



# 2015 Consumer Confidence Report



## KNOW YOUR WATER

Mission Springs Water District is committed to keeping you informed on the quality of your drinking water. This report is provided to you annually and it includes information on 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 2015, the drinking water provided by Mission Springs Water District 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.

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact John Soulliere at (760) 329-6448, ext. 144, or by email at [info@mswd.org](mailto:info@mswd.org).

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para más información ó traducción, favor de contactar a John Soulliere al telefono: (760) 329-6448, ext. 144 o por correo electrónico a [info@mswd.org](mailto:info@mswd.org).*

## GOVERNANCE

Regularly scheduled meetings and study sessions for Mission Springs Water District are held on the third Monday of each month at 3 p.m. at the District Administration Building, 66575 Second Street, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240. These meetings provide an opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of your water.

### MISSION SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# WHERE DOES MY DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

## WATER SOURCES

MSWD provides high-quality drinking water to a 135 square mile service area that includes the city of Desert Hot Springs and a portion of Palm Springs, and the unincorporated communities of North Palm Springs, West Garnet, Desert City, portions of the Desert Edge Community, Painted Hills and Mission Lakes CC. The service area also encompasses homes and businesses in Riverside County west of Corkill Road and north of Dillon Road to the Riverside-San Bernardino county line.

For the Desert Hot Springs area, the Mission Creek Groundwater Sub-basin (Aquifer) provides the majority of the municipal water supply. It is bounded on the north by

the Mission Creek Fault and on the south by the Banning Fault, which separates it from the Garnet Sub-basin. Nine deep water wells within the Mission Creek Sub-basin and one within the Garnet Sub-basin pump into the District's distribution system. MSWD's western-most service area includes the West Palm Springs Village and Palm Springs Crest areas. These areas receive water produced from the Cabazon Groundwater Basin (Aquifer), which is in the eastern portion of the San Gorgonio Pass Sub-basin.

To learn more about our watershed, visit the U.S. EPA's Surf Your Watershed Web site at [www.epa.gov/surf](http://www.epa.gov/surf), and search for the Salton Sea Watershed.

## CHROMIUM-6 AND YOUR WATER

MSWD is proud to deliver high-quality water that meets or exceeds all state and federal standards at the lowest possible cost to customers. In 2014, California became the first place in the world to regulate chromium-6 (Cr6), a mineral found in Coachella Valley groundwater. Cr6 is being regulated for potential long-term health risks over decades of use, and poses no immediate risks to customers.

Recently, MSWD identified a small number of wells with Cr6 levels at or near the new maximum contaminant level of 10 parts per billion. The district is implementing a treatment plan that will ensure compliance with this and other future water quality regulations. In the meantime, impacted wells have been temporarily turned off. Your water remains of the highest quality, and is safe for drinking and all other normal uses.

## DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT

Source water assessments for the District's wells were completed by May 2007, as required by law. The assessments indicated that the wells are not being impacted by surface development. Although no man-made contaminants have been detected, the Source Water Assessments found that septic systems, illegal dumping, and chemical/petroleum lines are potential sources of contamination. Assessment reports are available for review at MSWD's Administrative Offices located at 66575 Second Street, Desert Hot Springs, CA, 92240.

## WHAT ARE 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 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 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.
-  **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.
-  **Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS):** 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.
-  **Notification Level (NL):** An advisory level which, if exceeded, requires the drinking water system to notify the governing body of the local agency in which users of the drinking water reside (i.e. city council/county board of supervisors).

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 three types of water quality goals:

-  **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 USEPA.
-  **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.
-  **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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
-  **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
-  **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
-  **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater 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).

## WHAT IS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

Your drinking water is tested by certified professional water system operators and certified laboratories to ensure its safety. The chart in this report shows the average and range of concentrations of the constituents tested in your drinking water during year 2015 or from the most recent tests. 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. The chart lists all the contaminants detected in your drinking water that have Federal and State drinking water standards. Detected unregulated contaminants of interest are also included.

## 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).

## INFORMATION ON LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

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. Mission Springs 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: <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

## NITRATE ADVISORY

At times, nitrate in your tap water may have exceeded one-half the MCL, but it was never greater than the MCL. The following advisory is issued because in 2015 we recorded a nitrate measurement in the treated drinking water which exceeded one-half the nitrate MCL.

"Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 milligrams per liter (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 advice from your health care provider."

