# Alco Water Service – System ID #2710001
# Water Quality Monitoring

The Tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. Although Alco Water Service had the water tested for hundreds of constituents, the following tables list only those that were detected. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. CDPH 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.

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

## Abbreviations Used in the Tables:

**<** means "less than"
**MFL** = Million Fibers per Liter
**NTU =** Nepholometer Turbidity Unit
**N/A** = Not Applicable
**ND =** Not Detectable at testing limit
**µmhos/cm** = micromhos per centimeter
**pCi/L** = picoCuries per liter (a measure of radiation)
**µg/l** = micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb)
**mg/l** = milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm)

## Definitions Used in the Tables:

- **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.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- **Secondary Drinking Water Standard (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.
- **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 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).
- **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.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

### SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Alco Water Service had 530 samples collected for routine bacteriological quality testing in 2013.

| Microbiological Contaminants | Highest # of Detections (in a month) | # of months in violation | MCL | MCLG | Typical Source of Bacteria |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Coliform Bacteria (Total Coliform Rule) | **0 samples (0%)** | **0** | More than 5.0% of monthly samples are positive | 0 | Naturally present in the environment |

### SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

In October of 2013, 30 samples were collected in consumers' households and analyzed for lead and copper. Alco Water Service is required to perform this monitoring every three years by CDPH. The following is a summary of the results:

| Lead & Copper (& reporting units) | # of samples collected | 90th percentile level detected | # of Sites exceeding AL | AL | PHG | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lead (µg/l) | **30** | **ND** | **1*** | 15 | 0.2 | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper (mg/l) | **30** | **0.970** | **0** | 1.3 | 0.3 | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |

### SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

| Chemical or Constituent (& reporting units) | Sample Date | Average Level Detected | Range of Detections | MCL | PHG (MCLG) | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sodium (mg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **70** | **51 to 110** | none | none | Salt present in the water; generally naturally occurring |
| Hardness (mg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **182** | **160 to 250** | none | none | Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium; usually naturally occurring |

### DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT PRECURSORS (FEDERAL RULE)

| Chemical or Constituent (& reporting units) | Sample Date | Average Level Detected | Range of Detections | MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG] | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (µg/l) | **9/2013 to 12/2013** | **0.3** | **ND to 1.7** | 80 | N/A | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Haloacetic Acids (µg/l) | **9/2013 to 12/2013** | **ND** | **ND to ND** | 60 | N/A | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Chlorine (mg/l) | **2013** | **0.77** | **0.07 to 1.70** | [4.0 (as $Cl_2$)] | [4 (as $Cl_2$)] | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment |

### DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

| Chemical or Constituent (& reporting units) | Sample Date | Average Level Detected | Range of Detections | Notification Level | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boron (µg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **96** | **<100 to 230** | 1,000 | The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing boron in excess of the notification level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals. |

† While your drinking water meets the Federal and State 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 cost 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.

†† Although the nitrate level does not exceed the MCL, the following educational statement is provided per CDPH requirements: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

### DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

| Chemical or Constituent (& reporting units) | Sample Date | Average Level Detected | Range of Detections | MCL | PHG (MCLG) | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gross Alpha (pCi/L) | **1/2005 to 2/2014** | **1.749** | **0.521 to 4.51** | 15 | (0) | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Radium-228 (pCi/L) | **12/2006 to 11/2011** | **0.083** | **0.000 to 0.603** | 5 | 0.019 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Aluminum (µg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **5** | **<25 to 31** | 1,000 | 600 | Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes |
| Antimony (µg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **0.10** | **<0.5 to 0.57** | 6 | 20 | Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder |
| Arsenic (µg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **4.8** | **2.9 to 6.8 †** | 10 | 0.004 | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes |
| Barium (µg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **50** | **35 to 70** | 1,000 | 2,000 | Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| Chromium (µg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **4.0** | **2.7 to 5.9** | 50 | (100) | Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (mg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **0.44** | **0.28 to 0.52** | 2.0 | 1 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Lead (µg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **0.35** | **<0.2 to 1.3** | AL = 15 | 0.2 | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits |
| Nitrate (mg/l) (as nitrate, $NO_3$) | **2/2012 to 11/2013** | **17.9** | **4.8 to 36 ††** | 45 | 45 | Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Selenium (µg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **0.5** | **<1 to 1.8** | 50 | 30 | Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive) |

### DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

| Chemical or Constituent (& reporting units) | Sample Date | Average Level Detected | Range of Detections | MCL | PHG (MCLG) | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aluminum (µg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **5** | **<25 to 31** | 200 | N/A | Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes |
| Iron (µg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **40** | **<25 to 210** | 300 | N/A | Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| Turbidity (NTU) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **0.77** | **0.46 to 2.00** | 5 | N/A | Soil runoff |
| Zinc (µg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **3** | **<10 to 20** | 5,000 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **398** | **350 to 460** | 1,000 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits |
| Specific Conductance (µmhos/cm) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **703** | **600 to 870** | 1,600 | N/A | Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence |
| Chloride (mg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **95** | **68 to 150** | 500 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence |
| Sulfate (mg/l) | **3/2010 to 8/2013** | **33** | **17 to 61** | 500 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |

# SPLASH ZONE

## VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES:

**The future of water conservation is in our hands! Help us to save for our future!**

In January, Governor Brown told us we were in a State of Emergency and officially declared a drought. He asked all Californians to reduce water used by at least **20%**. The following voluntary measures are Alco's answer to that request. Please follow these guidelines so that we all do not have to face more serious measures in the future. Thank you for your help!

***NO CUSTOMER SHALL USE UTILITY-SUPPLIED WATER FOR NON-ESSENTIAL OR UNAUTHORIZED USES AS DEFINED BELOW:***

1. Use of water through any connection when the utility has notified the customer in writing to repair a broken or defective plumbing, sprinkler, watering or irrigation system and the customer has failed to make such repairs within 5 days after receipt of such notice.
2. Use of water which results in flooding or run-off in gutters, waterways, patios, driveway, or streets.
3. Use of water for washing aircraft, cars, buses, boats, trailers or other vehicles without a positive shut-off nozzle on the outlet end of the hose. Exceptions include washing vehicles at commercial or fleet vehicle washing facilities operated at fixed locations where equipment-using water is properly maintained to avoid wasteful use.
4. Use of water through a hose for washing buildings, structures, sidewalks, walkways, driveways, patios, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas in a manner, which results in excessive run-off or waste.
5. Use of water for watering streets with trucks, except for initial wash-down for construction purposes (if street sweeping is not feasible), or to protect the health and safety of the public.
6. Use of water for construction purposes, such as consolidation of backfill, dust control, or other uses unless no other source of water or other method can be used.
7. Use of water for more than minimal landscaping in connection with any new construction.
8. Use of water for outside plants, lawn, landscape, and turf areas more often than every other day, with even numbered addresses watering on even numbered days of the month and odd numbered addresses watering on the odd numbered days of the month, except that this provision shall not apply to commercial nurseries, golf courses and other water-dependent industries.
9. Use of water for watering outside plants, lawn, landscape and turf areas during certain hours if and when specified in Schedule No. 14.1 when the schedule is in effect.
10. Use of water for watering outside plants and turf areas using a hand-held hose without a positive shut-off valve.
11. Use of water for decorative fountains or the filling or topping off of decorative lakes or ponds. Exceptions are made for those decorative fountains, lakes, or ponds which utilize recycled water.
12. Use of water for the filling or refilling of swimming pools.
13. Service of water by any restaurant except upon the request of the patron.

**2013 Consumer Confidence Report**
**Alco Water Service**
**249 Williams Road**
**Salinas, CA 93905**
**(831) 424-0441 Phone**

# ALCO WATER SERVICE

## Consumer Confidence Report 2013

It's that time of year again, when Alco shares important information about your water quality with you, our customers!

