

THE SANTA CLARITA 2012 Water Quality Report

The Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) and local water retailers (CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division, Los Angeles County Waterworks District #36, Newhall County Water District, and Valencia Water Company) continuously work to ensure you and your neighbors have a reliable and high quality water supply at a reasonable price. The California Department of Public Health requires water agencies to publish and mail to all customers an annual report to provide background on the quality of your water and to show how it meets federal and state drinking water standards.

This 2012 Annual Water Quality Report describes in detail the quality of local water supplies in the Santa Clarita Valley during 2011 when we continued to meet all of the drinking water quality standards. You will find further explanation of the requirements and test results in the accompanying pages.

Water conservation is a collaborative effort between CLWA, the local water retailers and their customers. This year has been relatively dry thus far; however, at this time, the Santa Clarita Valley's water supply remains sufficient to meet residents' needs in 2012 due to proactive water resource planning, ongoing conservation efforts and plentiful rainfall experienced in the previous two years that resulted in adequate water storage this year.

This year's dry weather should remind residents of the need to continue to conserve water inside and outside to ensure that the Santa Clarita Valley will be ready when the next extended drought occurs. Remember to use all of the resources offered by CLWA and your local water retailer (and others) to help you use water more efficiently.

To help residents use water efficiently, we continue to offer a series of programs to encourage residents and businesses to carry on their conservation efforts. These programs include our popular residential program for free weather-based irrigation controllers (which includes free instructional classes on their use). We also offer commercial customers rebates for weather-based irrigation controllers.

Residential and business customers are encouraged to check out the Santa Clarita Valley Family of Water Suppliers' gardening website www.santaclaritagardens.com. This website is a useful resource for both novice and experienced gardeners to help them make their landscaping more water efficient by viewing other successful water-efficient gardens and providing detailed information on the best plants to use. If you want to see good examples of water efficient landscapes in person, the CLWA Conservatory Garden at the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant remains open and we continue to offer free monthly Santa Clarita Valley-Friendly Gardening classes at our facilities.

Visit CLWA or your retailer's website for simple water conservation tips and available conservation programs.

If you have any questions about this report or water quality, please contact either CLWA or your water retailer, whose contact information is supplied at the end of this report.

Sincerely,

Dan Masnada / General Manager / Castaic Lake Water Agency
Website: www.clwa.org

Mauricio Guardado / Retail Manager / CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division
Website: www.scwater.org

Adam Ariki / District Engineer / Los Angeles County Waterworks District #36
Website: www.lacwaterworks.org

Steve Cole / General Manager / Newhall County Water District
Website: www.ncwd.org

Keith Abercrombie / General Manager / Valencia Water Company
Website: www.valenciawater.com

NOTE: All of the test results in this report were obtained in 2011 unless noted otherwise. If you do not find a chemical listed in this report, it was not found in any test performed on local water. Your local water supplier is in compliance with all drinking water regulations unless a specific violation is noted.





Castaic Lake Water Agency



CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division



Newhall County Water District



Valencia Water Company



LA County Department of Public Works

Save Water on Your Landscaping: BE PART of the H₂O SOLUTION

Santa Clarita is growing water-wise this summer! Residents are raising the bar in their effort to use water more efficiently. During the months of March and April, Castaic Lake Water Agency received dozens of great solutions from residents on how they plan to save water in their neighborhoods as the temperatures begin to climb.

Ideas ranged from fixing leaky faucets and taking shorter showers, and they also shared innovative ideas for their landscaping. Since almost 70% of all water is used outside the home on average, it's important to highlight some great outdoor water-saving ideas.

Although the initial conservation contest is over, residents are still encouraged to visit www.MyH2OSolutions.org throughout the year to see the community's latest water-saving tips and find out how to earn free water-efficient products for their home or office.

In addition, more great information about how to obtain a FREE water-based irrigation controller can be found at <http://www.clwa.org>. Also, be sure to visit <http://www.santaclaritagardens.com> for a complete list of SCV friendly plants, residents are being encouraged to bookmark it and make sure it's handy for their next trip to the nursery.



"I planted 2-3 flats of Gazania plants, and I barely ever water them. These plants have orange, purple, yellow or red flowers depending on the type you buy. They're gorgeous, hardy and don't need much water. They don't have thorns that can hurt your children or pets and they are inexpensive, too."
- Becky, Valencia

"If everyone in the Valley had a weather-based irrigation controller, we would significantly control our community's water use. How many times have we seen sprinklers going in the rain causing water to run all over the sidewalks? Check your sprinklers so they are efficient and not washing cars as they drive down the road."
- Mae, Newhall

"Rocks provide both beauty and water saving benefits and have become a major element in all areas of our landscaping. In our planters we have replaced thirsty ground cover with beautiful golden gravel that holds moisture in the soil while discouraging weeds. In our cactus garden, giant boulders provide a structural counterpoint to a wide variety of drought tolerant cacti and succulents. The capstone is our Southwestern meditation garden. We completely removed the lawn and sprinkler system, replacing it with three carefully selected and placed rocks and five golden barrel cacti, which are hand-watered as needed."
- Jeff, Canyon Country

Castaic Lake Water Agency

Jeff Koelewyn | 661-297-1600 x223

E-mail: jkoewyn@clwa.org | Website: www.clwa.org

The Castaic Lake Water Agency is governed by a Board of Directors that meets at 6:15 pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the Rio Vista Administration Building 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road.

CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division

Cathy Hollomon | 661-259-2737

E-mail: chollomon@scwater.org | Website: www.scmwater.org

The Santa Clarita Water Division is a division of the CLWA. The CLWA Retail Operations Committee meets at 6:30 pm on the first Monday of each month at the SCWD office, 26521 Summit Circle.

Newhall County Water District

Ryan Bye | 661-259-3610 x216

E-mail: rbye@ncwd.org | Website: www.ncwd.org

The Newhall County Water District is governed by a Board of Directors that meets at 6:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month at 23780 North Pine Street, Newhall, CA 91321

Valencia Water Company

James Saenz | 661-294-0828

E-mail: jsaenz@valenciawater.com | Website: www.valenciawater.com

The Valencia Water Company is a public water utility regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission. The office is located at 24631 Avenue Rockefeller.

Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36

Timothy Chen | 626-300-3342

E-mail: tchen@dpw.lacounty.gov | Website: www.lacwaterworks.org

Waterworks District No. 36 is governed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors that meets every Tuesday at 9:30 am at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street Room 381B, Los Angeles.

On Tuesdays following a Monday holiday, the meetings begin at 1:00 pm.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

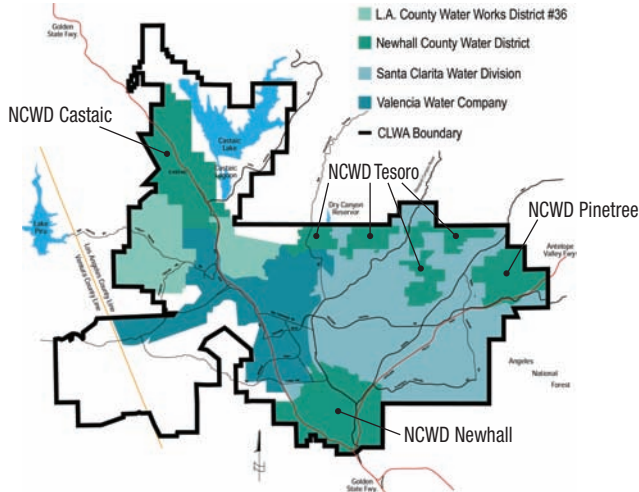
Si usted quisiera el texto en español para este reporte, comuníquese con Majid Langroodi al al número de teléfono 661-297-1600 x223.



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THE SANTA CLARITA 2012 Water Quality Report

CLWA PROVIDES WATER TO LOCAL PURVEYORS



CLWA receives and treats surface water from the SWP and other imported sources. The SWP consists of facilities operated by the California Department of Water Resources to transmit water to SWP contractors for agricultural or urban supply uses. CLWA operates two water treatment plants, the Earl Schmidt Filtration Plant in Castaic and the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant in Saugus. The valley's four water purveyors distribute the treated imported water along with groundwater from the Alluvial Aquifer and the Saugus Formation. Water quality information for your area is presented in the table contained in this report.

CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division provides water to a portion of the City of Santa Clarita and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County including Saugus, Canyon Country and Newhall. Customers received approximately 60% imported water and 40% local groundwater in 2011.

Los Angeles County Waterworks District #36 serves customers located in Hasley Canyon and Val Verde. Customers received 100% imported water in 2011.

Newhall County Water District serves customers located in the Castaic, Newhall, Pinetree and Tesoro del Valle areas. In 2011, Castaic customers received 18% imported water and 82% local groundwater, Newhall customers received 1% imported water and 99% local groundwater and Pinetree customers received 30% imported water and 70% local groundwater. Tesoro del Valle customers received 100% imported water.

Valencia Water Company supplies water to customers in Valencia, Stevenson Ranch, and parts of Castaic, Saugus, and Newhall. In 2011, customers received 48% imported water and 51% local groundwater and 1% recycled water was delivered to large landscape customers.

CHEMICALS IN THE NEWS - PERCHLORATE

Perchlorate is an inorganic chemical used in solid rocket propellant, fireworks, explosives and a variety of industries. It usually gets into drinking water as a result of environmental contamination from historic industrial operations that used, stored, or disposed of perchlorate and its salts. Perchlorate has been shown to interfere with uptake of iodide by the thyroid gland, and to thereby reduce the production of thyroid hormones, leading to adverse effects associated with inadequate hormone levels.

WATER QUALITY DEFINITIONS

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the California Department of Public Health (DPH) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. USEPA, DPH and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) set goals and legal standards for the quality of drinking water. These standards are intended to protect consumers from contaminants in drinking water. Most of the standards are based on the concentration of contaminants, but a few are based on a Treatment Technique (TT) that are required processes intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. 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 1-800-426-4791.

