

2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Cutler Public Utility District

*We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by State and Federal Regulations.
This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2014.*

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Usted puede recoger una copia española del informe de confianza del consumidor de 2014 en la oficina del distrito.

We are pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source comes from five groundwater wells: Well Nos. 3 and 4 are presently inactive and have not been pumped in several years due to high levels of nitrates which were previously observed. Well No. 6 is in a standby mode and will only be pumped in the event of a fire or low pressure situation. The District will currently have to notify customers if this well is utilized due to the level of DBCP in the water from the well. Continuous chlorination is provided on all wells. Projects are currently being worked on to:

- (a) Construct Well No. 10 to improve the available water supply (test well has been completed);
- (b) Construct new water lines to replace older lines;
- (c) Installation of new pressure tanks to address pressure issues; and
- (d) Install a new storage tank to address supply needs.

Recently, a preliminary study on providing a treated surface water to the District was completed. Additional investigations on this alternate source of supply are ongoing.

A source water assessment was conducted for the water supply wells of the Cutler Public Utility District water system in February, 2003. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: fertilizer, pesticide and/or herbicide applications. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: automobile gas stations; chemical and/or petroleum processing and/or petroleum storage; and historic gas stations. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at: Cutler Public Utility District, 40526 Orosi Drive, Cutler, CA 93615. If you would like a summary of the assessment sent to you or if you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Mr. Dionicio Rodriguez Jr., Superintendent, at 559/528-3859

We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., in the Cutler Public Utility District Conference Room at 40526 Orosi Drive in Cutler.

The following are definitions of some of the TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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 (USEPA).

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs or MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements

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.

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

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.

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

Variations and Exemptions: State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (DDW) permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

NA: not applicable.

ND: not detectable at testing limit.

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l).

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/l).

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/l).

pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation).

In general, sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) may 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.

Constituents that may be present in source water to contamination levels 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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally occurring or 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 State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (DDW) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. DDW regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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. Cutler Public Utility 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The Tables below and on the following page(s), lists all the drinking water constituents that were detected during the most recent samplings for the constituent. The presence of these constituents in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The DDW requires us to monitor for certain constituents less than once per year because the concentrations of these constituents are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are therefore more than one year old.

TEST RESULTS (A)

Lead and Copper Rule	No. of samples collected	MCLG	Action Level	90 th percentile level detected	No. Sites Exceeding Action Level	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb) 2012	20	2	15	ND	0	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) 2012	20	0.3	1.3	0.21	0	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Constituent	MCL	PHG [MCLG]	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range	Likely Source of Contamination
Hardness (ppm)	None	None	8/06/2013	200	150 to 250	Generally found in ground and surface water
Sodium (ppm)	None	None	8/06/2013	29	25 to 33	Generally found in ground and surface water

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Constituent	MCL	PHG [MCLG]	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	8/06/2013	< 2.0	ND to 2	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	1	2	8/06/2013	< 0.13	ND to 0.16	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	8/06/2013	0.15	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate as NO ₃ (ppm)	45	45	2014	32	22 to 44 (C)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

DETECTION OF SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS INCLUDING PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES						
Constituent	MCL	PHG [MCLG]	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range	Likely Source of Contamination
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppt)	200	1.7	2014	49	ND to 130	Banned nematicide that may still be present in soils due to runoff/leaching from former use on soybeans, cotton, vineyards, tomatoes, and tree fruit

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Constituent	MCL	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range	Likely Source of Contamination	
Chloride (ppm)	500	8/06/2013	25.5	21 to 30	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	
Color (Units)	15	8/06/2013	ND	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials	
Foaming Agents (MBAS) (ppb)	500	8/06/2013	ND	N/A	Municipal & industrial waste discharges	
Manganese (ppb)	50	8/06/2013	21.5	ND TO 23	Leaching from natural deposits	
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1600	8/06/2013	500	400 to 600	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence	
Sulfate (ppm)	500	8/06/2013	18.1	9.2 to 27	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	1000	8/06/2013	355	290 to 420	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	
Turbidity (Units)	5	8/06/2013	0.08	ND to 0.16	Soil runoff	

(A) Results reported due to regulatory requirement or detection of a constituent.

(B) Results reported include amounts that are less than the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (DDW) required detection level for this constituent.

(C) **ABOUT NITRATE:** 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 a 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 certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

