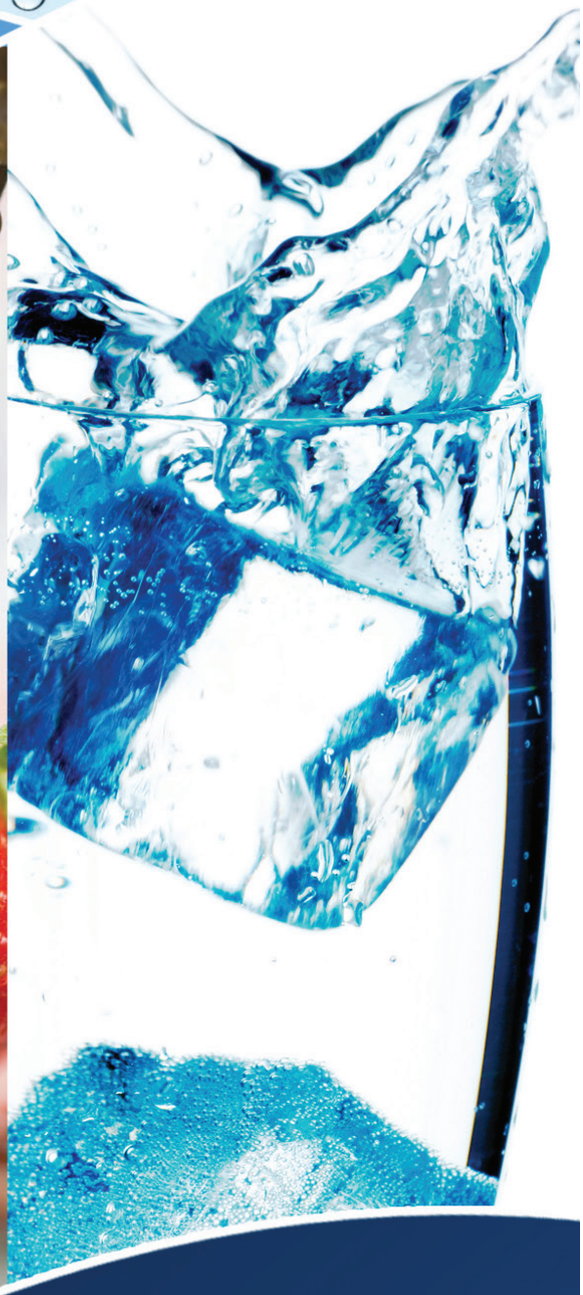
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water Testing Performed in 2014



Presented By

City of Imperial California

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

PWS ID#: 1310006

Our Mission Continues

We are proud to present once again our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2014. Most notably, last year marked the 40th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This rule was created to protect public health by regulating the nation's drinking water supply. We celebrate this milestone as we continue to manage our water system with a mission to deliver the best quality drinking water. By striving to meet the requirements of SDWA, we are ensuring a future of healthy, clean drinking water for years to come.

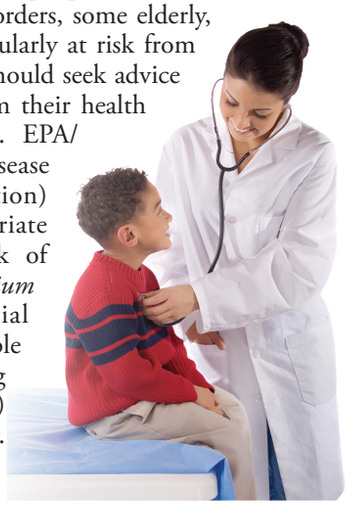
Please let us know if you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

City Council Meeting

You are invited to participate in our City Council Meetings. We meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month beginning at 7 p.m. at the Imperial Public Library, 200 West 9th Street, Imperial, CA 92251.

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 State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board 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.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours.

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 consist of "complete" treatment including sedimentation, coagulation, flocculation, filtration, and disinfection. The City currently provides nearly 3.915 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 State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, 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, 2014, are enclosed. Recent 2014 water quality information is available for review upon request.

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.

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.

QUESTIONS?

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

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.

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.

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	80	170
February	50	100
March	190	110
April	90	<50
May	<50	<50
June	140	<50
July	280	<50
August	330	<50
September	220	<50
October	130	<50
November	200	<50
December	<50	<50
	Range: ND–330 Average: 143	**Range: ND–170 Average: 32**

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.

We participated in the 3rd stage of the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR3) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR3 benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality.

PRIMARY STANDARDS CENTRAL MAIN CANAL

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2014	200	NS	143 (average)	ND–330	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Barium (ppm)	2014	1	2	0.12	NA	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
HAA5[1] (ppb)	2014	60	NA	22.1	12.4–36.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 1[1] (ppb)	2014	80	NA	56.3	32.1–95.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2014	TT=1 NTU	NA	0.36	0.0004–0.36	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2014	TT=95% of samples ≤0.3 NTU	NA	93%	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2013	1.3	0.3	0.086	0/20	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2013	15	0.2	0.005	0/20	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY STANDARDS CENTRAL MAIN CANAL

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	EXCEEDANCE	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2014	200	NS	460	NA	Yes[2]	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2014	500	NS	130	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (Units)	2014	15	NS	20	NA	Yes[2]	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2014	300	NS	32 (average)	ND–170	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2014	50	NS	25	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor–Threshold (TON)	2014	3	NS	4	NA	Yes[2]	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2014	1,600	NS	1,200	NA	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2014	500	NS	300	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2014	1,000	NS	840	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2014	5	NS	36	NA	Yes[2]	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES CENTRAL MAIN CANAL

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity, Total (ppm)	2014	170	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2014	200	NA	Leaching from matural deposits
Boron (ppb)	2014	190	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Calcium (ppm)	2014	85	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Hardness, Total (ppm)	2014	340	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	2014	31	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (Units)	2014	8.2	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Potassium (ppm)	2014	5.4	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2014	120	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Total Anions (ppm)	2014	13.2	NA	Naturally Occurring
Total Cations (ppm)	2014	12.2	NA	Naturally occurring
Vanadium (ppb)	2014	4.2	NA	Leaching from natural deposits

[1] Data results are from the distribution system.

[2] Secondary contaminants are regulated to protect the aesthetics of drinking water like taste and odor. According to the U.S. EPA, there are no known adverse health effects associated with exceedances of Secondary MCLs.

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

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

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.

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.