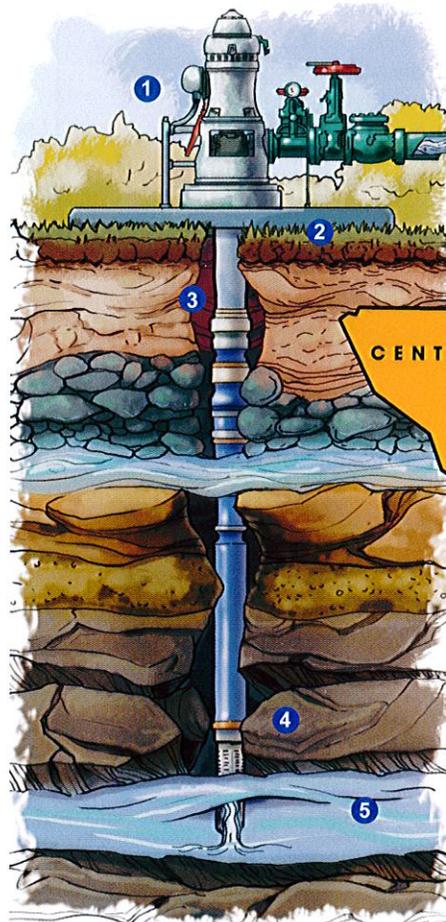
The city's annual water quality report may look highly technical, but it's designed to provide you with a lot of information in a form that can easily be compared. The report lists the results of analyses that describe and quantify the constituents found in Lakewood's water samples.

If you look at all the possible sources of drinking water (including tap water and bottled water), you'll find that water comes from rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or underground through aquifers, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals (and in some cases, radioactive material) and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

All drinking water, including bottled water, can reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. However, the presence of any of these constituents in drinking water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Public Health set regulations that limit the amount of certain constituents in the water provided by public water systems.

Health department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide the same protection for public health.



**How a city well works.** The wellhead pump ① sits on a concrete base ② that protects the well casing and keeps out surface contaminants. Depending on the location and the age of the well, the casing may extend more than 1,000 feet below ground ③. A deep well may draw on several water-bearing zones along the well's length. The underground casing is grouted until it reaches a water-bearing aquifer ④ where the casing is perforated to allow water to be drawn into the well ⑤.

Lakewood's water is drawn from the Central Basin. Spreading grounds north of Lakewood allow recharge of the aquifers in wet years. The freshwater barrier south of Lakewood holds back the inflow of seawater.



Constituents that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.

- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agri-

(Continues on flap)

# City of Lakewood Dep

## DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ANALYSES (a)

### PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS (b)

CONSTITUENT (c)	UNIT OF MEASURE	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) (d) OR MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL (MRDL) (e)	PHG (f), (MCLG) (g) OR MRDLG (h)	RANGE	AVERAGE
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>					
Total Coliform Bacteria (Non-Fecal Coliform)	% Positive (l)	5%	(0)	0% - 1%	
<b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS &amp; DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS</b>					
Chlorine	ppm	MRDL=4 as CL <sub>2</sub>	MRDLG=4 as CL <sub>2</sub>	0.1 - 2	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	60	NA	ND (m) - 17	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	80	NA	10 - 59	

ppb=parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l) • ppm=parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l) • NA=Not Applicable

### SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS (n)

CONSTITUENT	UNIT OF MEASURE	MCL	RANGE	AVERAGE
<b>GENERAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WATER SUPPLY</b>				
Color	units	15	<5	
Odor-Threshold	units	3	ND - 1	
Turbidity (o)	units	5	0.06 - 0.4	

NA=Not Applicable

## SOURCE OF SUPPLY ANALYSES (a)

### PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS (b)

CONSTITUENT	UNIT OF MEASURE	MCL	PHG OR (MCLG)	RANGE	AVERAGE
<b>RADIOACTIVE</b>					
Gross Alprcticle activity	pCi/l	15	(0)	0.06 - 7	3
Uranium	pCi/l	20	0.43	ND - 2	1
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>					
Arsenic	ppb	10	0.004	ND - 7	4
<p>Arsenic: While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The USEPA continues to research the health effects of low level cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects, such as skin damage and circulatory problems.</p>					
Barium	ppm	1	2	ND - 0.2	0.1
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	0.3 - 0.4	0.4
Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> )	ppm	45	45	ND - 7	1

pCi/L= picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) • ppb=parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l) • ppm=parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

### SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS (n)

CONSTITUENT	UNIT OF MEASURE	MCL	RANGE	AVERAGE
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>				
Chloride	ppm	500	8 - 35	13
Manganese	ppb	50	ND - 43	4
Specific Conductance	micromhos	1,600	300 - 610	450
Sulfate	ppm	500	7 - 78	40
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	ppm	1,000	180 - 440	288

ppb=parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l) • ppm=parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l) • micromhos=micromhos per centimeter (umho/cm) • NA=Not Applicable

# The ocean starts at your front door

Southern Californians enjoy their beaches and ocean—and want to keep them clean. One way to do that is to help reduce urban runoff and to keep that runoff free of pollutants and trash. Residential properties are a significant source of runoff water, which can carry leaves, grass clippings, trash, household chemicals and pet waste. Runoff water flows into gutters, then storm drains and river channels, and ultimately into the ocean without any treatment. (In Lakewood, our runoff ends up in Seal Beach and Long Beach.)

Lakewood and all other cities in Southern California



must now comply with new, more stringent regulations for runoff water quality. The City of Lakewood is currently working on the development of “Watershed Management Plans” with our neighboring cities. The plans will include extensive runoff water quality monitoring that will eventually result in the construction of expensive treatment facilities. As a Lakewood

resident, you can reduce those future costs by doing your best to keep pollutants out of the runoff water. Your efforts will also help keep our beaches and ocean as clean as possible for everyone’s benefit.

## Ways you can help

- Avoid hosing down your driveway or sidewalk. Sweep instead.
- Use dry sweep methods for outdoor spills, such as applying cat litter or other absorbent material, which is swept up and disposed in the trash.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash.
- Pick up grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste and dispose in green waste containers. Do not sweep or blow trimmings into the street. Leaves and other yard waste are not natural to the beach and ocean and cause bacteria levels in water to increase.
- Don’t over-water your yard, and cut back on watering when the weather is cooler. If water is running off your yard and into the street, your watering schedule can be reduced.
- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides which contain hazardous chemicals that can reach groundwater supplies or the ocean.
- Discuss natural solutions to pest control with your local nursery.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash where up to 90% of the water used can be recycled or wash it on the lawn where the water can double as irrigation.
- Don’t drain your pool into the street. Direct the de-chlorinated water to your lawn, flower beds or the sewer.
- Lakewood’s backyard mechanics should “finish the job right” when it comes to oil changes. Residents can pick up an oil collection kit at city hall for free. It includes a wide-mouth plastic funnel, shop rag and cardboard “creeper mat” to deal with drips or spillage under your car.
- Dispose of paints and unused chemicals properly. Take them to EDCO’s drop-off facility in Signal Hill on the 2nd Saturday of each month. For details on that facility and other hazardous waste roundup events go to [www.lakewoodcity.org/specialtrash](http://www.lakewoodcity.org/specialtrash) or call city hall at 562-866-9771, extension 2140.

\*\*\*\* ECRWSS

## Postal Customer

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### LAKEWOOD WATER WISE REBATES

## *It Pays to Conserve*

Lakewood water customers can save water & save money by participating in the city's Water Conservation Rebate Program. It's easy to save water & it's easy to collect!

Lakewood's Water Conservation Program Offers 2 Options—  
Do One or Both; It's Up to You!

**Device Rebates Up to \$50**—Install Water-Saving Devices  
for Watering Lawns & Gardens—

- ◆ Rotor Sprinkler Heads
- ◆ Drip Irrigation Kits
- ◆ Irrigation Timer
- ◆ Moisture Sensor
- ◆ And More!

**Rebates Up to \$800 to Remove Water-Thirsty Grass**—

- ◆ \$1.00 per Square Foot of Grass Removed & Replaced with New Water-Wise Plants, Irrigation & Water-Permeable Surfaces
- ◆ Projects Must Be Pre-Approved by the City



Save Even More—Purchase your water-saving devices from a Lakewood merchant & save a little more!

Rebates granted as a credit on customer's water bill.

Interested? Get all the details at [www.lakewoodcity.org/waterrebates](http://www.lakewoodcity.org/waterrebates) or call us at 562-866-9771, extension 2700.

