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 2004 water quality testing, and has been prepared in compliance with new 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 and changed the report’s due date to July 1.

USEPA and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) are the agencies responsible for establishing drinking water quality standards. To ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and CDHS prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDHS 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 City of San Clemente 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, your local utility 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.

If you have any questions about your water, please contact us for answers...

For information about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact Andrew J. Howard, Utilities Manager, at (949) 366-1553. The San Clemente City Council meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the City Council Chambers, located at 100 Ave. Presidio in the City of San Clemente. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

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.

For further information about the City, please visit our website: http://ci.san-clemente.ca.us
What You Need to Know About Your Water, and How it May Affect You

Sources of Supply

Your drinking water is a blend of surface water imported by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and ground water extracted from City wells located in the southern part of the City of San Clemente. The ground water represents 5 to 8 percent of the total water source. Metropolitan’s imported water sources are the Colorado River and the State Water Project, which draws water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin 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 and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the CDHS prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDHS 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 1-800-426-4791.

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, which did not detect it in the water, tested your surface water for Cryptosporidium in 2004. 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).

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.
**Disinfection and Disinfection Byproducts**

Disinfection of drinking water was one of the major public health advances in the 20th century. The primary goal of disinfection is to reduce microbial pathogens to a level that allows drinking water to be considered microbe-free. Chlorine disinfection has almost completely eliminated our fears of diseases transmitted through contaminated drinking water. Secondary disinfection is used to reduce trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs), which are suspected carcinogens. This purification process is necessary to balance the risks of microbial pathogens and DBPs, which may pose health risks to vulnerable populations. It is important to protect these from these microbial pathogens while simultaneously ensuring decreasing health risks from disinfection byproducts.

**Source Water Assessments**

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the USEPA to develop regulations to achieve these goals.

**Import (Metropolitan) Water Assessment**

In December 2004, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California completed its annual assessment for the River and State Project supplies. Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, or contamination, while State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildfire, agriculture, recreation, and contamination. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting Metropolitan by phone at (949) 366-1553.

**Groundwater Assessment**

The City of San Clemente Utilities Division completed an assessment of drinking water source for its water supply in October 2001. The two sources are considered to be vulnerable to the following Possible Contamination Activities (PCA) associated with some contaminants detected in the water supply. Monitoring wells are placed around Gibraltar area, on the bight, near the city, and in an area of deep sewage storage. The areas are protected from immediate contamination threats by the containment of the aquifer and the large depth of well performance at all times.

**City of San Clemente Groundwater Quality**

The table below lists the contaminant observations for the City of San Clemente. The table shows the data for the City of San Clemente for the year 2004. The table includes the following columns: Date samples tested, Date samples released, Violation, and Typical Source of Contaminant. A copy of the City of San Clemente’s Monitoring Plan is available for review.

**Source Water Parameters**

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**The Continuing Quality of Your Water Is Our Primary Concern**

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**Lead and Copper Action Levels at Residential Tap**

In 2004, the city's water quality report showed that there were no exceedances of the California Public Health Goals (CPHG) or Average Range of MCLs. The table shows the data for the City of San Clemente for the year 2004. The table includes the following columns: Date samples tested, Date samples released, Violation, and Typical Source of Contaminant. A copy of the City of San Clemente’s Monitoring Plan is available for review.

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