



*2010  
Water Quality  
Report*

*El Toro  
Water District*

# Your 2010 Water Quality Report


## Drinking Water Quality

Since 1990, California water utilities have been providing an annual Water Quality Report to their customers. This year's report covers calendar year 2009 water quality testing, and has been prepared in compliance with regulations called for in the 1996 reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The reauthorization charged the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) with updating and strengthening the tap water regulatory program. USEPA and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are the agencies responsible for establishing drinking water quality standards. To ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and 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 must provide the same protection for public health. The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also sets regulations for bottled water.



The El Toro Water District (ETWD) vigilantly safeguards its water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets the standards required by the state and federal regulatory agencies. In some cases, El Toro Water District goes beyond what is required to monitor for additional contaminants that have known health risks.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to establish regulations for those contaminants.

A large reservoir with a bridge in the foreground and hills in the background. The water is blue, and the surrounding land is green and brown. The bridge is a suspension bridge with a green structure. The hills in the background are covered in trees and vegetation.

*The winter snow pack and recent rains have eased the state's water problems, but not solved them. Continued conservation and wise use of water remain the key to our water future.*



# What You Need to Know About Your Water, and How it May Affect You

## Sources of Supply

Your drinking water is surface water imported by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD's imported water sources are the Colorado River and the State Water Project, which draws water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

## Basic Information About Drinking Water Contaminants

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 land or through the layers of the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal and human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ▶ Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- ▶ Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- ▶ Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
- ▶ Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.



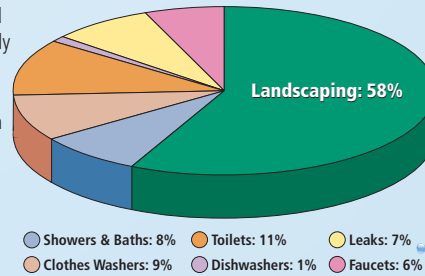
- ▶ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.



## How Residential Water is Used in Orange County

Outdoor watering of lawns and gardens makes up approximately 60% of home water use. By cutting your outdoor watering by 1 or 2 days a week, you can dramatically reduce your overall water use.

Visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) for water saving tips and ideas for your home and business.



In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the 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 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Drinking Water Fluoridation

Fluoride has been added to U.S. drinking water supplies since 1945. Of the 50 largest cities in the U.S., 43 fluoridate their drinking water. In November 2007, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California joined a majority of the nation's public water suppliers in adding fluoride to drinking water in order to prevent tooth decay. In line with recommendations from the CDPH, as well as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Metropolitan adjusted the natural fluoride level in imported treated water from the Colorado River and State Project water to the optimal range for dental health of 0.7 to 1.3 parts per million. Fluoride levels in drinking water are

## Questions about your water? Contact us for answers.

For information about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact Mike King, Customer Service Manager, at (949) 837-7050, ext. 203. You may also contact us at our Customer Service Office, El Toro Water District, 24251 Los Alisos Blvd., Lake Forest, California 92630, at (949) 837-0660.

The El Toro Water District Board of Directors meets regularly at 4:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month. Location: 24251 Los Alisos Boulevard, Lake Forest, California 92630. The public meetings are held at the Customer Service Office location referenced above. The public is welcome and encouraged to participate.

For more information about the health effects of the listed contaminants in the following tables, call the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hotline at (800) 426-4791.

limited under California state regulations at a maximum dosage of 2 parts per million.

There are many places to go for additional information about the fluoridation of drinking water.

United States  
Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention

1-800-232-4636

[www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/](http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/)

California Department of Public Health  
[www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/Fluoridation.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/Fluoridation.aspx)

American Water Works Association  
[www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

For more information about Metropolitan's fluoridation program, please contact Edgar G. Dymally at (213) 217-5709 or at [edymally@mwdh2o.com](mailto:edymally@mwdh2o.com).

## Cryptosporidium

*Cryptosporidium* is a microscopic organism that, when ingested, can cause diarrhea, fever, and other gastrointestinal symptoms. The organism comes from animal and/or human wastes and may be in surface water. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California tested their source water and treated surface water for *Cryptosporidium* in 2009 but did not detect it. If it ever is detected, *Cryptosporidium* is eliminated by an effective treatment combination including sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

The USEPA and the federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from USEPA's Safe Drinking Water hotline at (800) 426-4791 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time (6 a.m. to 2 p.m. in California).

Everyone can do something to save water – use drought-tolerant plants; install synthetic turf; install a “smart” irrigation controller; purchase a water-efficient clothes washer; make sure your dishwasher is full before running it; or simply cut back on the water used for daily living: don't run the water while shaving or brushing teeth; take shorter showers; use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks – the list is endless, and so much of it is very easy to do. Visit the websites listed on the next page for information on California's water supply situation and what you can do to preserve this precious resource.