**LAKEWOOD**  
GET WATER WISE. IT'S UP TO US.

## Statewide drought means it's time to save

Little local rainfall and a dismal snowpack in the Sierras remind us to be very mindful of our water use. Reducing our water consumption can be accomplished in a variety of ways. Inside the home, make sure the dishwasher is full before running, and wash only full loads of laundry. Instruct family members to take short showers and turn off the water while brushing teeth.

And take extra care of your use of water outside the house, which is the largest part of most families' water budget. Here are conservation tips to reduce water use outdoors:

- Turn off a sprinkler timer if rain is in the forecast.
- Avoid watering between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. when the heat of the day can evaporate water before it reaches the roots.
- If you are planning landscape changes:
  - ✓ Install a smart irrigation controller that only runs when plants need water.
  - ✓ Install rotary sprinklers that reduce runoff and evaporation caused by misting.
  - ✓ Install drip irrigation emitters, which use only two gallons per hour and provide water directly on plant roots.
  - ✓ Install drought-tolerant plants and group them by water requirements.
  - ✓ Consider removing grass from your yard and replacing it with attractive, low-water bushes, shrubs and trees.
  - ✓ Place compost around plants to retain moisture.
  - ✓ Install weed barrier and place mulch around plants to reduce moisture loss in the soil.
- Dethatch and aerate grass to allow for more efficient water saturation.
- Use a hose with a shut off nozzle.
- Use a hose end timer on a manual sprinkler, and set the timer for short intervals to allow water to soak into the ground.
- Use a broom to clean the driveway, sidewalks and patio. When washing down an area is a must, use a high-pressure, low-volume water broom.

The Lakewood Department of Water Resources offers water conservation rebates for the removal of thirsty grass and the installation of outdoor water saving devices. Visit [www.lakewoodcity.org/waterrebates](http://www.lakewoodcity.org/waterrebates) or call 562-866-9771, extension 2700. For rebates to save water inside the home, visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) for rebates offered by other regional water agencies.

# City of Lakewood Dep

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# Department of Water Resources 2013 Annual

## HEALTH RELATED STANDARDS

AVERAGE OR LOCATIONAL MONITORING ANNUAL RANGE (LRAA) (i)	MAJOR SOURCE IN LAKEWOOD'S DRINKING WATER (j)	HEALTH EFFECTS (k)
0%	Naturally present in the environment	
1	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment	
10	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
38	By-product of drinking water disinfection	

## AESTHETIC STANDARDS

AVERAGE	MAJOR SOURCE IN LAKEWOOD'S DRINKING WATER
<5	Naturally occurring organic materials
0.06	Naturally occurring organic materials
0.2	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

## HEALTH RELATED STANDARDS

MAJOR SOURCE IN LAKEWOOD'S DRINKING WATER	HEALTH EFFECTS
Erosion of natural deposits	

Exceeds the current understanding of arsenic's toxicity, which is a mineral known to cause cancer.

## AESTHETIC STANDARDS

MAJOR SOURCE IN LAKEWOOD'S DRINKING WATER
Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Leaching from natural deposits
Substances that form ions when in water
Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Runoff/leaching from natural deposits



## ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS

CONSTITUENT	UNIT OF MEASURE
Alkalinity, Total (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	ppm
Calcium	ppm
Corrosivity	SI Units
Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) (q)	ppm
Magnesium	ppm
pH	units
Potassium	ppm
Sodium (r)	ppm

SI Units= Saturation Index Units • ppm=parts per million, or milligrams per liter

## AT-THE-TAP MONITORING PROGRAM

CONSTITUENT	UNIT OF MEASURE	REGULATORY NOTIFICATION LEVEL (NL) (t)
Copper	ppm	1.3
Lead	ppb	15

ppb=parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l) • ppm=parts per million

