



## SOURCES OF WATER

During 2012, approximately 29 percent of the water served by the District was treated surface water and the remaining 71 percent was groundwater. The District purchases its treated surface water from the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK). The AVEK water is treated at its own Acton Treatment Plant or at the Palmdale Water District (PWD) treatment plant. AVEK and PWD water comes from the Sacramento River/San Joaquin Delta via the State Water Project. The District extracts groundwater from its three wells in the Acton area. Your water is disinfected with chlorine to kill harmful bacteria and to keep the water safe as it travels to your tap.

The California Department of Public Health updated the source water assessment for the State Water Project, AVEK's and PWD's water source. The assessment evaluates the vulnerability of water sources to contamination and helps determine whether more protective measures are needed. Water supplies from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta are most vulnerable to contamination from municipal, industrial and agricultural activities. Also influencing the quality of water pumped from the Delta is the impact of the estuarial nature of the Delta and the naturally occurring salt-water intrusion which is dependent to a large extent on the inflow from the contributing rivers. A copy of the complete assessment can be obtained by contacting AVEK by phone at (661) 943-3201.

An assessment of the District groundwater wells was completed in December 2001. The wells are considered most vulnerable to historic gas stations, wastewater treatment plants and storm drain discharge points. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at: California Department of Public Health Los Angeles Office, 500 North Central Avenue, Suite 500, Glendale CA 91203, or



## TO OUR CUSTOMERS:

Each year, the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts (District) provides this report to inform you, our customers, about the quality of the water you drink. We are proud to report that in 2012, your water met or surpassed all health-based drinking water standards.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (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 provide the same protection for public health. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions to improve our service and delivery of the earth's most precious resource. Please visit our website, [www.lacwaterworks.org](http://www.lacwaterworks.org), or attend our Board meetings. They are typically held every Tuesday at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in Los Angeles.

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual water quality report. We look forward to another year of providing you with safe, reliable water.

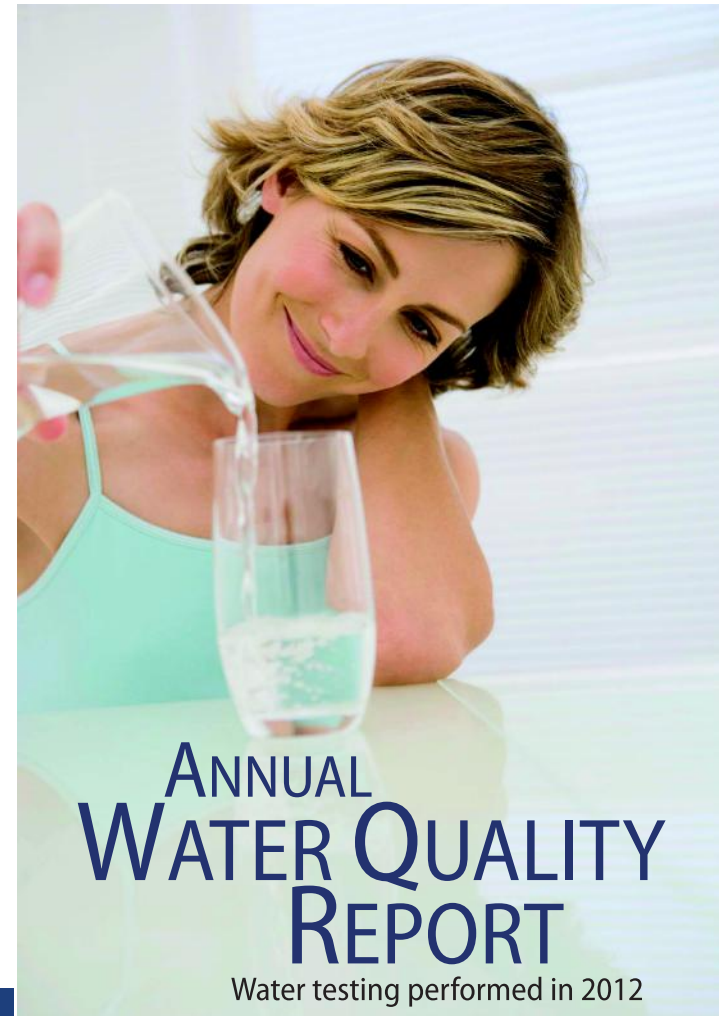
*Este reporte contiene información importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable durante el año civil 2012. Si usted no comprende esta información, por favor pida a alguien que se la traduzca o comuníquese con Lisset Cardenas al teléfono (626) 300-3384.*

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The regular meetings of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors are held every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Board's Hearing Room located 500 West Temple Street, Room 381B, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in Los Angeles. On Tuesdays following a Monday holiday, the meetings begin at 1:00 p.m.

For questions or comments regarding water quality or this report, please contact Mr. Timothy Chen at (626) 300-3342. To view this report on the internet, please visit our website at [www.lacwaterworks.org](http://www.lacwaterworks.org).

