

Annual
WATER
QUALITY
REPORT

Reporting Year 2013



Presented By



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

There When You Need Us

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2013. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available to assist you should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (<http://water.epa.gov>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. Also, the Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management has a Web site (www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/default.aspx) that provides complete and current information on water issues in California, including valuable information about our watershed.

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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

Substances That Could Be in 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the California Department of Public Health (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department 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, 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 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 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.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Imperial receives its water supply from the Colorado River via the All American Canal and the facilities of the Imperial Irrigation District. Our treatment process for the surface water consists of “complete” treatment including sedimentation, coagulation, flocculation, filtration, and disinfection. The City currently provides nearly 3.959 million gallons per day at peak flows and more than 100 million gallons of water annually to its citizens. At the present time, the City of Imperial meets all applicable California Department of Health Services and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency domestic water quality standards. The raw water we receive from the All American Canal exceeded standards for aluminum and iron. Water quality data for the reporting period ending December 31, 2013, is enclosed. Recent 2013 water quality information is available for review upon request.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Jackie Loper, Public Services Director, at (760) 355-3336.

Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent according to government estimates).

The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out their Web site at www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp.

What Are PPCPs?

When cleaning out your medicine cabinet, what do you do with your expired pills? Many people flush them down the toilet or toss them into the trash. Although this seems convenient, these actions could threaten our water supply.

Recent studies are generating a growing concern over pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) entering water supplies. PPCPs include human and veterinary drugs (prescription or over-the-counter) and consumer products, such as cosmetics, fragrances, lotions, sunscreens, and house cleaning products. Over the past five years, the number of U.S. prescriptions increased 12 percent to a record 3.7 billion, while nonprescription drug purchases held steady around 3.3 billion. Many of these drugs and personal care products do not biodegrade and may persist in the environment for years.

The best and most cost-effective way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source waters clean. Never flush unused medications down the toilet or sink. Instead, check to see if the pharmacy where you made your purchase accepts medications for disposal, or contact your local health department for information on proper disposal methods and drop-off locations. You can also go on the Web at www.Earth911.com/tour to find more information about disposal locations in your area.

Additional Monitoring

The City of Imperial monitors the finished water as well as raw water for aluminum and iron while the raw water typically exceeds the MCL for these constituents.

	Treated Water Results	
	Secondary MCL = 200 ppb	Secondary MCL = 300 ppb
	Aluminum (ppb)	Iron (ppb)
January	<50	<50
February	<50	<50
March	<50	<50
April	<50	<50
May	80	<50
June	290	<50
July	220	<50
August	110	<50
September	200	<50
October	70	50
November	120	<50
December	90	<50
	Range: 70–290 Average: 148	Range: <50–50 Average: 50

Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2013	1	2	0.25	NA	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2013	2.0	1	0.37	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2013	15	(0)	6.8	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity ¹ (NTU)	2013	TT=1 NTU	NA	0.28	0.004–0.28	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2013	TT=95% of samples≤0.3 NTU	NA	100%	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	2013	20	0.43	2.9	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2013	200	NS	520	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2013	500	NS	120	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (Units)	2013	15	NS	15	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2013	300	NS	490	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2013	50	NS	23	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor–Threshold (TON)	2013	3	NS	1	NA	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (μS/cm)	2013	1,600	NS	1,100	NA	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2013	500	NS	290	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2013	1,000	NS	740	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2013	5	NA	18	NA	No	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity, Total [as CaCO₃] (ppm)	2013	160	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2013	180	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Boron ² (ppm)	2013	0.19	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Calcium (ppm)	2013	90	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Hardness [as CaCO₃] (ppm)	2013	350	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	2013	31	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
pH [Lab] (Units)	2013	8.5	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Potassium (ppm)	2013	4.9	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2013	110	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Total Anions (ppm)	2013	12.4	NA	Naturally occurring
Total Cations (ppm)	2013	12	NA	Naturally occurring
Vanadium ³ (ppb)	2013	3.9	NA	Leaching from natural deposits

¹Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

²Notification Level (NL) = 1ppm.

³Notification Level (NL) = 50 ppb.

Definitions

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

µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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 the 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 a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable

NL: Notification levels are health-based advisory levels established by CDPH for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). When chemicals are found at concentrations greater than their notification levels, certain requirements and recommendations apply.

NS: No standard

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

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

PHG (Public Health Goal): 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).

TON (Threshold Odor Number): A measure of odor in water.

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