

ANNUAL WATER
QUALITY
REPORT

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2016

Presented By



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

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We've Come a Long Way

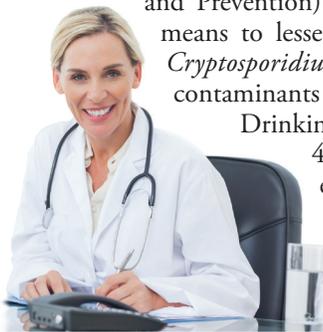
Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2016. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at any hour—to deliver the highest quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

Important Health Information

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm 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 ppm 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.

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 at <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 (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. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. Additional information on bottled water is available on the California Department of Public Health website (<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/fdbBVW.aspx>). 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 storm-water 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 storm-water 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 storm-water 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.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the first and third Monday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Claude L. Wells Education Center, located at 300 S. Robinson St., Tehachapi, CA.

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 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/lead. Every three years, the City of Tehachapi is required to take 20 samples from the customer's tap to ensure that the water provided to its customers does not have an adverse effect and cause a lead or copper level in the drinking water to be dangerous. In 2016, we are pleased to announce that all 20 samples came back below the MCL, and the Action Level determined by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

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, please call Tyler Napier, Utilities Supervisor, at (661) 822-4078, ext. 507.

Source Water Assessment

The City of Tehachapi conducted a water source assessment and protection program. The assessment for the Mojave Well identified vulnerabilities from activities located near the drinking water source. The source is considered most vulnerable to sewer collection systems and to a historic gas station within the five- and ten-year times of travel. The source has a 100-foot sanitary seal and is at a depth of 182 feet to the uppermost perforation. Any microbiological activity would have to travel this vertical distance to the aquifer before it could begin horizontal travel to the well. The gas station has not had any problems associated with it, and no gas products have ever been detected in Mojave Well.

For the Dennison Well, again, no contaminants above the MCL have been detected in the water supply; however, the assessment identified vulnerabilities from activities located nearby. These vulnerabilities include high-density housing and the close proximity of other supply wells, which violates specifications requiring distances far enough so that contaminants would take a minimum of two years to reach the water supply. Both of these vulnerabilities pose a relatively low-ranking risk, as does potential leaching from gas stations—both active and historic—and confirmed leaking from a tank within the ten-year time of travel. The Snyder Well is considered most vulnerable to sewer collection systems. The Snyder Well is a standby source and was not used for water production in 2015.

No contaminants above the MCL have been detected in the water supplied from the Curry Well. The assessment noted that the water supply is still considered vulnerable to activities located near the drinking water source.

The Minton Well's supply was assessed and no contaminants above the MCL were found, though it is still considered vulnerable to activities located near the drinking water source.

No contaminants above the MCL have been detected in the water supplied from the Wahlstrom Well. The assessment considers the source to be vulnerable to activities located near the drinking water supply.

The Pinon Well is considered most vulnerable to septic systems—both low-density and sewer collection systems. No contaminants above the MCL have been detected in the water supply; however, the source is considered vulnerable to activities located near the drinking water source. This source has a very deep 300-foot sanitary seal. In addition, the depth to the uppermost perforation is 400 feet. Any microbiological activity would have to travel this vertical distance to the aquifer before it could begin horizontal travel to the well. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the City of Tehachapi, 115 South Robinson Street, Tehachapi, CA, 93561.



Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Tehachapi uses only ground water pumped from the Tehachapi Basin aquifer; no surface or imported water is used for direct consumption. Six active deep wells within the City continually refill five million gallons of storage facilities and the 40 miles of transmission lines that bring water to the homes, schools, and businesses served by our system.

The City operates five pressure zones, four of which are used and tested. Weekly bacteriological testing is done in all four zones as well. A free chlorine residual of 0.16 - 2.11 mg/L (parts per million, or ppm) is maintained throughout the distribution system.

Miscellaneous Water System Information

Of the six active wells operated by the City, one is equipped with standby power for use in case of an emergency. These wells are valved so that water can be diverted in different directions in the event of a catastrophic line rupture. The City also has a portable generator for use at a second well or at the booster station located at the Curry Street Tank Site.

Testing

The City of Tehachapi performs water quality testing in accordance with all federal and state criteria. Although comprehensive testing was done in 2015, only detected contaminants will be reported in this report.

The City's water sampling (both chemical and bacteriological) is done by a state-certified water treatment plant operator and analyzed by a state-certified laboratory to ensure accuracy in testing.



What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, do not use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing "7 PC" (code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, 1 gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for 3 days. Humans can survive without food for 1 month, but can survive only 1 week without water.

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 before it was filled with 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.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of drinking water?

It could take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40% of total water use). Toilets use about 4 to 6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of contaminants on a very strict sampling schedule. The information below represents only those substances that were detected; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The State recommends monitoring 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
Chlorine (ppm)	2016	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	1.33	0.16–2.11	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fluoride (ppm)	2015	2.0	1	0.29	0.079–0.59	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2015	15	(0)	1.89	0.767–4.34	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2016	10	10	7.36	6.6–8.2	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2016	80	NA	2.2	0–2.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Tap Water Samples 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)	2016	1.3	0.3	0.096	0/20	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2016	15	0.2	0.66	0/20	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Manganese (ppb)	2015	50	NS	<10	<10–<10	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2015	1,600	NS	432	423–554	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2015	500	NS	39	27–58	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2015	1,000	NS	317	270–350	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ¹

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2015	182	160–220
Calcium (ppm)	2015	60	38–75
pH (Units)	2015	7.98	7.93–8.05
Potassium (ppm)	2015	1.2	1.0–1.6
Total Hardness (ppm)	2015	180	110–230

¹Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

Definitions

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

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

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.

NS: No standard.

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).