

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

JUNE 2016



IMPORTANT INFORMATION
AND TIPS ON WATER QUALITY
AND SAFETY

<http://waterquality.smgov.net>

**INSIDE: INFORMATION ON
SAFEGUARDING AGAINST LEAD IN WATER**



Water Quality Is Everybody's Business

Environmental awareness extends beyond the air we breathe and food we eat. Citizens across the country have asked to be kept informed about the quality of their water. In response, Congress and the California Legislature have passed laws that require water agencies to provide an annual water quality report to their customers.

This report gives an overview of how the City of Santa Monica Public Works/Water Resources Division provides your tap water and explains the many steps we take to ensure the quality and safety of our water. In addition, we provide you results of our water testing to ensure the quality of the water delivered for your consumption.

If you require this report in an alternate format, please call us at (310) 826-6712 or email myriam.cardenas@smgov.net.

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

Dear Santa Monica Residents,

This year marks 100 years of municipally-supplied water service in Santa Monica. In 1916, Santa Monica purchased several small, privately-owned water companies in and around the city in order to have full control of the water supply. In 1924, facing unprecedented growth and resultant water supply challenges, residents of Santa Monica voted to remain independent of Los Angeles (and its recently developed Owens Valley supply) and chart its own destiny. That decision is as relevant today as it was then as we continue to work toward our goal of being water self-sufficient by 2020.

Today, cities across the country are dealing with increasingly aging water infrastructure with limited resources to upgrade them. One only needs to listen to the steady stream of news stories about the lead contamination in water in Flint, Michigan to understand the importance of the proper treatment and surveillance of a community's water. Rest assured that your Water Division staff considers the proper treatment and testing of Santa Monica's water supply to be of paramount importance. Please look for more information on how we safeguard and protect against lead leaching from plumbing a little later in this report.

Southern California continues to experience drought conditions with the distinct possibility that hot, dry weather may become this region's "new normal." Santa Monica has been doing its part to help conserve water. Thanks to customers like you, the citywide 20% reduction target has been met consistently since last summer, and we urge everyone to maintain these efforts through this summer in order to meet our mandate of 20% reduction through October. This mandate is a result of the implementation of California's emergency drought regulations www.ca.gov/drought and compliance with Santa Monica's own water shortage plan. Keep it up, Santa Monica! To learn more, visit www.smgov.net/water.

On behalf of the City of Santa Monica Public Works Department and the employees of the Water Resources Division, thank you for allowing us to serve you.



Sincerely,

Gil Borboa

Gil Borboa
Water Resources Manager

Santa Monica's Water Treatment Works



Producing Great Water

The City's Arcadia treatment plant has been operating for several years now and has been producing good quality and great tasting water every day.

The water that is treated and eventually pumped to homes and businesses in Santa Monica originates as groundwater in and around Santa Monica. The majority of the groundwater comes from the Charnock Well Field, which has been used as a drinking water source for Santa Monica since 1924.

The well field was shut down for several years when testing revealed that the gasoline additive, Methyl tert-Butyl Ether (MTBE) had infiltrated the aquifer supplying the wells. The source of the gasoline compound was leakage from underground storage tanks at gasoline service stations in the vicinity. The City pursued restitution and eventually reached a settlement agreement with the principal responsible parties to remediate and restore the well field as a drinking water source.

The Charnock Well Field Restoration Project culminated in the reactivation of the well field and the launching of the new treatment plant in December 2010. A primary component of the treatment works is the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system, which removes MTBE and another potential gasoline additive, tert-Butyl Alcohol (TBA) in the groundwater at the Charnock Well Field.

The water from the Charnock Well Field is then combined with the flow from other wells and delivered to the City's main treatment facility in West Los Angeles where it undergoes a five-step process to eliminate/reduce any remaining contaminants and achieve drinking water quality.

A major component of the treatment facility is the Reverse Osmosis (RO) softening system and final adjustments including fluoridation and disinfection. Softening is the process of removing scale-forming calcium and magnesium from hard water. Reverse Osmosis (RO) is a method of softening that separates the scale-forming minerals by forcing hard water through membranes with very small pores.

