

# THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY 2014 Water Quality Report

# 2014



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 the entire community has a reliable, high quality water supply at a reasonable price. The California Department of Public Health requires water utilities to publish an annual report to all customers, providing detailed information on the quality of the water served and how each utility complies with both federal and state drinking water standards.

This 2014 Annual Water Quality Report describes in detail the quality of local water supplies in the Santa Clarita Valley (SCV) during 2013 when we continued to meet all drinking water quality standards. You will find further explanation of the requirements and test results in the accompanying pages.

Water quality is just one component of the total value of water. In order to have a reliable supply, water must be extracted from local groundwater aquifers or imported and treated to drinking water standards. This requires substantial infrastructure and dedicated professionals to bring water from its source to the tap.

From July 2011 through June 2014 the SCV has received just under 24 inches of rain during this 3-year period. This might not sound too bad, but the region normally averages nearly 18 inches of rain annually—and these last few years have been among the driest of the entire historical record. This record low local rainfall has stressed our groundwater supplies and increased demand for imported water. Unfortunately, the part of the state that supplies our imported water has also been suffering through record dry conditions.

These consecutive dry years have taken a toll; however, at this time, the Santa Clarita Valley's water supply remains sufficient to meet residents' needs in 2014. This is due to proactive water resource planning and ongoing conservation efforts. Thanks to ongoing monitoring and treatment, all of our water will continue to meet drinking water standards. However, our continued supply is dependent on our customers recognizing the magnitude of the drought and conserving to reduce at least 20 percent of their normal demand.

In addition to preserving our supplies, conservation is an effective way to keep the cost of water affordable. When supplies are limited, the cost of acquiring additional supplies is very high, as evidenced by a great many other drought-stricken regions that are willing to pay a premium price to augment their own supplies. To keep costs low, and to help residents use water efficiently, the SCV Family of Water Suppliers (composed of CLWA, the City of Santa Clarita and SCV's water retailers) continue to offer a series of programs to encourage residents and businesses to expand their conservation efforts. These programs include our

popular residential programs for free weather-based irrigation controllers and high efficiency clothes washers for which information can be found at [www.scvh2oprogams.com](http://www.scvh2oprogams.com). We also offer commercial customers rebates for weather-based irrigation controllers and landscape modifications. We will soon offer rebates for customers to remove their turf and replace it with something that makes much more sense in our semi-arid climate and soil conditions.

Residential and business customers are encouraged to check out the Santa Clarita Valley Family of Water Suppliers' gardening website [www.santaclaritagardens.com](http://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 is open to the public 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,*

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Website: [www.clwa.org](http://www.clwa.org)

**Mauricio E. Guardado Jr.** / Retail Manager / SCWD  
Website: [www.scwater.org](http://www.scwater.org)

**Adam Ariki** / District Engineer / Los Angeles County Waterworks District #36  
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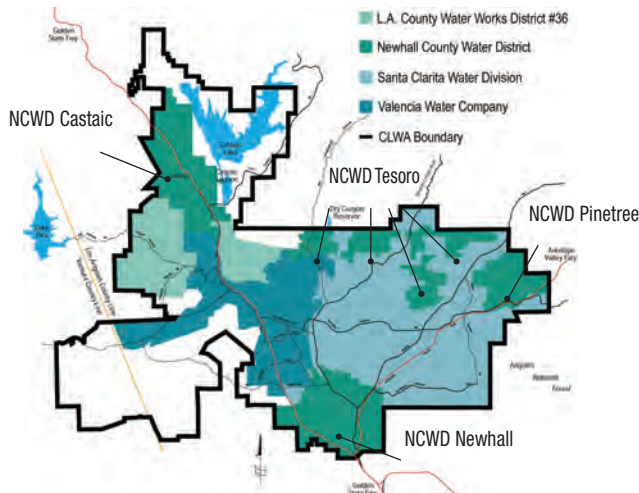
**Steve Cole** / General Manager / NCWD  
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*NOTE: All of the test results in this report were run in 2013 unless noted otherwise. If you do not find a chemical listed in this report, it was not found in any test performed on local water. Your local water supplier is in compliance with all drinking water regulations unless a specific violation is noted.*

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## CLWA PROVIDES WATER TO LOCAL RETAILERS



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 retailers 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 68% imported water and 32% local groundwater in 2013.

**Los Angeles County Waterworks District #36** serves customers located in Hasley Canyon and Val Verde. Customers received 37% imported water and 63% local water in 2013.

**Newhall County Water District** serves customers located in the Castaic, Newhall, Pinetree and Tesoro del Valle areas. In 2013, Castaic customers received 47% imported water and 53% local groundwater, Newhall customers received 21% imported water and 79% local groundwater and Pinetree customers received 79% imported water and 21% 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 2013, customers received 57% imported water and 42% 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 thereby reduce the production of thyroid hormones leading to adverse effects associated with inadequate hormone levels.

