2015 Lakewood Water Quality Report

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

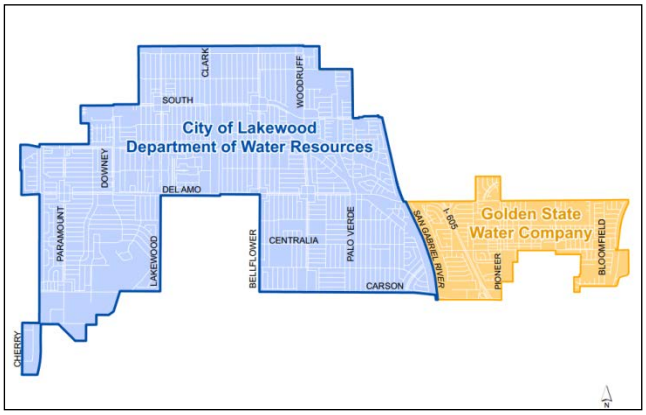
Mahalaga ang impormasyong ito. Mangyaring ipasalin ito.

Meeting The Challenge

The City of Lakewood Water Resources Department is proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed in 2015. Over the years we have dedicated ourselves to providing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We are committed to delivering you the best quality drinking water possible. As new challenges to drinking water safety and reliability emerge, we remain vigilant to meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Please share with us your thoughts or concerns about the information in this report. After all, well informed customers are our best allies. For more information about this report, or for any questions related to your drinking water, please contact us at (562) 866-9771 extension 2700.

Where Does My Tap Water Come From?

Your tap water comes from local, deep groundwater wells that supply our service area shown on the map at the right. The City of Lakewood Department of Water Resources is responsible for providing water services for the area west of the San Gabriel River. Golden State Water Company (GSWC), a privately held water utility serves the area east of the river. For information on Golden State's Water Quality Report, call (800) 999-4033. Highlights of Lakewood's water system include:



- 100% groundwater produced from 10 deep groundwater wells
- Approximately 195 miles of water mains ranging from 2 to 24 inches
- 3 water storage facilities holding approximately 13 million gallons
- 2,400 gallon-per-minute water treatment facility
- 2 connections to Metropolitan Water District of Southern California import supplies through Central Basin Municipal Water District
- 3 emergency interconnections with the following water utilities: Golden State Water Company, City of Cerritos and City of Long Beach
- Providing more than 2 billion gallons of water annually to over 60,400 residential, commercial and industrial customers via 20,500 meter connections
- More than 6% of our water supply is recycled water used for irrigation at 41 sites.

Community Participation

You are welcome to attend Lakewood City Council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 5050 Clark Avenue.

Substances That Could Be In Water

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include groundwater wells, springs, rivers, lakes, streams, ponds and reservoirs. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The state regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public 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.

Contaminants 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, that can be naturally occurring or can result from urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants – including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications and septic systems; or

Radioactive Contaminants – that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the website http://water.epa.gov/drink.hotline or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Water Quality Sample Testing Results

During the past year the City of Lakewood Department of Water Resources has taken thousands of water samples in order to determine the presence of any biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic, and radioactive contaminants. The following tables show only those contaminants that were detected in the water. For certain substances, federal and state regulations require us to monitor less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. The acronyms used in the water quality data reporting are listed in the table on page 4.

Regulated Substances with Primary Standards

Substance (Unit)	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	5	3 – 7	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	2.0	1	0.3	0.3 – 0.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	15	(0)	2.4	ND – 6.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	45	45	4	ND – 7	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	1.1	ND – 2.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
The following samples were taken in distribution system throughout the water system						
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4.0	NA	0.7	0.1 – 1.4	No	Disinfectant added for treatment
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	60	NA	0.8	ND – 2	No	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Total Coliform Bacteria (% of positive samples)	Monthly samples are more than 5.0% positive	(0)	0.4%	ND – 2.6%	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	80	NA	10	5 - 19	No	By-products of drinking water chlorination

Substance (Unit)	Action Level (AL)	PHG (MCLG)	Amount Detected (90th percentile)	Sites Above AL/ Total Sites	Violation	Typical Source
Copper* (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.3	0/31	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead* (ppb)	15	0.2	2.3	0/31	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
** water samples were collected from taps of 31 residential homes throughout the city in 2015*						

Regulated Substances With Secondary (Non-health) Standards

Substance (Unit)	SMCL	Average Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Chloride (ppm)	500	18	7 - 41	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Specific Conductance (uS/cm)	1,600	420	300 - 620	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	500	36	11 – 87	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000	263	180 - 410	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

Unregulated Substances

Substance (Unit)	Average Detected	Range (Low – High)
1,4-Dioxane (ppb)	2.0	ND - 2.7
Calcium (ppm)	54	29 - 89
Hardness (ppm)	166	84 - 270
Hardness (grains/gal)	9.7	4.9 – 15.8
Magnesium (ppm)	13	ND – 40
Potassium (ppm)	2.8	2.0 – 3.6
Sodium (ppm)	30	25 – 38
pH (Units)	8.0	7.8 – 9.0

Acronyms	
AL (Regulatory Action Level)	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Grains/Gal (grains per gallon)	Grains of substance per gallon of water.
MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) and SMCL (Secondary 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 (SMCLs) are set to protect odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.
MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal)	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. EPA.
MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level)	The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
NA (Not applicable)	Not applicable.
ND (Not detected)	Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
pCi/L (picocuries per liter)	A measure of radioactivity.
PHG (Public Health Goals)	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 EPA.
ppb (parts per billion)	One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).
ppm (parts per million)	One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).
µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter)	A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the city's drinking water sources was completed in 2003 and 2006. These studies examined the potential vulnerability of each well to contaminants that could enter the water supply. Our groundwater supply is considered most vulnerable to the following activities: gas stations and repair shops, historic gas station locations, storage tanks, dry cleaners and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/Waste Discharge Requirement permitted discharges. 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.

Lead In Home Plumbing

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. We are 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 before using water for drinking or cooking. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Fixtures With Green Stains

A green or blue-green stain on kitchen or bathroom fixtures can be caused by tiny amounts of copper that dissolve in your home's copper plumbing system when the water sits unused overnight. Copper staining may be the result of a leaky faucet or a faulty toilet flush valve, so be sure your plumbing is in good working order. Copper stains may also be caused by overly hot tap water. Generally speaking, you should maintain your water temperature at a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. You should consult the owner's manual for your heater or check with your plumber to determine your current heater setting. Lowering your water temperature will reduce the staining problem and save you money on your energy bill. Also keep in mind that a tap that is used often throughout the day usually will not produce copper stains. So if you flush the tap for a minute or so before using the water for cooking or drinking, copper levels will be reduced.

Conservation And Water-Use Efficiency

Lakewood water customers have done an amazing job answering the call to conserve water during this historic drought in California. As of the end of 2015, water customers were using 26% less water on average than in 2013.

Visit us at www.lakewoodcity.org/water for the city's conservation program and water saving tips. For additional questions, please contact the City of Lakewood at (562) 866-9771, extension 2140.

Many resources and tools are available to assist you with conserving water including various rebates for turf replacement and water efficient appliances and devices. To view the latest updates on the drought and to learn how to conserve water, you can consult the following websites:

http://www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions
http://socalwatersmart.com/
http://www.h2ouse.org
http://centralbasin.org/en/conservation

Information on the Internet

The USEPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhome) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) websites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources and conservation, and public health. Also, the State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water has a website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/) that provides current information on drinking water issues in California.