

CITY OF EL MONTE WATER DEPARTMENT 2008 ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The City of El Monte is committed to keeping you informed about the quality of your drinking water. This report is provided to you annually. It includes information describing where your drinking water comes from, the constituents found in your drinking water and how the water quality compares with the regulatory standards. During 2008, drinking water provided by the City of El Monte 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.

Regularly scheduled meetings of El Monte's City Council are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at 11333 East Valley Boulevard, El Monte, California, 91731-3293. These meetings provide an opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of your water.

WHERE DOES MY DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

The City of El Monte's water supply comes from the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin extracted by production wells located in the City of El Monte. The water is disinfected with chlorine before it is delivered to your home.



WHAT ARE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water standards established by USEPA and CDPH 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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.
- **Secondary MCLs** are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** 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).

WHAT IS A WATER QUALITY GOAL?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and CDPH 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 USEPA.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by USEPA.
- **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**, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas 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).

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, elderly persons, 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).

ABOUT NITRATE

Although nitrate in your drinking water never exceeds the MCL of 45 milligrams per liter (mg/l), nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 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 45 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 for advice from your health care provider.



WHAT IS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

Your drinking water is regularly tested using CDHS approved methods to ensure its safety. The table in this report lists all the constituents **detected** in your drinking water that have Federal and State drinking water standards. Detected unregulated constituents and other constituents of interest are also included.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of El Monte was completed in December 2002. The purpose of the drinking water source assessment is to promote source water protection by identifying types of activities in the proximity of the drinking water sources which could pose a threat to the water quality. The assessment concluded that the City of El Monte's sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: airport maintenance/fueling areas, dry cleaners, metal plating/ finishing/ fabricating, fleet/ truck/ bus terminals and gas stations. In addition, the sources are considered most vulnerable

to the following activities or facilities not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: boat services/ repair/ refinishing and leaking underground storage tanks. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the City of El Monte Water Department, 3527 Santa Anita Avenue, El Monte, California 91731-2426. You may request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting Mr. Bryan Hellein at 626-580-2250.

QUESTIONS?

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact Mr. Bryan Hellein at 626-580-2250.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información ó traducción, favor de contactar a Mr. Bryan Hellein. Telefono: 626-580-2250

**CITY OF EL MONTE
2008 WATER QUALITY TABLE**

CONSTITUENT AND (UNITS)	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG, (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	DLR	GROUNDWATER SOURCES		TYPICAL ORIGINS
				Average Results (a)	Range Minimum-Maximum	
Primary Drinking Water Standards -- Health Related Standards						
DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL						
Chlorine Residual (mg/l)	[4]	[4]	NA	0.4	0.02 - 0.9	Drinking water disinfectant
ORGANIC CHEMICALS (b)						
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (µg/l)	5	0.06	0.5	ND	ND - 2.7	Discharge from industrial activities
Trichloroethylene (TCE) (µg/l)	5	0.8	0.5	ND	ND - 2.9	Discharge from industrial activities
INORGANIC CHEMICALS (b)						
Copper (mg/l) (d)	AL = 1.3	0.17	0.05	0.6	0 of 30 Samples Exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Fluoride (mg/l)	2	1	0.1	0.47	0.29 - 0.69	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (µg/l) (d)	AL = 15	2	5	ND	0 of 30 Samples Exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Nitrate as NO3 (mg/l)	45	45	2	17	6.4 - 30	Leaching from fertilizer use
RADIOACTIVITY (c)						
Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/l)	15	(0)	3	ND	ND - 7.1	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/l)	20	0.43	2	3.3	2.1 - 7.0	Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary Drinking Water Standards -- Aesthetic Standards, Not Health-Related (b)						
Turbidity (NTU)	5	NA	0.1	0.19	0.14 - 0.41	Soil runoff
Chloride (mg/l)	500	NA	1	16	7 - 22	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (mg/l)	500	NA	0.5	38	22 - 51	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)	1,000	NA	1	292	210 - 396	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600	NA	10	507	385 - 627	Substances that form ions in water
Other Constituents of Interest (b)						
Hardness as CaCO3 (mg/l)	NA	NA	2	225	156 - 316	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (mg/l)	NA	NA	1	18	16 - 23	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

NOTES

AL = Action Level	MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
DLR = Detection Limit for the purpose of Reporting	MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	pCi/l = picoCuries per liter
MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level	NA = No Applicable Limit	PHG = Public Health Goal
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	ND = Not Detected at DLR	µg/l = parts per billion or micrograms per liter
mg/l = parts per million or milligrams per liter		µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter

- (a) The results reported in the table are average concentrations of the constituents detected in your drinking water during 2008 or from the most recent tests, except for lead and copper, which are described below.
- (b) All wells were sampled in 2008.
- (c) Wells were sampled in 2005 and 2006 according to the initial monitoring requirements.
- (d) Lead and Copper samples were collected at 30 residences in September 2006. The 90th percentile concentration is reported in the table. Copper was detected in 19 samples, none of which exceeded the AL. Lead was detected in one sample, and it did not exceed the AL.

For more information or questions, please contact Mr. Bryan Hellein, City of El Monte Water Department, 3527 Santa Anita Avenue, El Monte, California 91731-2426 Phone: (626) 580-2250