# The Quality of Your Water is Our Primary Concern

## Disinfection and Disinfection Byproducts

Disinfection of drinking water was one of the major public health advances in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Disinfection was a major factor in reducing waterborne disease epidemics caused by pathogenic bacteria and viruses, and it remains an essential part of drinking water treatment today.

Chlorine disinfection has almost completely eliminated from our lives the risks of microbial waterborne diseases. Chlorine is added to your drinking water at the source of supply (groundwater well or surface water treatment plant). Enough chlorine is added so that it does not completely dissipate through the distribution system pipes. This “residual”

chlorine helps to prevent the growth of bacteria in the pipes that carry drinking water from the source into your home.

However, chlorine can react with naturally-occurring materials in the water to form unintended chemical byproducts, called disinfection byproducts (DBPs), which may pose health risks. A major challenge is how to balance the risks from microbial pathogens and DBPs. It is important to provide protection from these microbial pathogens while simultaneously ensuring



California Aqueduct,  
State Water Project

decreasing health risks from disinfection byproducts. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the USEPA to develop rules to achieve these goals.

Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) are the most common and most studied DBPs found in drinking water treated with chlorine. In 1979, the USEPA set the maximum amount of total THMs allowed in drinking water at 100 parts per billion as an annual running average. Effective in January 2002, the Stage 1 Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts Rule lowered the total THM maximum annual average level to 80 parts per billion and added HAAs to the list of regulated chemicals in drinking water. Your drinking water complies with the Stage 1 Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts Rule. In 2003, the USEPA proposed a Stage 2 regulation that will further control allowable levels of DBPs in drinking water without compromising disinfection itself. This regulation was finalized by USEPA in January 2006 and preliminary studies to select Stage 2 DBP sampling locations in our distribution system started in 2008.

## What are Water Quality Standards?

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 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.
- ▶ **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.

## How are Contaminants Measured?

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. Contaminants are measured in:

- ▶ parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- ▶ parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l)
- ▶ parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/l)

## 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 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.
- ▶ **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.

## 2009 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Treated Surface Water

Chemical	MCL	PHG, or (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Radiologicals – Tested in 2008</b>						
Alpha Radiation (pCi/L)	15	(0)	5.6	3.8 – 9.3	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Beta Radiation (pCi/L)	50	(0)	4.3	ND – 6.4	No	Decay of Man-made or Natural Deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.42	3.3	2.9 – 3.7	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
<b>Inorganic Chemicals – Tested in 2009</b>						
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	0.17	0.10 – 0.23	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	2.3	ND – 2.6	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	0.13	0.12 – 0.14	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm) treatment-related	Control Range 0.7 – 1.3 ppm Optimal Level 0.8 ppm		0.8	0.7 – 0.9	No	Water Additive for Dental Health
Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	45	45	1.7	0.9 – 1.9	No	Agriculture Runoff and Sewage
Nitrate + Nitrite as N (ppm)	10	10	0.4	ND – 0.4	No	Agriculture Runoff and Sewage
<b>Secondary Standards* – Tested in 2009</b>						
Aluminum (ppb)	200*	600	170	100 – 230	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	97	89 – 99	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Color (color units)	15*	n/a	2	1 – 2	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	n/a	2	2	No	Naturally-occurring Organic Materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	1,000	880 – 1,100	No	Substances that Form Ions in Water
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	240	190 – 250	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	610	530 – 640	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Turbidity (ntu)	5*	n/a	0.04	0.04 – 0.05	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
<b>Unregulated Chemicals – Tested in 2009</b>						
Alkalinity, total as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	120	98 – 120	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Boron (ppb)	Not Regulated	n/a	130	120 – 140	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	68	56 – 75	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	280	240 – 300	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (grains/gal)	Not Regulated	n/a	16	14 – 18	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	27	23 – 29	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	7.9	7.8 – 8.0	n/a	Hydrogen Ion Concentration
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	4.8	4.3 – 5.1	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	98	86 – 100	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	Not Regulated	TT	2.3	2.0 – 2.6	n/a	Various Natural and Man-made Sources
Vanadium (ppb)	Not Regulated	n/a	3.1	ND – 3.4	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits

ppb = parts-per-billion; ppm = parts-per-million; ppt = parts-per-trillion; pCi/L = picoCuries per liter; ntu = nephelometric turbidity units; µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter; ND = not detected; < = average is less than the detection limit for reporting purposes; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; (MCLG) = federal MCL Goal; PHG = California Public Health Goal; n/a = not applicable; TT = treatment technique \*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard.

Turbidity – combined filter effluent	Treatment Technique	Turbidity Measurements	TT Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
1) Highest single turbidity measurement	0.3 NTU	0.06	No	Soil Run-off
2) Percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	No	Soil Run-off

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, an indication of particulate matter, some of which might include harmful microorganisms.