Water quality is scrutinized throughout the treatment plant with many online analyzers monitoring the process as well as various daily, weekly and monthly samples to verify the quality. The complete treatment process is outlined on the following pages.

This facility produced 70% of the water utilized by Santa Monica in 2015. With reduced water use and plans underway to add more wells and additional treatment capacity, we are reducing our reliance on imported water and making progress toward our goal of self-sufficiency by 2020. For more information about the new treatment facilities, please call the water treatment staff at (310) 434-2672.



SANTA MONICA WATER TREATMENT PROCESS



CHARNOCK WELL FIELD Charnock Wells

Groundwater contaminated with the gasoline additive MTBE is pumped up from 400 feet below ground surface.



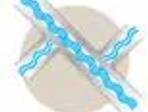
Greensand Filtration

The well water is filtered through greensand media to remove iron and manganese which would foul the carbon filters.



GAC Filtration

The MTBE is removed by filtering through Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters.



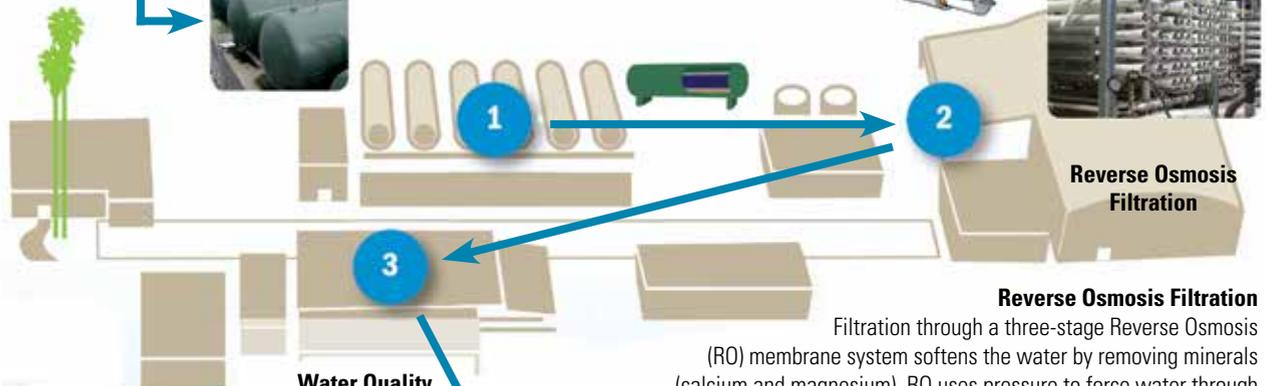
Pump to Treatment Plant

The filtered water is combined with the flow of other wells and pumped to the Santa Monica Water Treatment Plant.

SANTA MONICA WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Pretreatment

To protect the sensitive Reverse Osmosis (RO) filters, the combined well flow is filtered again through greensand and cartridge filters to remove more iron, manganese and any remaining sediment.



Reverse Osmosis Filtration

Reverse Osmosis Filtration

Filtration through a three-stage Reverse Osmosis (RO) membrane system softens the water by removing minerals (calcium and magnesium). RO uses pressure to force water through membranes with pores so small the minerals can't pass through.

Water Quality Adjustments

The mineral content is adjusted to the desired softness. The pH is adjusted, fluoride is added and the water undergoes final disinfection with chloramine.

Aeration and Storage

The final step, aeration, uses the existing air stripping technology in the five million gallon reservoir to remove any remaining volatile groundwater contaminants such as trichloroethene (TCE).



Final Delivery

Santa Monica residents and businesses receive water for everyday use. Water conservation by end users is key to ensuring water reliability and sustainability.



Ensuring the Safety of Santa Monica's Water Supply



Our drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state water quality requirements. The safety of Santa Monica's drinking water supply is our top priority.