- (a) **Distribution System and Source of Supply Analyses:** The city draws most water quality samples from 10 wells, the source of the city's water supply. The California Department of Public Health also requires water quality monitoring throughout the city's 175 miles of water distribution mains each week. Those constituents listed in the section entitled Distribution System Analyses are monitored quarterly or weekly. The city conducts over 3,118 water quality tests on water in the distribution system annually. The remaining constituents are sampled at the city's well sites. The results of these analyses are listed in the section entitled Source of Supply Analyses. (d)
- (b) **Primary Drinking Water Standards:** Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and Maximum Residual Disinfectant Levels (MRDLs) for constituents that affect health along with monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements. The city tested for 91 additional regulated chemicals in 2013. (f)
- (c) **Constituent:** A constituent is any naturally occurring or manmade substance found in drinking water. The USEPA and the California Department of Public Health establish the list of constituents that require testing and the frequency of each test. Some data, though representative of current water quality conditions, are three years old. The state allows water utilities to monitor some constituents less than once a year because the concentrations of these consti- (g)
- (h)

# Water Quality Report

MCL	RANGE	AVERAGE	MAJOR SOURCE IN LAKEWOOD'S DRINKING WATER
NS (p)	120 - 200	156	Natural or industrially influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in the water, affected by temperature and other factors
NS	23 - 82	53	
n-corrosive	12 - 13	13	
NS	66 - 250	162	
NS	2 - 13	7	
6.5 - 8.5	8.1 - 8.5	8.2	
NS	2 - 4	3	
NS	25 - 49	32	

is per liter (mg/l) • NA=Not Applicable

(s)

PHG OR (MCLG)	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	90 <sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE VALUE (u)	# OF SITES WITH ANALYSES ABOVE THE NL	MAJOR SOURCE IN LAKEWOOD'S DRINKING WATER
0.3	0.5	0.3	0 of 30	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems
0.2	0	0	0 of 30	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems

million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

## DEFINITIONS

tuents do not change frequently. All data included in this report was collected between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2013. Only samples with detectable levels of a constituent are listed in the tables.

### Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):

Highest level of a constituent allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) and Public Health Goals (PHGs) as technically and economically feasible. (See definitions (f) and (g) for further information on MCLGs and PHGs.)

### 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.

### Public Health Goal (PHG):

The level of a constituent in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The California EPA establishes PHGs.

### Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):

The level of a constituent in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The USEPA establishes MCLGs. MCLGs are indicated in ( )s.

### 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.

- (i) **Highest Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA):** The California Monitoring for TTHM and HAA5 occurs quarterly. MCL compliance is based on the average of the sample results for the four most recent quarters for each location sampled.
- (j) **Major Source in Lakewood's Drinking Water:** This column indicates the likely source of the constituent listed.
- (k) **Health Effects:** The USEPA and the California EPA require water utilities exceeding an MCL to list potential health effects caused by the ingestion of any constituent that fails to meet a primary drinking water standard.
- (l) **% Positive:** Laboratory analysis for coliform bacteria measures the presence or absence of bacteria. The MCL is exceeded when over 5 percent of the samples drawn in a distribution system during a month detect the presence of coliform bacteria.
- (m) **Non Detectable (ND):** Laboratory analyses cannot confirm zero detection of a constituent in drinking water. A non detectable result indicates that the constituent is not contained in the sample or the amount of a constituent found in drinking water is lower than the testing procedure can detect.

(n) **Secondary Drinking Water Standard:**

The USEPA and the California EPA set guidelines for constituents found in drinking water that may cause aesthetic or cosmetic effects. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water. Constituents with secondary drinking water standards are not assigned a PHG or MCLG.

(o) **Turbidity:** A measure of the cloudiness of water.

Turbidity serves as an indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

(p) **No Standard (NS):** Constituent for which no regulation established by the USEPA and the California EPA exists.

Constituent for which no regulation established by the USEPA and the California EPA exists.

(q) **Hardness:** Hardness is the sum of

polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally-occurring. Hardness is also measured in grains per gallon. This form is used when calculating hardness levels to operate irons and dishwashers. Hardness levels in Lakewood's water average 10 grains per gallon.

(r) **Sodium:** Sodium refers to the salt present in

the water and is generally naturally occurring. Intake from drinking water is not considered a factor for healthy individuals. However, the American Heart Association recommends a sodium intake of 20 ppm in drinking water for high risk populations, e.g. a person on a low-sodium diet. Home water softeners that use the ion-exchange method increase the amount of sodium in water.

(s) **At-the-Tap Monitoring:** The California

Department of Public Health and the USEPA require water utilities to conduct at-the-tap monitoring for lead and copper. The results from 30 samples drawn by customers indicate that levels of both lead and copper are below the state and federal standards.