# Waterworks District No. 37, Acton





## DRINKING WATER & YOUR 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). 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.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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, some elderly, 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).

## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

In addition to protecting the quality of water delivered to you, we also promote and implement water conservation programs for the Districts' customers. For tips on how to conserve water and to learn more about the programs we offer, visit [www.lacwaterworks.org](http://www.lacwaterworks.org) or contact Rea Gonzalez at (626) 300-3338. We can all take these simple steps to conserve water:

### Indoor:

- Fix indoor faucet and toilet leaks. Just a drip can waste more than 10,000 gallons per month.
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth or shave.
- Take shorter showers and install a water efficient showerhead.
- Wash only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine.

### Outdoor:

- Water according to current weather and season.
- Adjust your sprinkler heads so they water the yard, not the sidewalk or street.
- Landscape your yard and garden with California native and drought-tolerant plants. These plants are accustomed to local weather and soil conditions and thrive with little summer watering. Using them not only saves water, but saves maintenance time and produces a habitat for native birds, beneficial insects and wildlife. The best time to plant native plants is between October and May each year.



## LEAD & COPPER

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. The 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

# PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	MCL [MRDL]	PHG [MCLG]	GROUNDWATER			AVEK/PWD DETECTED LEVEL (2012)	TYPICAL SOURCE
			YEAR SAMPLED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE LEVEL		
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	2010-11	2.07 - 2.78	2.40	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	1	2	2010-11	112 - 171	138	ND	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine** (ppm)	[4.0] as Cl <sub>2</sub>	MRDLG = 4 as Cl <sub>2</sub>	2012	0.91 - 1.22	1.09	N/A	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	0	2005	ND - 0.60	0.24	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2.0	1	2010-11	0.23 - 0.33	0.28	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	45	45	2012	18.3 - 37.9	28.9	ND	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	15	[0]	2005-06	2.82 - 4.16	3.48	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids** [HAA5] (ppb)	60	N/A	2012	ND - 2	1	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	2005	ND - 0.66	0.34	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes** [TTHMs] (ppb)	80	N/A	2012	ND - 6	3	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

## LEAD AND COPPER

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG	90TH% LEVEL	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2011	1.3	0.3	0.537	0/22	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2011	15	0.2	ND	1/22	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system; discharge from industrial manufactures; erosion of natural deposits

## SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	MCL [MRDL]	PHG [MCLG]	GROUNDWATER			AVEK/PWD DETECTED LEVEL (2012)	TYPICAL SOURCE
			YEAR SAMPLED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE LEVEL		
Chloride (ppm)	500	N/A	2010-11	35 - 100	68	120	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color** (units)	15	N/A	2012	0	0	<5	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor** (TON)	3	N/A	2012	0	0	<1	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1600	N/A	2010-11	478 - 852	684	560	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	500	N/A	2010-11	46 - 72	60	31	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1000	N/A	2010-11	324 - 552	433	300	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity** (NTU)	5	N/A	2012	ND - 0.33	0.04	0.03	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	5.0	N/A	2010-11	ND	ND	0.41	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

## OTHER PARAMETERS

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	GROUNDWATER		AVEK/PWD DETECTED LEVEL (2012)
		RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE LEVEL	
Bicarbonate Alkalinity (ppm)	2010-11	137 - 179	157	86
Calcium (ppm)	2010-11	64.1 - 96	76.1	21.8
Hardness (ppm)	2010-11	220 - 345	262	110
Hydroxide Alkalinity (ppm)	2010-11	ND	ND	ND
Magnesium (ppm)	2010-11	12.6 - 26	17.7	13.0
pH** (Units)	2012	6.33 - 7.73	7.17	N/A
Potassium (ppm)	2010-11	2.2 - 3.1	2.6	3.2
Sodium (ppm)	2010-11	24.3 - 51.9	37.4	63
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2010-11	154 - 179	167	70

## SAMPLING RESULTS

During the past year, your water is tested for chemical, physical, radiological and bacteriological parameters. We also test for additional organic and inorganic chemicals that are not regulated. The tables included in this report list all the substances that were detected. The presence of these substances in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table are from the testing performed last year. The State allows us to monitor 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.

## NITRATE

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 advice from your health care provider.

# Table Definitions

**90th Percentile:** Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

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

**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 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.

**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.

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

**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.

**µS/cm:** MicroSiemens per centimeter

**N/A:** Not applicable

**ND:** Non-detect

**NL:** Notification level

**NTU:** Nephelometric turbidity unit

**pCi/L:** PicoCuries per liter

**ppb:** parts per billion (micrograms per liter)

**ppm:** parts per million (milligrams per liter)

**TON:** Threshold Odor Number

\*\* HAA5, chlorine, TTHMs, color, odor, turbidity and pH were measured within the distribution system