# 2015 SAMPLE RESULTS

					W. PALM SPRINGS VILLAGE		PALM SPRINGS CREST		DESERT HOT SPRINGS		VIOLATION	MAJOR SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT	
	ANALYTE	YEAR SAMPLED	UNIT	MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG)	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE			RANGE
REGULATED SUBSTANCES	Chlorine	2015	mg/L	10	0.004	0.62	0.48 - 0.82	0.62	0.41 - 0.82	0.57	0.49 - 0.63	No	Erosion of natural deposits
	Chromium	2014	µg/L	1	2	ND	ND	ND	ND	4.00	0.0 - 17.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
	Fluoride	2014	mg/L	2	1	0.65	0.5 - 0.8	1.4	1.4	0.69	0.52 - 0.94	No	Erosion of natural deposits
	Gross Alpha Particle Activity	2014 - 2015	pCi/L	15	(0)	3.6	ND - 12	ND	ND	3.3	ND - 19	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
	Hexavalent Chromium	2014 - 2015	µg/L	10	0.02	2.75	1.4 - 4.1	3.5	2.7 - 4.3	8.6	1.6 - 19.0	No	Leaching from fertilizer use
	Nitrate [N]	2016 [1]	mg/L	45	45	3.3	3.0 - 3.5	0.9	0.82 - 1	0.57	ND - 0.86	No	Erosion of natural deposits
	Uranium	2014 - 2015	pCi/L	20	0.43	1.85	ND - 3.7	4.7	4.1 - 5.4	8.3	4 - 16	No	Erosion of natural deposits
SECONDARY STANDARDS	ANALYTE	YEAR SAMPLED	UNIT	MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG)	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	VIOLATION	MAJOR SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
	Chloride	2014	mg/L	500	NS	26.5	15 - 38	9.3	8.6 - 10	27.9	6.0 - 88	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
	Odor-Threshold [6]	2014	TON	3	NS	1	1 - 1	1	1	1.1	1 - 2	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
	Specific Conductance	2014	µmhos/cm	1,600	NS	550	430 - 670	440	440	634	340 - 990	No	Substances that from ions in water
	Sulfate	2014	mg/L	500	NS	41.5	20 - 63	18.5	17 - 20	159.3	33 - 260	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
	Total Dissolved Solids	2014	mg/L	1,000	NS	330	260 - 400	255	250 - 260	428	200 - 650	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
	Turbidity	2014	NTU	5	NS	0.2	0.2 - 0.2	0.25	0.2 - 0.3	0.1	ND - 0.3	No	Soil Runoff
OTHER CONSTITUENTS OF INTEREST	ANALYTE	YEAR SAMPLED	UNIT	MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG)	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	VIOLATION	MAJOR SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
	Boron	2014	µg/L	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	ND - 150	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
	Calcium	2014	mg/L	NA	NA	59.5	48 - 71	53	52 - 54	53.1	23 - 99	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
	Hardness ( as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	2014	mg/L	NA	NA	230	170 - 290	190	190	189	70 - 350	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
	pH	2014	Unit	NA	NA	7.6	7.5 - 7.7	7.7	7.6 - 7.8	7.87	7.6 - 8.2	No	Hydrogen ion concentration
	Sodium	2014	mg/L	NA	NA	29	26 - 32	19.5	17 - 22	61.5	45 - 87	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
	Vanadium	2014	µg/L	NA	NA	8.4	5.8 - 11	8.6	7.4 - 9.8	13.6	6.5 - 29	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
	Zinc	2014	µg/L	NA	NA	30	ND - 60	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	ANALYTE	YEAR SAMPLED	UNIT	MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG)	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	MAJOR SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT	
	Haloacetic Acids	2014	µg/L	60	NA	1.1	1.1	ND	ND	1.0	ND - 2.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
	TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]	2014	µg/L	80	NA	16.1	16.1	1.1	1.1	14.6	2.4 - 26.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
LEAD & COPPER	ANALYTE	YEAR SAMPLED	UNIT	AL	PHG (MCLG)	90TH PERCENTILE	SITES ABOVE AL	90TH PERCENTILE	SITES ABOVE AL	90TH PERCENTILE	SITES ABOVE AL	MAJOR SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT	
	Lead	2014	µg/L	15	0.2	ND	0/10	ND	0/5	ND	0/36	Corrosion of household plumbing	
	Copper	2014	mg/L	1.3	0.3	0.19	0/10	0.06	0/5	0.115	0/36	Corrosion of household plumbing	

## NOTES

AL = Action Level  
 DLR = Detection Limit for Purposes of Reporting  
 MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level  
 MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal  
 mg/l = parts per million or milligrams per liter  
 ng/l = parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level  
 MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal  
 NA = No Applicable Limit  
 ND = Not Detected at DLR  
 NL = Notification Level  
 TON = Threshold Odor Number

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units  
 pCi/l = picoCuries per liter  
 PHG = Public Health Goal  
 µg/l = parts per billion or micrograms per liter  
 µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter

1. Values in table reflect make-up samples from early 2016. See monitoring violation.
2. MONITORING AND REPORTING VIOLATION (Tier 3): During 2015, we did not monitor for the presence of nitrates in our sources. Upon the discovery of this violation, we immediately collected make-up samples for nitrate. Results of this analysis have been received and properly recorded as required by the state and federal law. Based on historical data, the Division has determined that the

failure to monitor for nitrate during 2015 did not pose a risk to public health. We have already taken the steps to ensure that adequate monitoring and reporting will be performed in the future so that this oversight will not be repeated. Specifically, the violation was for a failure to conduct annual nitrate monitoring in 2015.