More than 10,000 water quality tests are conducted each year at Santa Monica's State-certified laboratory by qualified chemists and technicians dedicated to ensuring the safety of the city's supply. The City of Santa Monica's Public Works/Water Resources Division expends considerable resources keeping its water treatment system up to date and performing properly.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Their presence does not necessarily indicate that this water poses a health risk. Additional information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Sources of Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before it is treated include:

- Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage systems, septic tanks, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial/domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.**
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.
- Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Division of Drinking Water (DDW) prescribe limits on certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. DDW regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide the same protection for public health.

*** You can help protect the purity of source water by helping control what goes into the storm drain and water table: reduce use of hazardous products, clean up after pets, recycle used motor oil, and sweep walks and alleys instead of hosing.*

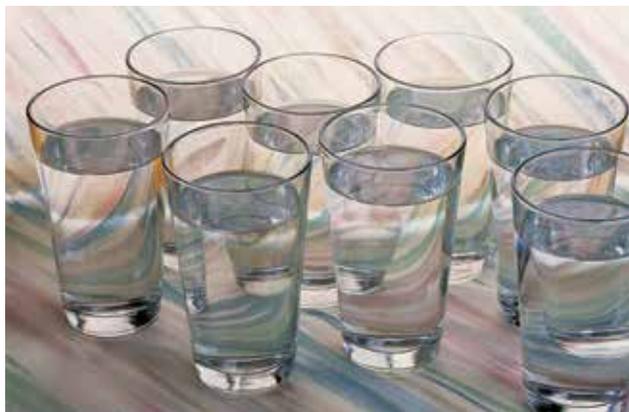
Call (310) 458-8532 to report storm drain pollution and (310) 458-2255 for information on alternatives to toxic cleaning products and pesticides.

Our Treated Water

For over a decade Santa Monica had to rely on imported water sources for more than 85% of our supply due to the contaminations found at Charnock Well Field. With the restoration of the Well Field and opening of an enhanced water treatment facility in 2010, along with continued water conservation, we have reduced the demand for imported water to 30% of our needs. Additionally, more projects and conservation measures are being planned with the goal of eliminating the need to import water by 2020.

The imported water we consume is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD provides supplemental water to about 300 cities and unincorporated areas in Southern California. MWD imports water from two separate sources. Colorado River water is delivered from Lake Havasu through a 242-mile-long aqueduct. This water originates as snowmelt from mountainous regions of Utah, Wyoming and Colorado. MWD also distributes State Project water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and delivers it to Southern California through the 441-mile-long California Aqueduct. Water from the aqueducts is filtered at MWD's six modern treatment plants, using chloramine for disinfection.

In March and June 2012, MWD completed a source water assessment of its Colorado and State Project supplies. Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to contaminations resulting from recreation, urban/storm water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. State Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting MWD at (213) 217-6850.



About the Tables

Santa Monica's water supply undergoes constant, rigorous testing by treatment plant operators and chemists at our Water Quality Laboratory. Permission and oversight to operate a community water system is granted by the California Division of Drinking Water and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Santa Monica has a perfect compliance record in regards to water quality.

The next few pages summarize the test results from the past year that we are required to perform to satisfy federal and state regulations for our local well water as well as the water we import. However, testing the water coming out of the treatment plant is not enough. We also test the water at 100 locations throughout water delivery systems of the city each month to ensure the quality of delivered water.

The results are presented in two sections: Primary Drinking Water Quality Results and Secondary Drinking Water Quality Results. The primary results are for the tests we perform for contaminants that may affect the public's health. These contaminants include hazardous chemicals, metals, bacteria, and radioactivity. Santa Monica's water is below permissible Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for all contaminants.

The secondary results are for the tests we perform for parameters that may affect the aesthetics of the water such as taste, appearance, and odor. These parameters include turbidity, minerals, and pH among others. Again, Santa Monica's water meets all regulatory requirements for these parameters.

For questions regarding water quality, call the City of Santa Monica Water Quality Laboratory staff at (310) 434-2672.

