



Water News

Detailed Test Results & Information About Drinking Water in 2014

YOUR ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT: Water Quality Continues to Exceed Standards

WATER SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT

The District was formed in 1921 to develop reliable water supplies for a community suffering periodic droughts and water shortages. Juncal Dam, constructed on the upper Santa Ynez River by 1930, provided abundant water to serve the developing community into the mid-1940s. By 1947 another crippling drought struck the south coast, leading to construction of the Cachuma Project. Cachuma deliveries to Montecito began in 1959 — south coast water agencies were again assured reliable local water supplies.

Cachuma, designed as a seven year water supply, has fallen to less than a four year supply due to mandated downstream water rights releases. The Cachuma Project provided only 45% of entitlement deliveries in 2014/15, with no deliveries other than carryover and State Water expected for the 15/16 water year.

The State Water Project Coastal Branch, approved by District voters in 1991, was promoted as the drought buffer to provide water from Northern California's massive water storage reservoirs during Southern California droughts. The State Water Project provided supplemental water in this drought through expensive water purchases, but the District's Table A allocation, a nearly \$100 million investment, has proved to be unreliable.

The impact of this drought on our local and State Water supplies has been dramatic, requiring a new water supply management program to maximize the use of limited available water.

South coast water agencies are again faced with the problem of securing a reliable water supply. This District is now pursuing desalinated ocean water. Santa Barbara, also dependent on surface water, expects to deliver desalinated water to its customers by fall 2016. Partnering with the City is an option; however, state regulators may not permit the regional use of the City's facility, requiring Montecito to develop its own desalination plant.

Regardless, one option must be chosen to ensure water supply reliability for the District's future. Local surface water supplies, used by the south coast for decades, are in jeopardy; planning and implementing a new, rainfall-independent water supply is critical to meet community health and safety needs.

Once again, we are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the quality water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Montecito's drinking water meets and is better than all drinking water quality requirements.

This report offers the results of our extensive water quality tests conducted during 2014. In addition, the report provides a description of where your water comes from, answers common questions about water quality and offers other useful information.

The District participated in additional voluntary sampling to assess the potential of other surface water and groundwater contaminants. No contaminants were detected in any samples assessed. The District is fortunate that the watersheds filling our local lakes and reservoirs provide us with high-quality water.

Bella Vista Water Treatment Plant



Steps We Take to Ensure That the Water You Drink Is Safe and Healthy

- STEP 1: We begin with a high-quality water supply.
- STEP 2: We treat the water with a variety of filtration processes.
- STEP 3: We add trace amounts of chlorine to disinfect the water as it travels through the water system.
- STEP 4: We test the water. Samples from various locations around the District are analyzed each day in our own laboratory or by independent state-certified labs. Additional testing is conducted each week for bacterial contamination. Results of these and other tests are reported regularly to state authorities.

How Accurate Are The Tests?

The tests, using ultra sensitive measuring equipment, are so accurate that we are able to detect substances as small as one-half part per billion!

High-Quality Water Supply

More than half of the District’s water supply comes from Lake Cachuma.

Other water sources include State Water, Jameson Lake, Alder and Fox Creeks and a limited groundwater supply. Water from all these sources is thoroughly treated before it is delivered to our customers.

Our water quality program is carried out by state-certified water quality experts. Regular water-quality tests ensure that your drinking water is safe.

Water in the Environment

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 storm water 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 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, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water 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.



Water & Health

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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

People with Special Needs

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).

Water Quality Standards

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Definitions Used in the Chart

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.

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.

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 Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of drinking water. Contaminants with SDWS do not affect the health at MCL levels.

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 (RAL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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

mg/L: Milligrams per liter, or parts per million. 1 mg/L is equal to about one drop in 17 gallons of water.

ug/L: Micrograms per liter, or parts per billion. 1 ug/L is equal to about one drop in 17,000 gallons of water.

< : Less than.

NA: Not applicable.

NS: No Standard.

ND: Non-detected.

pCi/L: Pico curies per liter, a measure of radiation

umhos/cm: Micromhos per centimeter (an indicator of dissolved minerals in water).

NTU: Nephelometric turbidity unit.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average.