A known perchlorate contaminant plume has been identified and several wells have tested positive for perchlorate. In October 2007, the California Department of Public Health (DPH) adopted an MCL of 6 ug/L for this contaminant. DPH issued an amendment to CLWA's Domestic Water Supply Permit on December 30, 2010, authorizing the use of the perchlorate-treatment facility, and, on January 25, 2011, CLWA introduced the treated water into the distribution system in full compliance with the requirements of its amended water-supply permit.

## 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.

## WATER QUALITY DEFINITIONS

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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 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.

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. The USEPA and Centers for Disease Control provide guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbial contaminants and 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 Purposes of Reporting (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 public notification.

**Notification Levels (NL)** 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 HAAs are measured at multiple locations in each system. Each location is averaged once per quarter and reported as a running average by location.

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.

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE

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/>

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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 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 woman 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. This means no more than 10 percent of samples collected can be above either action level. Infants, young children and pregnant women are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population and, if present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems for them. 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 in your home's water, you can have your water tested by a private laboratory/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) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## 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 (SOCs). 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 TCE or PCE 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 include tap water, 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.

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.

An assessment of the drinking water source(s) for the valley's retailer's groundwater sources was completed in 2002. Source assessments are also completed for each new well placed into service by the valley's retailers. The groundwater source(s) are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: schools, medical offices, gas stations, auto shops, dry cleaners and various other facilities around each water source. A copy of the complete 2002 assessment is available at the DPH District Office located at 500 North Central Avenue Suite 500, Glendale CA 91203, or your local water retailer whose contact information is included in this report. You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting the DPH District Engineer at (818) 551-2004 or by contacting your local water retailer.





Castaic Lake Water Agency



CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division



Newhall County Water District



Valencia Water Company



LA County Department of Public Works

Immediate 20% Reduction in Water Use Urged

# WHAT DOES A 20% REDUCTION in water use look like?



## AVERAGE DAILY USE

The average Santa Clarita resident uses 220 gallons of water per day. Here are some easy ways to reduce water use. Find the right combination for you to reduce by 20% or 44 gallons a day.



INSTALL A "SMART" CONTROLLER  
*saves*  
**24+ GALLONS**  
per day



INSTALL A HIGH-EFFICIENCY WASHING MACHINE (WATER FACTOR OF 4.0 OR LESS)  
*saves*  
**10-20 GALLONS**  
per load



INSTALL DRIP-IRRIGATION  
*saves*  
**15 GALLONS**  
each time you water



INSTALL AERATORS ON BATHROOM FAUCETS  
*saves*  
**1.2 GALLONS**  
per person/day



ADJUST SPRINKLER TO WATER PLANTS, NOT DRIVEWAY  
*saves*  
**12-15 GALLONS**  
each time you water



INSTALL A HIGH-EFFICIENCY TOILET (1.28 GALLON/FLUSH)  
*saves*  
**19 GALLONS**  
per person/day



REDUCE WATERING TIMES AND WATER BETWEEN 2 A.M. AND 6 A.M.  
*saves*  
**25 GALLONS**  
each time you water



TAKE FIVE MINUTE SHOWERS INSTEAD OF 10 MINUTE SHOWERS  
*saves*  
**12.5 GALLONS**  
with a water efficient showerhead

For more tips on reducing water use, visit [saveourH2O.org](http://saveourH2O.org)!



Graphics created by ACWA

### Castaic Lake Water Agency

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

### CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division

Cathy Hollomon | 661-259-2737

E-mail: [chollomon@scwater.org](mailto:chollomon@scwater.org) | Website: [www.scwater.org](http://www.scwater.org)

The Santa Clarita Water Division is a division of the CLWA. The CLWA Retail Operations Committee meets at 5:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the SCWD office, 26521 Summit Circle.

### Newhall County Water District

Michael Alvord

Director of Operations | 661-259-3610

E-mail: [malvord@ncwd.org](mailto:malvord@ncwd.org) | Website: [www.ncwd.org](http://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

Saba Saeed

Water Quality Supervisor | 661-295-6579

E-mail: [SSaeed@valenciawater.com](mailto:SSaeed@valenciawater.com) | Website: [www.valenciawater.com](http://www.valenciawater.com)

The Valencia Water Company is a private corporation whose stock is owned by the Castaic Lake Water Agency. The office is located at 24631 Avenue Rockefeller.

### Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36

Ahmet Tatliioglu, P.E.

County of Los Angeles/ Waterworks Division | 1-626-300-3354

E-mail: [atatliioglu@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:atatliioglu@dpw.lacounty.gov) | Website: [www.lacwaterworks.org](http://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 Jeff Koelewyn al al número de teléfono 661-297-1600 x223.



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