Summary of Results for Primary Drinking Water Standards for 2015

Parameter	PHG/ [MCLG]/ {MRDLG}	State MCL/ {MRDL}	LOCAL WELL WATER Arcadia Plant		SM WELL #1(a)		IMPORTED SURFACE WATER Weymouth Plant		IMPORTED SURFACE WATER Jensen Plant		Dates Sampled if other than 2015(b)	Meets Std	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
			Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range			
PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS (MANDATORY HEALTH-RELATED STANDARDS)													
Clarity													
Maximum Turbidity (NTU)	NS	95% < 0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.05	100% ≤ 0.3	0.09	100% ≤ 0.3		Y	Soil runoff
Microbiological													
Total Coliform Bacteria (% positive samples/month)	[0]	5%	City-wide Maximum:				0 Positive Samples					Y	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform/E. Coli	[0]	(c)	City-wide Maximum:				0 Positive Samples					Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Organic Chemical													
Methyl tert-Butyl Ether (MTBE) (ppb)	13	13(5*)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Leaking underground storage tanks
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	1.7	5	0.5	ND - 0.7	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Discharge from metal degreasing sites
Disinfection													
Byproducts & Residuals													
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NS	80	City-wide LRAA: 41				Range: 11 - 54					Y	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NS	60	City-wide LRAA: 12				Range: ND - 2-16					Y	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Chlorine/Chloramines (ppm)	{4}	{4}	City-wide Average: 1.2				Range: ND - 2.6					Y	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Bromate (ppb)	0.1	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.0	1.1 - 13		Y	By-product of drinking water ozonation
Inorganic Chemicals													
Aluminum (ppm)	0.6	1 (0.2*)	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.16	0.09 - 0.20	ND	ND - 0.08		Y	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment process
Arsenic (ppb)	0.004	10	ND	ND	1.0	1.0	2.1	2.1	3.3	3.3		Y	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	1	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.05	0.12	0.12	ND	ND		Y	Discharge from oil and metal industries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	[100]	50	0.3	0.3 - 0.4	1.7	1.6 - 1.7	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; natural deposits erosion
Chromium 6 (ppb)	0.02	10	0.2	0.2	1.6	1.6	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Naturally occurring; industrial waste discharge
Copper (d) (ppm)	0.3	AL=1.3 (1.0*)	City-wide, 90th percentile: 0.13				0 sites out of 34 exceeded the AL				2013	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride After Treatment (ppm)	1	2	Control Range: 0.7 - 1.3				Citywide Range: 0.3 - 0.9					Y	Water additive for dental health
Lead (d) (ppb)	0.2	AL=15	City-wide, 90th percentile: 2.8				0 sites out of 34 exceeded the AL				2013	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Nitrate (as N) (ppm)	10	10	1.0	0.7 - 1.2	3.5	3.4 - 3.8	ND	ND	0.8	0.6 - 0.9		Y	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from sewage;
Perchlorate (ppb)	1	6	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Industrial waste discharge
Radionuclides													
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	[0]	15	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND - 4	3	ND - 5	2014	Y	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/l)	[0]	50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	4 - 6	ND	ND - 5	2014	Y	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	[0]	5	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	2014	Y	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/l)	0.43	20	1.9	1.5 -2.7	0.8	0.8	3	2 - 3	2	2 - 3	2014	Y	Erosion of natural deposits

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

Primary Drinking Water Standards = MCLs, MRDLs and treatment techniques for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

PHG = Public Health Goal, or 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.

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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. Environmental Protection Agency.

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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.

MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal, or the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. They do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbials.

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level, or 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.

LRAA = Locational Running Annual Average. The running annual average is based on monitoring location.

AL = Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

N/A = Not Applicable

NS = No Standard

ND = Monitored for but Not Detected

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units - used to measure cloudiness of drinking water.

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

pCi/l = picocuries per liter

***** = secondary standard

(a) = SM Well#1 is pumped into a transmission line, is blended with Imported Surface Water and enters the system at 19th St. & Idaho Ave.

(b) = The City is not required to test for every parameter each year. If indicated, data is from a previous year.

(c) = Two consecutive Total Coliform-positive samples, one of which contains Fecal Coliform/E. Coli constitutes an acute MCL violation. No violations occurred for 2015.

(d) = The MCL has been replaced with a treatment technique requiring agencies to optimize corrosion control. Results given are from first draw, at-the-tap monitoring performed every three years.

