

**STERLING MUTUAL  
WATER COMPANY  
YEAR 2015  
CONSUMER  
CONFIDENCE  
REPORT**

## INTRODUCTION

Sterling Mutual Water Company is committed to keeping you informed about the quality of your drinking water. This report is provided to you annually. It includes information describing where your drinking water comes from, the constituents found in your drinking water and how the water quality compares with the regulatory standards. We are proud to report that during year 2015, the drinking water provided by Sterling Mutual Water Company met or surpassed all Federal and State drinking water standards. We remain dedicated to providing you with a reliable supply of high quality drinking water.

Regularly scheduled meetings of the Sterling Mutual Water Company Board of Directors are held the second week of February, April, June, August, October and December at 11824 Basye Street, El Monte, California 91734. The meetings provide an opportunity for public participation in

decisions that may affect the quality of your water. Please contact Ms. Joy Ann Burt at (626) 350-9314 for more information.

## WHERE DOES MY DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

Sterling Mutual Water Company's water supply comes from two production wells in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin.

## WHAT ARE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking (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 provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water standards established by USEPA and DDW set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following

types of water quality standards:

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

## WHAT IS A WATER QUALITY GOAL?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and DDW have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often

set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes the following water quality goal:

- **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.

## WHAT CONTAMINANTS MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER?

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.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from

gasoline stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.

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).

#### **ARE THERE ANY PRECAUTIONS THE PUBLIC SHOULD CONSIDER?**

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).

#### **WHAT IS IN MY DRINKING WATER?**

The table in this report lists all the constituents **detected** in your drinking water that have Federal and State drinking water standards. The 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. Detected unregulated constituents and other constituents of interest are also included.

#### **LEAD IN TAP WATER**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious 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. Sterling

Mutual Water Company 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 <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

#### **ABOUT NITRATE**

During 2015, the maximum level of nitrate measured in Sterling Mutual Water Company's drinking water was 5.2 milligrams per liter (mg/l). Although nitrate in your drinking water never exceeded the MCL of 10 mg/l, nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 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 10 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 for advice from your health care provider.

## **DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT**

Pursuant to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for Sterling Mutual Water Company was completed in September 2002. The purpose of the drinking water source assessment is to promote source water protection by identifying types of activities in the proximity of the drinking water sources which could pose a threat to the water quality. The assessment concluded that Sterling Mutual Water Company's wells are not vulnerable to any activity associated with contaminants detected in the water

supply. However, the sources are considered vulnerable to gasoline stations and underground storage tanks. A copy of the complete assessment is available at Sterling Mutual Water Company at 11824 Bayse Street, El Monte, California. You may request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting Ms. Joy Ann Burt at (626) 350-9314.

## **QUESTIONS?**

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact Mr. Ignatius Kelley at (626) 391-6157.

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información ó traducción, favor de contactar a Mr. Ignatius Kelley (626) 391-6157.**

此份有關你的食水報告,內有重要他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。