

# Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley, Regions 4 & 34



## 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 2013, 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 2013. 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. Ahmet Tatilioglu at (626) 300-3354. To view this report on the internet, please visit our website at [www.lacwaterworks.org](http://www.lacwaterworks.org).



## ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water testing performed in 2013

# LACWD



LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICTS

## SOURCES OF WATER

During 2013, approximately 62 percent of the water served by the District was treated surface water and the remaining 38 percent was groundwater extracted from District wells. The District purchases its treated surface water from the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK). AVEK gets its water from the Sacramento River/San Joaquin Delta via the State Water Project.

The water from AVEK is treated at their Quartz Hill Water Treatment Plant. The treatment plant receives water by gravity from the State Water Project. Screening and metering are provided at the head of the plant, followed by treatment: chemical addition, flash mixing, tapered energy flocculation, clarification utilizing traveling bridges for sediment removal, and dual media filters. Chlorine is added during the final step to keep the water safe as it travels to your tap. The plant is capable of producing 65 million gallons per day, enough to serve the needs of 280,000 people. The District groundwater is also disinfected with chlorine for the same reason.

The California Department of Public Health updated the source water assessment in 2006 for the State Water Project, AVEK'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 March 2010. The wells in the Lancaster and Desert View Highlands areas are considered vulnerable to various contaminating activities including the following; dry cleaners, high density housing, sewer collection/septic systems, agriculture, automobile gas stations/repair and body shops, chemical processing/storage, above ground storage tanks, and other commercial/industrial activities. 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 by phone at (818) 551-2004.



## 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	
			YEAR SAMPLED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE LEVEL	DETECTED LEVEL (2013)	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	2010 - 13	ND	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ppm)	10	0.004	2010 - 13	ND - 9.85	1.77	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Chlorine** (ppm)	[4.0] as Cl <sub>2</sub>	MRDLG = 4 as Cl <sub>2</sub>	2013	0.13 - 1.88	0.92	N/A	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Chromium (ppb)	50	[100]	2010 - 13	ND - 17.3	6.6	ND	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria [Total Coliform Rule] (% positive samples)	More than 5.0% of monthly samples are positive	0	2013	1.3% was the highest percentage found in any month, range 0 - 1.3%		0	Naturally present in the environment
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	0	2005 - 13	ND - 3.47	0.35	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	2010 - 13	0.11 - 0.94	0.39	0.11	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	15	[0]	2005 - 13	ND - 5.75	2.09	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	50	[0]	2009 - 13	ND - 1.84	1	N/A	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Haloacetic Acids** [HAA5] (ppb)	60	N/A	2013	1.2 - 14.8	10.8	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	45	45	2013	ND - 24.4	7.37	4.2	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes** [TTHMs] (ppb)	80	N/A	2013	9.8 - 70.2	59	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	2005 - 13	ND - 6.47	2.01	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

# SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	MCL [MRDL]	PHG [MCLG]	GROUNDWATER			AVEK	
			YEAR SAMPLED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE LEVEL	DETECTED LEVEL (2013)	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	200	0.6	2010 - 13	ND	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	500	N/A	2010 - 13	2.5 - 124	30	93	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color** (units)	15	N/A	2013	0	0	<5	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	300	100	2010 - 13	ND - 1080	113	ND	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	50	N/A	2010 - 13	ND - 76.3	1	ND	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor** (TON)	3	N/A	2013	0.00	0	<1	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1600	N/A	2010 - 13	196 - 1100	498	533	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	500	N/A	2010 - 13	11.8 - 316	50	72	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1000	N/A	2010 - 13	126 - 740	315	330	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity** (NTU)	5	N/A	2013	ND - 3.67	0.04	0.05	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	5	N/A	2010 - 13	ND	ND	0.51	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

## OTHER PARAMETERS

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	GROUNDWATER			AVEK/PWD DETECTED LEVEL (2013)
	YEAR SAMPLED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE LEVEL	
Bicarbonate Alkalinity (ppm)	2010-13	ND - 215	98	77
Calcium (ppm)	2010-13	ND - 244	30	26.6
Carbonate Alkalinity (ppm)	2010-13	ND - 88	4.9	ND
Hardness (ppm)	2010-13	ND - 435	91	106
Magnesium (ppm)	2010-13	ND - 126	7.7	9.6
pH** (units)	2013	6.2 - 8.8	7	N/A
Potassium (ppm)	2010-12	ND - 2.95	1.1	N/A
Sodium (ppm)	2010-13	16.7 - 142	53	72
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2010-13	62 - 215	115	63

### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE 3 (UCMR 3)

UCMR - As part of the 1996 Amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the USEPA requires utilities to sample for emerging contaminants as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). Every five (5) years the USEPA prepares a list of unregulated contaminants for utilities to analyze. UCMR results are then used to assist the development of future drinking water regulations. Last year, water utilities completed round three (3) of the UCMR. For more information please contact your local water retailer or visit the USEPA website <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ucmr/ucmr3/>

## 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 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

## 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)	2013	1.3	0.3	0.43	0/61	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2013	15	0.2	ND	0/61	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system; discharge from industrial manufactures; erosion of natural deposits



## ARSENIC

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.

The arsenic concentrations listed in the report table include test samples collected from wells that are not a part of an arsenic blending plan and also from arsenic blending compliance points. The District blends groundwater from high arsenic wells with groundwater from lower arsenic wells and/or surface water from AVEK. In 2013, all test samples collected from the arsenic compliance locations, or entry points to the system, were below the MCL of 10 ppb. The arsenic range for the wells used in the blending plans is ND to 71 ppb.

## 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.