

CITY OF PARAMOUNT

2010 WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Since 1991, California water utilities have been providing information on water served to its consumers. This report is a snapshot of the tap water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, how it is tested, what is in it, and how it compares with state and federal limits. We strive to keep you informed about the quality of your water, and to provide a reliable and economic supply that meets all regulatory requirements.

Where Does My Tap Water Come From?

Your tap water comes from 2 sources: groundwater and surface water. We pump groundwater from local, deep wells. We also use Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) surface water from both the Colorado River and the State Water Project in northern California. The quality of our groundwater and MWD's surface water supplies is presented in this report.



All 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). You can also get more information on tap water by logging on to these helpful web sites:

www.epa.gov/OGWDW
(Federal EPA's web site)

www.cdph.ca.gov
(CDPH web site)

How is My Drinking Water Tested?

Your drinking water is tested regularly for unsafe levels of chemicals, radioactivity and bacteria at the source and in the distribution system. We test weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually or less often depending on the substance. State and federal laws allow us to test some substances less than once per year because their levels do not change frequently. All water quality tests are conducted by specially trained technicians in state-certified laboratories.

What Are Drinking Water Standards?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) limits the amount of certain substances allowed in tap water. In California, the State Department of Public Health (CDPH) regulates tap water quality by enforcing limits that are at least as stringent as the USEPA's. Historically, California limits are more stringent than the Federal ones.

There are two types of these limits, known as standards. Primary standards protect you from substances that could potentially affect your health. Secondary standards regulate substances that affect the aesthetic qualities of water. Regulations set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for each of the primary and secondary standards. The MCL is the highest level of a substance that is allowed in your drinking water.

Public Health Goals (PHGs) are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency. PHGs provide more information on the quality of drinking water to customers, and are similar to their federal counterparts, Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs). PHGs and MCLGs are advisory levels that are non-enforceable. Both PHGs and MCLGs are concentrations of a substance below which there are no known or expected health risks.

How Do I Read the Water Quality Table?

Although we test for over 100 substances, regulations require us to report only those found in your water. The first column of the water quality table lists substances detected in your water. The next columns list the average concentration and range of concentrations found in your drinking water. Following are columns that list the MCL and PHG or MCLG, if appropriate. The last column describes the likely sources of these substances in drinking water.

To review the quality of your drinking water, compare the highest concentration and the MCL. Check for substances greater than the MCL. Exceedence of a primary MCL does not usually constitute an immediate health threat. Rather, it requires testing the source water more frequently for a short duration. If test results show that the water continues to exceed the MCL, the water must be treated to remove the substance, or the source must be removed from service.

Why Do I See So Much Coverage in the News About the Quality of Tap 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, including 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, which 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, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems;
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the 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.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problem, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with services lines and home plumbing. The City of Paramount 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 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Should I Take Additional Precautions?

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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection of Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Source Water Assessment

MWD completed an assessment of its Colorado River and State Water Project supplies in 2002. Colorado River supplies are considered most vulnerable to recreation, urban/storm water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered 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.

The City of Paramount conducted an assessment of its groundwater supplies in 2003. Groundwater supplies are considered most vulnerable to chemical/petroleum processing/storage, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, dry cleaners, automobile gas stations, automobile body shops, automobile repair shops, junk/scrap/salvage yards, and plastics/synthetics producers. A copy of the approved assessment may be obtained by contacting the Paramount Public Works Department at (562) 220-2020.

How Can I Participate in Decisions On Water Issues That Affect Me?

The public is welcome to attend Public Works Commission meetings located at Paramount City Hall, 16400 Colorado Avenue, Paramount, CA 90723. Meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm.

How Do I Contact My Water Agency If I Have Any Questions About Water Quality?

If you have specific questions about your tap water quality, please contact Christopher Cash at (562) 220-2020.

Some Helpful Water Conservation Tips

- Fix leaky faucets in your home – save up to 20 gallons every day for every leak stopped
- Save between 15 and 50 gallons each time by only washing full loads of laundry
- Adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn/garden, not the sidewalk/driveway – save 500 gallons per month
- Use organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation – save hundreds of gallons a year
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.

¡INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE!

Por favor de pedirle a alguien que le traduzcan esta información ó puede hablar al Departamento de Obras Públicas al (562) 220-2017.

Visit us at www.paramountcity.com





CITY OF PARAMOUNT 2010 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Results are from the most recent testing performed in accordance with state and federal drinking water regulations

PRIMARY STANDARDS MONITORED AT THE SOURCE-MANDATED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

ORGANIC CHEMICALS (µg/l)	GROUNDWATER		MWD'S SURFACE WATER		PRIMARY MCL	MCLG or PHG	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE			
	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)			
INORGANICS Sampled from 2008 to 2010 (b)							
Aluminum (mg/l)	ND	ND	0.14	ND-0.23	1	0.6 (c)	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (µg/l) (k)	5.8	3.5-11	2.6	ND-3.2	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; glass/electronics production wastes; runoff
Barium (mg/l)	0.16	0.15-0.16	0.07	ND-0.13	1	2 (c)	Oil drilling waste and metal refinery discharge; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/l) (l)	0.38	0.33-0.42	0.80	0.4-1.0	2.0	1 (c)	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (mg/l as NO ₃)	1.2	ND-2.4	0.90	ND-3.15	45	45 (c)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use/septic tanks/sewage, natural erosion
RADIOLOGICAL - (pCi/l) Analyzed 4 consecutive quarters every 4 years (results are from 2007 to 2010) (b)							
Gross Alpha	1.56	0.34-2.56	4.7	ND-9.3	15 (e)	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	NA	NA	2.8	ND-9.7	50 (e)	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium 226	0.12	ND-0.26	ND	ND	5 (d)	0.05	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	0.56	0.43-0.61	ND	ND		0.019	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	2.13	1.9-2.3	2.7	1.6-3.7	20 (e)	0.5 (c)	Erosion of natural deposits

PRIMARY STANDARDS MONITORED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM - MANDATED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

MICROBIALS	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		PRIMARY MCL	MCLG or PHG	
	AVERAGE % POSITIVE	RANGE % POSITIVE			
Total Coliform Bacteria	1%	0.53%-3.9%	5%	0%	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and <i>E. Coli</i> Bacteria	0%	0%	0%	0%	Human and animal fecal waste
No. of Acute Violations	0	0	-	-	

MICROBIALS	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		PRIMARY MCL	MCLG or PHG	
	AVERAGE	RANGE			
Turbidity (NTU)	0.19	0.02-1.5	TT	-	Soil runoff. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality.