FOR ADDITIONAL WATER QUALITY QUESTIONS, CONTACT
M. CARDENAS, ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR WATER PRODUCTION
AND TREATMENT AT 310-434-2672

Summary of Results for Secondary Drinking Water Standards for 2015

Parameter	PHG/ [MCLG]	State MCL	LOCAL WELL WATER Arcadia Plant		SM WELL #1(a)		IMPORTED SURFACE WATER Weymouth Plant		IMPORTED SURFACE WATER Jensen Plant		Dates Sampled if other than 2015(b)	Meets Std	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
			Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range			
SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS (AESTHETIC STANDARDS)													
Chemical Parameters													
Chloride (ppm)	NS	500	37	32 - 43	105	104 - 107	100	98 - 102	86	85 - 86		Y	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Color (units)	NS	15	<5	<5	<5	<5	1	1	1	1		Y	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	NS	300	19	ND - 37	5	ND - 8	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	NS	50	ND	ND	12	12 - 13	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor- Threshold (units)	NS	3	<1	<1	<1	<1	2(c)	2(c)	2(c)	2(c)		Y	Naturally-occurring organic materials; chlorine
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	NS	1600	519	480 - 573	1317	1301 - 1340	1040	1030 - 1040	698	692 - 703		Y	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	NS	500	76	68 - 80	260	257 - 262	257	252 - 261	110	108 - 112		Y	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	NS	1000	327	281 - 486	924	920 - 927	660	654 - 665	405	405		Y	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	NS	5	0.11	0.06 - 0.19	0.20	0.11 - 0.36	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED CHEMICALS REQUIRING MONITORING										
Chlorate (ppb)	NS	NL=800	280	180 - 390	540	510 - 570	104	104	70	70
Chlorodifluoromethane (ppb)	NS	NS	ND	ND	0.6	0.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Molybdenum (ppb)	NS	NS	2.8	2.4 - 3.2	2.1	2.0 - 2.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Strontium (ppb)	NS	NS	280	200 - 370	630	620 - 630	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vanadium (ppb)	NS	NL=50	0.8	0.6 - 1.0	2.4	2.3 - 2.4	ND	ND	7.7	7.7

ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS										
Alkalinity (ppm)	NS	NS	115	107 - 122	331	330 - 333	126	123 - 129	91	89 - 92
Boron (ppb)	NS	NL=1000	140	120	120	120	120	120	240	240
Calcium (ppm)	NS	NS	41	37 - 44	125	122 - 127	78	77 - 78	36	36
Hardness (as CaCO3) (ppm)	NS	NS	165	153 - 174	569	553 - 585	300	296 - 304	132	130 - 134
Magnesium (ppm)	NS	NS	16	14 - 17	52	52	27	26 - 28	11	10 - 11
pH (units)	NS	NS	8.2	8.1 - 8.3	7.2	7.0 - 7.3	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.2 - 8.4
Potassium (ppm)	NS	NS	1.5	1.4 - 1.5	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.8 - 5.0	2.7	2.5 - 2.9
Radon (pCi/l)	NS	NS	ND	ND	480	480	ND	ND	ND	ND
Sodium (ppm)	NS	NS	44	43 - 45	95	95	100	97 - 102	91	90 - 92
1, 4-Dioxane (ppb)	NS	NL=1	0.9	ND - 1.4	ND	ND	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) (ppt)	3	NL=10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	ND	ND	2.2	2.1 - 2.2
tert-Butyl Alcohol (TBA) (ppb)	NS	NL=12	ND	ND	N/A	N/A	ND	ND	ND	ND

FOR ADDITIONAL WATER QUALITY QUESTIONS, CONTACT M. CARDENAS, ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR WATER PRODUCTION AND TREATMENT AT 310-434-2672

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

Secondary Drinking Water Standard = An MCL that applies to any contaminant in drinking water that adversely affects the taste, odor, or appearance of the water.

PHG = Public Health Goal or 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.

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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level, or the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

NL = Notification Level, or the concentration of a contaminant that the California Department of Public Health has determined does not pose not a significant health risk, but warrants notification.