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 and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

When a contaminant is regulated based on concentration, there are three levels that are listed:

- 1) **The Detection Limit for Report (DLR)** is the smallest concentration of a contaminant that can be measured and reported. DLRs are set by the DPH (same as MRL, Minimum Reporting Level, set by USEPA).
- 2) **The Public Health Goal (PHG)** or Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by Cal EPA. MCLGs are set by the USEPA.
- 3) **The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**, occurs at two levels: A Primary MCL is 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.

Additional Definitions:

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

Notification Levels (NL): are state guidelines developed by DPH that address the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers public notification.

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.

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

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

CLWA uses ozone and chloramines to disinfect its water. Disinfection By-Products (DBPs), which include Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), are generated by the interaction between naturally occurring organic matter and disinfectants such as chlorine and ozone. THMs and HAA5 are measured at several points in each system and averaged once per quarter and reported as a running annual average.

Ozone is a very powerful disinfectant that not only kills organisms that no other disinfectant can but also destroys organic chemicals that cause unpleasant tastes and odors.

RADIOLOGICAL TESTS

Radioactive compounds can be found in both ground and surface waters, and can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. Testing is conducted for two types of radioactivity: alpha and beta. If none is detected at concentrations above five picoCuries per liter, no further testing is required. If it is detected, the water must be checked for uranium and radium.

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MICROBIOLOGICAL

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

The most important microbiological drinking water tests are for bacteria. Water is tested throughout the systems weekly for total coliform bacteria. The MCL for total coliforms is 5% of all monthly tests showing positives for larger systems. The presence of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) indicates fecal contamination of waters. No *E. coli* was detected in any drinking waters in the SCV last year.

Additional tests did not detect water-borne parasites *cryptosporidium parvum* and *giardia lamblia* in any sample of Castaic Lake water.

METALS AND SALTS

Metals and salts are tested in groundwater once every three years and in Castaic Lake water every month. Small quantities of naturally occurring arsenic are found in Castaic Lake and in groundwater wells. These are present due to the natural erosion of the rocks that water travels over or through. Inorganic compounds such as salts and metals can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

A number of naturally occurring salts are found in both surface and well water. These include chloride, fluoride, nitrate, nitrite, calcium, magnesium, potassium and sodium. Taken together they are called Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). Calcium and magnesium together are called "hardness" and can deposit as scale.

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.

LEAD AND COPPER

Every three years, local water retailers are required to sample for lead and copper at specific consumer taps. The results for lead and copper are reported as the 90th percentile, which is the result that is greater than 90% of all the results. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. 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. CLWA and the retailers are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in drinking water plumbing components. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you can 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and/or flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems. Organic compounds also include pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses. Water is tested for two types of organic compounds, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and non-volatile synthetic organic compounds (SOGs). These organic compounds are synthetic chemicals produced from industrial and agricultural uses. Castaic Lake and local wells are tested at least annually for VOCs.

Trichloroethylene (TCE) and Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) were found in trace levels (below the MCL in groundwater in the SCV). Consumption of water containing trichloroethylene or tetrachloroethylene in excess of the MCL over many years may lead to liver problems and an increased risk of cancer.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION

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 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.
- **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, which 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.

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

As part of DPH requirements, the valley's retailers conducted a Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) study for all of their groundwater sources. This study enables DPH and water utilities to collect information about each drinking water source and surrounding residential, commercial and industrial activities. It was completed and provided to DPH in 2002. Source assessments are also completed for each new well placed into service. As part of the program, "surrounding activities," which include schools, medical offices, gas stations and various other facilities around each water source, are categorized and ranked as "possible contaminating activities." Gas stations, auto shops and dry cleaners may have contributed to trace levels of tetrachloroethylene (PCE).

In addition, a known perchlorate contaminant plume has been identified and several wells have tested positive for perchlorate. In October 2007, DPH adopted an MCL of 6 ug/L for this contaminant. Prior to October 2007, a PHG of 6 ug/L and a notification level (NL) of 6 ug/L were established by the Office of Health Hazard Assessment and the DPH, respectively. Although the California Department of Public Health issued an amendment to CLWA's Domestic Water Supply Permit on December 30, 2010, authorizing the use of the perchlorate-treatment facility, CLWA did not introduce the treated water into the distribution system until January 25, 2011, in full compliance with the requirements of its amended water-supply permit.

In 2011, all of the surface water supplied to the valley was provided by or delivered through the SWP via Castaic Lake. The Department of Water Resources produces a watershed sanitary survey (WSS) of the SWP watersheds every five years. The last survey was published in 2006. A DWSAP study for Castaic Lake was completed in 2003. The WSS and the DWSAP study found that Castaic Lake supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to recreational activities, boating, traffic accidents and spills, grazing livestock, roosting gulls and fires.

Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Classes
23 Classes Available

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