Alco is a family-owned business and has served the community of East Salinas for over 80 years, since 1932! Alco continues to be a family and community oriented company, serving its customers with pride and professionalism.

Alco monitors the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by State and Federal Regulations. This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is a summary of the quality of the water provided to you by Alco Water Service and shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2013. There is a list of important definitions and abbreviations of reporting units included in the CCR for your convenience.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact Thomas R. Adcock, Monday to Friday, 8AM to 5PM at (831) 424-0441. Any water related public meetings will be announced in water bill inserts or by direct mailing.

### What's new with your water service?

***DROUGHT AWARENESS:*** It's time for all of us to become more aware of the importance of saving water and of the real value our water contributes to everyday life. Teamwork is the answer to solving our water drought problems and we are ready for the task! With your help, our goal is to reduce water use by **20%**! Water conservation is not only a good idea overall, but it helps to put dollars and cents back into your wallet!

**SAVING WATER IS IN YOUR HANDS!**

***PLEASE*** get involved this year in conserving water and in promoting responsible water use in your own home and neighborhood! We are here to help you with suggestions and advice, as well as help with your specific problems and questions. We offer water conservation kits to customers as an effort to get you started on the right track to use less water. We also offer individual assistance with helping you to figure out if you have leaks in your home.

If you have any problems, questions, suggestions, or concerns, please call us during regular business hours, or leave a message after hours with our live answering service at (831) 424-0441. Also, you can visit us at our office or send us a note in the mail to Alco Water Service, 249 Williams Road, Salinas, CA 93905 or e-mail us at mail@alcowater.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

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

### Where does your water come from?

In 2013, Alco Water Service had 6 active water sources and 3 standby water sources, all of which are groundwater wells. The wells draw from two aquifers in the two sub-areas of the Salinas Groundwater Basin; the Pressure Area & the East Side Area. Source Water Assessments were performed in 2002 and are available for review at the utility's office. The water sources are most vulnerable to sewer collection systems, agricultural drainage, gas stations, parking lots / malls / high density housing, parks, irrigated crops, fertilizer / pesticide / herbicide applications, agricultural / irrigation / water supply wells, and photo processing / printing. Due to a change in the Federal Arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) to 10 parts per billion (ppb) in 2006, Alco removed 3 of its well sources from active service and obtained approval from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to change the wells to "standby" status. In November 2008, California also adopted the Federal MCL of 10 ppb. The 3 wells will remain out of service in standby status while Alco develops a method to reduce the Arsenic levels from these wells to comply with the new Federal MCL. All of Alco's active well sources comply with the Federal and State of California MCL of 10 ppb.

### Laboratory testing:

Alco Water Service contracts with independent, state-certified laboratories to monitor the quality of the water it provides to you. This helps us to provide you with the best quality water possible and to conform to CDPH regulations. Alco Water Service also contracts with an independent sampler who collects all samples for monitoring purposes and delivers them to the independent laboratories directly. The laboratory water quality results contained in the table sections of this report are of detectable constituents only. This means that there was a detection of the constituent found in the water by the laboratory. The tables also include a list of the State and Federal standards so that you may compare the results of our water analyses to them. The water system tests for hundreds of regulated and unregulated constituents and submits the results to CDPH. The constituents that do not appear on the table are non-detectable. This means that there was no detection of the constituent found in the water by the laboratory.

### What can be found in water?

**The sources of drinking water** (both tap water & bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs & 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, & wildlife.
- ✓ *Inorganic contaminants,* such as salts & metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil & gas production, mining, or farming.
- ✓ *Pesticides & herbicides,* that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, & residential uses.
- ✓ *Organic chemical contaminants,* including synthetic & volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes & petroleum production, & can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, & 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the CDPH prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

### Additional Drinking Water Information

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. 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).

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. Alco Water Service 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.

**LOOK INSIDE *for tables containing your water quality results!***