N/A = Not Applicable

NS = No Standard

ND = Monitored for, but Not Detected

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units - used to measure cloudiness of drinking water.

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/l)

umho/cm = micromhos per centimeter

< = less than

(a) = SM Well#1 is pumped into a transmission line, is blended with Imported Surface Water and enters the system at 19th St. & Idaho Ave.

(b) = We are not required to test for each parameter every year. If indicated, data is from a previous year.

(c) = MWD has developed a flavor-profile analysis method that can more accurately identify odor occurrences.



Source Water Vulnerability Assessments

Between 2000 and 2012, the California Division of Drinking Water completed Source Water Vulnerability Assessments for all of the City's water wells. The assessments are required for all water utilities nationwide and serve to evaluate the vulnerability of water sources used for drinking water to "possible contaminating activities," which include a wide range of everyday activities in addition to those commonly associated with contamination.

Based on the vulnerability assessments, Santa Monica Wells #3 and #4 located mid-city; Arcadia Wells #4 and #5; and Charnock Wells #13, #16, #18, #19, and #20 located in West L.A. are considered most vulnerable to commercial, industrial, residential, and municipal activities.

Santa Monica Well #1, located on the north side of the city, Wells #3 and #4, and the Arcadia Wells are considered most vulnerable by their proximity to sewer collection systems, although monthly analyses have detected no related contamination.

For more information, or to see a copy of the report, contact the Water Resources Division at (310) 434-2672.

Facts about Cryptosporidium

In recent years a microscopic organism called cryptosporidium has been found in surface waters across the country. Cryptosporidium can also be transmitted through contaminated food or direct contact with human or animal waste. The organism can cause a gastrointestinal illness if ingested.

Today's water treatment plants are designed to remove these organisms when present, but 100% elimination cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, a very slight chance of contracting the organism remains. Much research is underway to determine the best way to upgrade treatment plants to improve protection. Our supplier of surface water, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, maintains an aggressive program to detect and remove cryptosporidium from the water before delivery to Santa Monica. And as Santa Monica moves toward self-sufficiency and uses less MWD over time, the risk becomes even more remote.

Cryptosporidium needs not be a concern for healthy people; however, others may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. Immuno-compromised persons such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, individuals who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some elderly and infants can particularly be at risk from infections. These individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.



Answers to the Most Commonly Asked Questions About Your Tap Water



What Affects the Taste of My Water?

The taste of drinking water is affected by its mineral content as well as the presence of chloramine, which is used to protect against potential bacterial contamination. Sometimes plumbing can cause a metallic flavor, especially if the water has been sitting in the pipes for many hours. Taste, however, does not necessarily indicate a higher or lower degree of water quality.

What Type of Disinfectant Is In My Water?

A low level of chloramine disinfectant is added to your tap water to protect you from waterborne pathogens. Chloramine is formed when a small amount of ammonia is added to chlorinated water. This type of disinfectant is very stable and reduces the formation of disinfection by-products in your water. These by-products are an unintended consequence of the disinfection process, but are far below the allowable limit in Santa Monica water. We carefully monitor the amount of the chloramine disinfectant to protect the safety of your water.

What about Lead from My Plumbing?

The lead contamination that has made the news in Flint, Michigan is highly unlikely in Santa Monica as there are no lead service lines here and the quality of our source water is much different than Flint's. Additionally, our corrosion control processes are considered to be "optimal" by State drinking water regulators. Testing of a pool of "high risk" homes that were plumbed before the ban on lead in solder took place has occurred every three years since 1992 and has continually indicated there is little tendency of our water to leach lead out of plumbing. The next round of testing is scheduled for this summer.



If your home plumbing contains lead, there is a limited potential for lead to leach into your water. Fortunately, the minerals in our water help to protect against pipe corrosion, greatly reducing the potential of lead entering the water. These minerals form a film called "scale" that prevents water from coming into direct contact with home plumbing. The most common place to find lead in household plumbing is in chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures. California enacted stricter regulations for plumbing fixtures in 2010 further reducing the potential for lead leaching from household plumbing.