(t) **Regulatory Notification Level (NL):**

The concentration of a constituent which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

(u) **90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Value:** The Action Level

for Lead and Copper is exceeded if 10% of the sample results are greater than 15 ppb for lead and 1.3 ppb for copper.

# Rusty water & main line flushing

Much of the water system installed in Lakewood in the late 1950s conveys water through unlined cast iron pipes that are considered under-sized by modern standards.

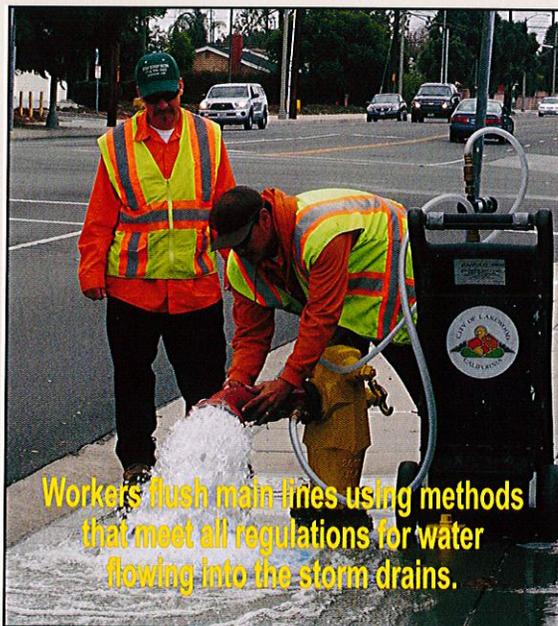
Lakewood's water utility staff conducts routine water system maintenance to reduce rusty water occurrences. During our annual main line flushing program, crews open fire hydrants to increase the flow of water through the pipe.

Rust and sediment cling to these old pipes but can break free with rapid changes in the volume and direction of the water, for example, when a vehicle accidentally shears off a fire hydrant. In these situations, you can see a slight red discoloration—rust—in the water flowing from your tap.

When rusty water occurs, you can call the Lakewood Department of Water Resources at 562-866-9771 any time day or night. On these occasions, avoid drawing rust into your plumbing, especially your hot water heater, by limiting your water use until the water clears. You can check the quality of your water by running the water at the outside faucet on the front of your home for 30 to 60 seconds. Clear water at this tap means it is OK to resume water use inside.

The increased flow scrubs the inside of the pipe removing rust and sediment. The hydrant flows until the water clears.

Main line flushing temporarily affects water quality and water pressure. Customers are notified several days in advance by hanging an orange door tag at each affected home and business. You should limit water use during the times listed on the tag. If you forget, accidentally consuming small amounts of rusty water should not be harmful. It can, however, stain laundry. Should your laundry become stained, keep your clothes wet and call the water department. Staff can deliver a cleaning aid to remove the rust from your wash.



Workers flush main lines using methods that meet all regulations for water flowing into the storm drains.

Lakewood's annual main line flushing program is a necessary component of keeping our water system healthy and bringing top quality water to your tap.

## City of Lakewood Groundwater Vulnerability Assessment

The Lakewood Department of Water Resources completed an assessment of all drinking water wells that serve the city's drinking water system. These studies examined the potential vulnerability of each well to contaminants that could enter the water supply. The table on this page indicates the results. The checks indicate the type of business or activity that could potentially contaminate the groundwater supply. To learn more about the constituents found in the city's drinking water supply, please refer to the charts located on the center pages of this report.

A copy of the complete assessment is available at the Lakewood City Clerk's Office at 5050 Clark Avenue. You may request a summary of the assessment by contacting the Lakewood Department of Water Resources, at 562-866-9771, extension 2700.

### POTENTIAL SOURCES OF GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION

WELL NUMBER	ASSESSMENT COMPLETION DATE	GAS STATIONS & REPAIR SHOPS	HISTORIC GAS STATION LOCATIONS	STORAGE TANKS	DRY CLEANERS
2A	April 2003		✓	✓	
4	April 2003	✓	✓	✓	
8	April 2003	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	April 2003	✓	✓	✓	✓
13A	July 2003		✓		
15A	April 2003	✓	✓		
17	April 2003	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	April 2003	✓		✓	✓
22	April 2003	✓			
27	October 2006	✓	✓	✓	✓