Footnotes:

¹The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

²Surface water sources include the District’s Jameson Lake and Lake Cachuma. The District’s Amapola Well, Ennisbrook Well No. 2, Ennisbrook Well No. 5 and Paden Well No. 2 were used as groundwater supply sources.

³Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Montecito Water District monitors for it continuously because turbidity is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. 100% of the District’s samples met the Turbidity Performance standard. The highest single surface water turbidity measurement during the year was 0.31 NTU.

⁴An average number of 52 coliform samples were collected each month at 12 District sampling stations in compliance with the Federal Coliform Rule.

RESULTS OF 2014 DRINKING WATER QUALITY TESTS

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants and other constituents that we detected during the 2014 calendar year. We tested for over 180 contaminants and constituents. Not included in the list below are substances for which we test but were not detected. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing conducted between January 1 and December 31, 2014^{1,2}.

Primary Standards (PDWS)	Units	Maximum Contaminant Level	Public Health Goal (MCLG)	Jameson Lake Average	Jameson Lake Range	Ground Water Average	Ground Water Range	Cachuma Lake Average	Cachuma Lake Range	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Water Clarity										
Treated Turbidity ³	NTU	TT = 1 NTU TT = 95% of Samples	NA	0.06	0.03 - 0.31 100%	0.10	ND - 0.40 100%	0.11	0.07 - 0.17 100%	Soil runoff.
Radioactive Contaminants										
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	pCi/L	15	(0)	0	0	1.85	0.49 - 2.34	ND	NA	Erosion of natural deposits.
Inorganic Contaminants										
Aluminum	ug/L	1000	600	20	10 - 30	10	ND - 20	0.05	ND - 0.15	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes.
Boron	ug/L	1000 (RAL)	NA	ND	ND	67	ND - 100	NA	NA	NA
Hexavalent Chromium, Cr VI	ug/L	10	0.02	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.013	ND - 0.026	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	mg/L	2	1	ND	ND	0.5	0.4 - 0.6	0.43	0.40 - 0.46	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate as NO3 ⁵	mg/L	45	45	0.7	0.7 - 1.5	17.5	3.2 - 28.0	ND	NA	Runoff or leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion from natural deposits.
Selenium	ug/L	50	(30)	ND	ND	2.5	ND - 5.0	ND	NA	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive).
Primary Standards for Distribution System	Units	Maximum Contaminant Level	Public Health Goal (MCLG)	Distribution System Average		Distribution System Range				Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Disinfectant										
Free Chlorine Residual	mg/L	MRDLG, 4.0	MRDLG, 4.0	0.73		0.20 - 2.06				By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Disinfection By Products										
Total Trihalomethanes	ug/L	80	NA	Highest LRAA, 74.5		18.6 - 110.4				By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids	ug/L	60	NA	Highest LRAA, 29.3		0 - 50				By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Microbiological Contaminant Samples										
Total Coliform Bacteria ⁴	% Tests Positive	<5% of Monthly Samples	0	0.00%		0				Naturally present in the environment.
Lead and Copper Rule	Units	RAL	PHG	Samples Collected		Above RAL		90th Percentile		
Lead ⁶	ug/L	15	0.2	30		0		2.7		Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives.
Copper ⁶	ug/L	1300	300	30		0		254		
Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS)	Units	Maximum Contaminant Level		Jameson Lake Average	Jameson Lake Range	Ground Water Average	Ground Water Range	Cachuma Lake Average	Cachuma Lake Range	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Aesthetic Standards										
Color	Units	15		ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	NA	Naturally-occurring organic minerals.
Chloride	mg/L	500		6	6	145	79 - 210	31.6	19.1 - 38.9	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
Iron	ug/L	300		60	60	6.3	ND - 190	71	ND - 355	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.
Manganese	ug/L	50		ND	ND	29	ND - 70	2	ND - 9	Leaching from natural deposits.
Threshold Odor at 60 degrees celsius	Units	3		ND	ND	ND	ND	4	1 - 6	Naturally-occurring organic minerals.
Specific Conductance	uS/cm	1600		755	755	1454	1046 - 1602	915	870 - 961	Substances that form ions in water.
Sulfate	mg/L	500		197	197	221	211 - 230	262	237 - 277	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	1000		520	520	830	700 - 960	616	570 - 646	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits
Zinc	ug/L	50		ND	ND	40	ND - 80	12.7	ND - 13.1	Naturally-occurring in trace amounts, but can be detected in soft, acidic water systems.
Additional Constituents Analyzed										
pH	pH units	NS		8.10	7.90 - 8.40	7.4	7.3 - 7.50	7.70	7.57 - 7.90	
Total Hardness ⁷	mg/L	NS		346	336 - 356	509	425 - 593	361	354 - 374	
Total Alkalinity	mg/L	NS		168	148 - 184	210	200 - 220	185	170 - 218	
Calcium	mg/L	NS		91	91	134	106 - 162	77.7	72.0 - 86.5	
Magnesium	mg/L	NS		30	30	43	39 - 46	43.8	41.9 - 46.0	
Sodium	mg/L	NS		33	33	68	61 - 75	55.7	47.4 - 64.0	
Potassium	mg/L	NS		2	2	1.0	1.0 - 1.0	4.20	3.91 - 4.50	