If present, however, 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. The City of Santa Monica Public Works/Water Resources Division 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 do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. 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 USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



What is Chromium 6 And should I be Concerned?

Hexavalent chromium also known as Chromium 6, has been in the news in recent years. The California Division of Drinking Water adopted the first-ever Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) in the nation for Chromium 6 in 2014. The new MCL limits the level of Chromium 6 permissible in drinking water to no more than 10 ppb (parts per billion). This new standard is in addition to the original California standard limiting the amount of Total Chromium in drinking water to no more than 50 ppb.

Although Chromium 6 is found in industrial processes, it also occurs naturally in groundwater. For the past decade, the Water Quality staff has been monitoring the naturally-occurring levels of Chromium 6 in the city's groundwater wells and has determined that all of the water sources for Santa Monica fall below this new limit. Additionally, the city's new Reverse Osmosis system at the Arcadia Treatment Facility reduces the level of natural-occurring Chromium 6 from our ground water further ensuring the new standard will be easily met.

Do I Really Need to Buy a Water Filter or Home Treatment System?

The decision to buy a water filter or home treatment system is a matter of personal preference. Our water meets or exceeds rigid state and federal health standards. If you decide to buy a filter or system, be a smart shopper and do some homework.

Any treatment device you buy should be registered with the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). There are several system types designed to do different things. Information on treatment systems can be obtained at www.ConsumerReports.org, or from NSF.



Contact NSF toll free at
(877) 867-3435
or visit www.nsf.org

What about Bottled Water?

Again, the decision is yours. You may find that keeping a pitcher in your refrigerator is a low-cost, water-thrifty alternative to buying more expensive bottled water, and it's far better for the environment. Even when the bottle is reused or recycled, the petrochemicals used in creating the bottle and the transportation of the water has a significant impact on the environment — *and your wallet.*

Water Conservation Goal

Currently, California is in the midst of its fifth year of significant drought with no assurance of when it may end. Recent statewide water conservation regulations require Santa Monica to reduce its water consumption by 20% over its 2013 baseline usage. The City Council has adopted Stage 2 water restrictions in the City's Water Shortage Response Plan (available at www.smgov.net/water) in order to achieve this goal. This goal applies to all water customers in Santa Monica including residential, commercial, and City accounts. Although we are currently on track to meet the target (through April 2016), we urge everyone to maintain these efforts in order to achieve our goal of 20% reduction through December 2016.

Here are some simple ways you can conserve water and help our community reach the goal:

- Only use sprinklers before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. any day of the week. Adjust your sprinkler controller each season. Go to www.lacoastalgardens.com to find out how much water your garden needs and when to water. Better yet, convert sprinklers to a drip-irrigation system, install a rain barrel, or invest in sustainable landscaping. *Rebates may be available!*
- Don't allow irrigation water to over spray or run off your property, and never use a hose or a leaf blower to clean driveways, sidewalks, patios, streets, or alleys.
- Replace old toilets, showerheads, and clothes washers with WaterSense™ models and repair all leaking fixtures on your property. *Rebates may be available!*
- Turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving, and only wash full loads of laundry.

To learn more on reducing your water use, visit www.smgov.net/water or call (310) 458-8972.



Where Can I Get More Information?

City of Santa Monica Public Works/Water Resources Offices:

Water Quality	(310) 434-2672
24-Hour Water Emergencies	(310) 434-2672
Water Conservation.....	(310) 458-8972
Billing Office.....	(310) 458-8224

Visit our website:

<http://www.smgov.net/departments/publicworks/water.aspx>

Santa Monica City Council Meetings:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month
Council Chamber
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica
www.smgov.net/cityclerk/agendas.aspx

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

(213) 217-6850
www.mwd20.com

California State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water
(818) 551-2004
www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Ground Water & Drinking Water
Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791
www.epa.gov/safewater/dwhealth.html
<http://www.water.epa.gov/drink/guide>





City of

Santa Monica[®]

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WATER DIVISION
P.O. Box 2200
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90406-2200

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