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS & DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS (f)	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		PRIMARY MCL	MCLG or PHG	
	AVERAGE	RANGE			
Trihalomethanes-TTHMS (µg/l)	29.7	1.4-75.9	80	-	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (µg/l)	9.8	ND-32.8	60	-	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Chlorine Residual (mg/l)	0.9	0.55-1.51	4.0 (g)	4.0 (h)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

AT THE TAP PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS 31 sites sampled in 2010	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		PRIMARY MCL	MCLG or PHG	
	90%ile	# OF SITES ABOVE THE AL			
Copper (mg/l)	0.22	0	1.3 AL	0.17 (c)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Lead (µg/l)	ND	0	15 AL	2 (c)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, industrial manufacturer discharges

SECONDARY STANDARDS MONITORED AT THE SOURCE - FOR AESTHETIC PURPOSES

Sampled from 2008 to 2010	GROUNDWATER		MWD'S SURFACE WATER		SECONDARY MCL	MCLG or PHG	
	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE			
Aggressiveness Index (corrosivity)	12	12	12.1	12.0-12.3	Non-corrosive	-	Natural/industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen/carbon/oxygen in water
Aluminum (µg/l) (j)	ND	ND	140	ND-230	200	600 (c)	Erosion of natural deposits, surface water treatment process residue
Chloride (mg/l)	25.2	18-41	83.3	67-94	500	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, seawater influence
Color (color units)	ND	ND	1	1-2	15	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Conductivity (uS/cm)	506	450-630	833.3	460-1000	1,600	-	Substances that form ions when in water, seawater influence
Langlier index (corrosivity) (SI)	NA	NA	NA	NA	Non-corrosive	-	Natural/industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen/carbon/oxygen in water
Manganese (µg/l) (k)	ND	ND	ND	ND	50	-	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	ND	ND	2.3	2.0-3.0	3	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Sulfate (mg/l)	44.4	33-79	167.7	55-250	500	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)	308	290-360	496.7	290-630	1,000	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	ND	ND	0.04	0.03-0.16	5	-	Soil runoff

SECONDARY STANDARDS MONITORED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM - FOR AESTHETIC PURPOSES

GENERAL PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		SECONDARY MCL	MCLG or PHG	
	AVERAGE	RANGE			
Color (color units)	<5	<5	15	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor (threshold odor number)	1	1	3	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials

ADDITIONAL CHEMICALS OF INTEREST

Sampled from 2008 to 2010	GROUNDWATER		MWD'S SURFACE WATER	
	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE
Alkalinity (mg/l)	178	160-190	106	63-130
Boron (µg/l)	NA	NA	150	120-220
Bromate (µg/l)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Calcium (mg/l)	56.6	52-71	53	26-71
Magnesium (mg/l)	8.34	6.6-13	21.7	11-28
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (ng/l)	NA	NA	1	ND-5.0
Perchlorate (µg/l)	ND	ND	ND	ND
pH (standard unit)	8.0	7.9-8.1	8.0	7.5-8.6
Potassium (mg/l)	2.9	2.7-3	4	2.5-3.9
Sodium (mg/l)	31.6	30-33	85.3	58-98
Total Hardness (mg/l)	176	160-230	216.7	84-300
Total Organic Carbon (mg/l)	NA	NA	1.9	1.3-2.4
Vanadium (µg/l)	NA	NA	2.7	ND-5.6

FOOTNOTES

- Over 50 regulated and unregulated organic chemicals were analyzed. None were detected at or above the reporting limit in groundwater or surface water sources.
- Indicates dates sampled for groundwater sources only.
- California Public Health Goal (PHG). Other advisory levels listed in this column are federal Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs).
- Combined Radium 226 + Radium 228 has a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 5 pCi/L.
- MCL compliance based on 4 consecutive quarters of sampling.
- Running annual average used to calculate average, range, and MCL compliance.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL).
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG).
- 90th percentile from the most recent sampling at selected customer taps.
- Aluminum has primary and secondary standards.
- While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. For this well system, the filtration treatment technique is used to remove arsenic and manganese from the water prior to distribution. Water after treatment is in compliance and below the MCL.
- MWD started adding fluoride at each treatment plant in fall 2007. MWD was in compliance with the provisions of the State's requirements.

ABBREVIATIONS

mg/l = milligrams per liter or parts per million (equivalent to 1 drop in 42 gallons)	ng/l = nanograms per liter or parts per trillion (equivalent to 1 drop in 42,000,000 gallons)	SI = saturation index
NA = constituent not analyzed	µg/l = micrograms per liter or parts per billion (equivalent to 1 drop in 42,000 gallons)	pCi/l = picoCuries per liter
ND = constituent not detected at the reporting limit	NTU = nephelometric turbidity units	uS/cm = microSiemens per centimeter

DEFINITIONS

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. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

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 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

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

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

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

Secondary Water Standard (SDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect the aesthetic qualities of water such as taste, odor, or appearance. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.