⁵**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. MWD's highest nitrate level in 2014 was 28.0 mg/L.

⁶Lead & Copper Rule

Every three years, 30 residences are tested for lead and copper levels at the tap. The most recent set of samples was collected in 2013. All of the samples were well below the regulatory action level (RAL). Lead (RAL 15.0 ug/L) was detected in 20 samples with the 90th percentile value registering 2.7 ug/L. Copper (RAL 1,300 ug/L) was detected in 30 samples with the 90th percentile value registering

254 ug/L. It has been found that, 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. Montecito Water District 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

⁷Surface water has a hardness range of 19 to 25 grains per gallon; groundwater has a range of 25 to 35 grains per gallon.



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Your Water Quality Report

Please visit us at montecitowater.com. Learn about the District's history, Board of Directors, agendas and minutes, newsletters, ongoing construction projects, water quality, billing information, conservation and more.

IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER INFORMATION

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

Total Trihalomethane levels recorded above the drinking water standard.

The District is reporting to its customers that water quality results exceeded the locational running annual average (LRAA) for total trihalomethanes at one of its four sample locations. This is a violation of drinking water quality standards. This notice is provided in accordance with State Board requirements with no subsequent actions required by you and to also document what occurred, and what we have done to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Water sample results received on May 20, 2015 caused the LRAA for Total Trihalomethanes to exceed the maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 80 ug/L by 1 ug/L. Here is a summary of the last four quarterly results: 101.2 ug/L, 78.0 ug/L, 70.2 ug/L, 74.7 ug/L.

What should I do?

- You do not need to change your water use, i.e. use an alternative water supply.
- This is not an immediate health risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What has been done?

The incident occurred due to drought conditions affecting our local surface water supplies and an operational problem at the Cater regional water treatment facility operated by the City of Santa Barbara. The Cater facility provides the District about 80% of its water supply. This problem has been identified and corrected with direct coordination between the District and the Cater facility staff. The last three quarter sample results were below the MCL for trihalomethanes.

For more information, please contact the District's Water Treatment Superintendent, Chad Hurshman at 805-969-7924 or mail any questions or concerns to Mr. Hurshman at Montecito Water District, 583 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- Schools: Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- Residential Rental Property Owners or Managers (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- Business Property Owners, Managers, or Operators: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.



Chad Hurshman
Water Treatment Superintendent

For More Information About Water Quality

- **Who to Contact:** For answers to your questions about water quality, please contact Chad Hurshman, Water Treatment and Production Superintendent, at 969-7924. Chad joined the District in 2001 and became the Treatment Superintendent in 2006. He holds a State Level 4 Treatment Certification and is a valued and experienced employee serving the District and our community.
- **Source Water Assessment:** A comprehensive source water assessment of the District's surface water sources was completed in December 2010. A copy of this report is available for public inspection at the District Office.
- **Public Information:** To learn more about water, the District, or public participation opportunities, please call Tom Mosby, General Manager, at 969-2271, or visit our website at www.montecitowater.com
- **En Español** Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.