Low turbidity in Metropolitan's treated water is a good indicator of effective filtration. Filtration is called a "treatment technique" (TT).

A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water that are difficult and sometimes impossible to measure directly.

Chloramines

ETWD imports all its water from MWD. The imported water supply is treated with chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, as the drinking water disinfectant. In addition ETWD treats its stored water with chloramines. Chloramines are effective killers of bacteria and other microorganisms that may cause disease. Chloramines form less disinfection byproducts and have no odor when used properly. People who use kidney dialysis machines may want to take special precautions and consult their physician for the appropriate type of water treatment. Customers who maintain fish ponds, tanks or aquaria should also make necessary adjustments in water quality treatment, as these disinfectants are toxic to fish.

For further information or if you have any questions about chloramines please call the Customer Service Office at (949) 837-0660.

Immuno-Compromised People

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy,

persons who have had organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

About Lead in Tap Water

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. El Toro Water District 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: [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



Recent regulatory actions to protect endangered fish species have restricted water deliveries from Northern California. This has forced Southern California to draw down even further its storage reservoirs, like Diamond Valley Lake, near Hemet.



Water conservation doesn't have to inconvenience our lives to be effective. Simple changes in how we do our daily tasks can have a tremendous impact on our water usage. A little effort can save a lot of water.

Want Additional Information?

There's a wealth of information on the internet about Drinking Water Quality and water issues in general. Some good sites — both local and national — to begin your own research are:

El Toro Water District: [www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com)

Municipal Water District of Orange County: [www.mwdoc.com](http://www.mwdoc.com)

Orange County Water District: [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com) • Water Education Foundation: [www.watereducation.org](http://www.watereducation.org)

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com)

California Department of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management  
[www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)

California Department of Water Resources: [www.water.ca.gov](http://www.water.ca.gov)

Water Conservation Tips: [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) • [www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com)

2009 El Toro Water District Distribution System Water Quality

Disinfection Byproducts	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	46	26 – 57	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	18	8.2 – 35	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4 / 4)	1.5	0.1 – 2.5	No	Disinfectant Added for Treatment

Aesthetic Quality

Turbidity (ntu)	5*	0.06	ND – 0.29	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
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Eight locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids; twenty locations are tested monthly for color, odor and turbidity. Color and odor were not detected in 2009. MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal; ntu = nephelometric turbidity units; ND = not detected. \*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).

Lead and Copper Action Levels at Residential Taps

	Action Level (AL)	Health Goal	90th Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding AL / Number of Sites	AL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	ND<1	0 / 36	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.09	0 / 36	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing

Every three years, a minimum of 33 residences are tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of 36 samples was collected in 2008. Lead was not detected in any sample and copper was detected in seventeen samples. The detectable levels were determined to be below the Regulatory Action Level. The water system is therefore in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. A regulatory action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Source Water Assessments

Imported (Metropolitan) Water Assessment

In December 2002, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California completed its source water assessment of its Colorado River and State Water Project supplies. Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to recreation, urban/storm water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed and wastewater. State Water 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 Metropolitan by phone at (213) 217-6850.



This report contains important information about your drinking water.  
Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

يحتوي هذا التقرير على معلومات هامة عن نوعية ماء الشرب في منطقتك. يرجى ترجمته، أو ابحث التقرير مع صديق لك يفهم هذه المعلومات جيداً.

*Arabic*

Der Bericht enthält wichtige Informationen über die Wasserqualität in ihrer Umgebung. Der Bericht sollte entweder offiziell uebersetzt werden, oder sprechen Sie mit Freunden oder Bekannten, die gute Englischkenntnisse besitzen

*German*

이 보고서에는 귀하가 거주하는 지역의 수질에 관한 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 이것을 번역하거나 충분히 이해하시는 친구와 상의하십시오.

*Korean*

这份报告中有些重要的信息，讲到关于您所在社区的水的品质。请您找人翻译一下，或者请能看得懂这份报告的朋友给您解释一下。

*Chinese*

Questo rapporto contiene informazioni importanti che riguardano la vostra acqua potabile. Traducetelo, o parlate con una persona qualificata in grado di spiegarvelo.

*Italian*

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información ó traducción, favor de contactar a Customer Service Representative. Telefono: (949) 837-0660.

*Spanish*

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

*French*

この資料には、あなたの飲料水についての大切な情報が書かれています。内容をよく理解するために、日本語に翻訳して読むか説明を受けてください。

*Japanese*

Bản báo cáo có ghi những chi tiết quan trọng về phẩm chất nước trong cộng đồng quý vị. Hãy nhờ người thông dịch, hoặc hỏi một người bạn biết rõ về vấn đề này.

*Vietnamese*



## El Toro Water District

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