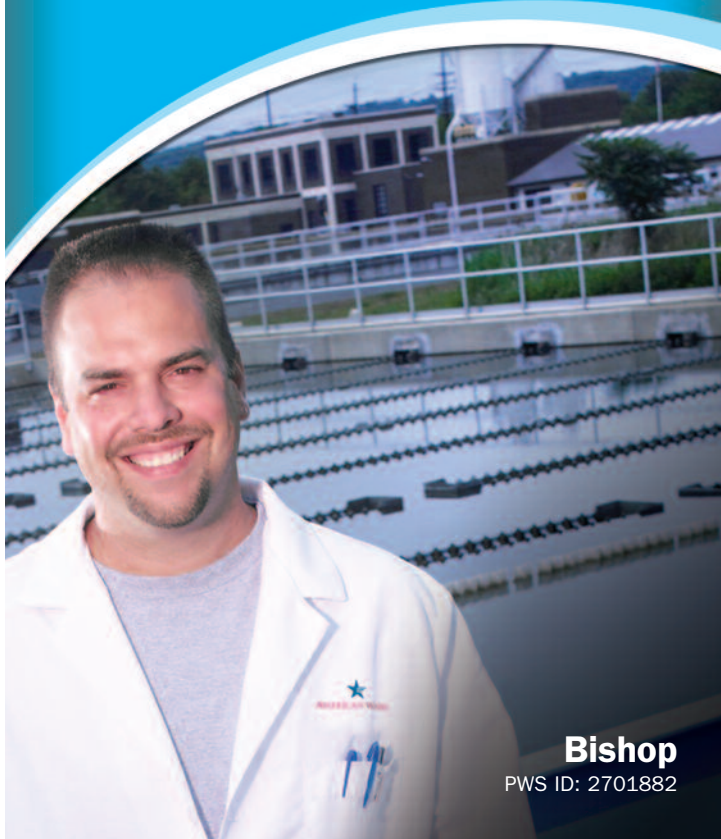


2008 Consumer Confidence Report



Bishop

PWS ID: 2701882

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

A Message from Robert G. MacLean, President

As a trusted leader in the industry, California American Water places a strong emphasis on sharing water quality information with our customers.

Please review this Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which outlines information applicable to your local water system for testing completed through December, 2008. You'll find that we provide water that surpasses or meets all Federal and State water quality regulations. In fact, we often address regulations well before they go into effect.

Just as important, California American Water makes the necessary investments to maintain and upgrade its facilities, so that we can deliver quality water directly to your tap 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Our customers are our top priority, and we are committed to providing them with the highest quality drinking water and service possible now and in the years to come. In addition to this written report, you can view information about California American Water and your water system on our website <http://www.calamwater.com>. For more information or for any questions about this report relating to your drinking water, please contact California American Water's Customer Service Center at (888) 237-1333.

Sincerely,

Robert G. MacLean

What is a Consumer Confidence Report?

To comply with State and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulations, California American Water issues a report annually describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect your drinking water sources. In 2008, we conducted tests for over 250 contaminants at numerous sampling points in your water system, all of which were below State and Federal maximum allowable levels. It includes details about where your water comes from and what it contains. This data presented in this report is a combination of data from our local water quality laboratory, our nationally recognized water quality lab, and commercial laboratories all certified in drinking water testing by the State Department of Public Health.

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call our California Customer Service Center at (888) 237-1333.

Continuing Our Commitment

Once again we proudly present our annual Consumer Confidence Report. This document covers testing completed through December, 2008. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs nearly 6,900 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 16.2 million people in 32 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

California American Water provides reliable, quality service to 500,000 people in 30 communities. California American Water, with the support of American Water, has the technical support of a global network and the local knowledge to provide the highest quality water with personal service.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact California American Water's customer service department at (888) 237-1333.

About Your Water

Bishop is served by groundwater sources from the Santa Margarita and Paso Robles Aquifers. Drinking water treatment technologies used in your water system include corrosion control and disinfection to ensure the bacteriological quality. The water supply is distributed for residential and commercial use.

Notice of Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the California American Water Bishop water system was completed in February 2003. No man-made contaminants have been detected in most of the groundwater supplies. The sources are considered vulnerable to the following activities: automobile-gas stations, high-density septic systems, and wastewater treatment plants.

A copy of the completed assessment may be viewed at: California American Water; 511 Forest Lodge Road, Suite 100, Pacific Grove, CA. You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting: Leslie Jordan, Water Quality Superintendent, 831-646-3258.

Share This Report

Landlords, businesses, schools, hospitals and other groups are encouraged to share this important water quality information with water users at their location who are not billed customers of California American Water and therefore do not receive this report directly.

Important Information About Your Drinking Water

Total Coliform MCL Violation

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants in the Bishop system. On June 6, 2008, we took routine/compliance and repeat distribution samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Two (2) of these samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one sample per month may show the presence of coliform bacteria.

What Should You Do?

You DO NOT need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What Does This Mean?

THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Usually, coliform are a sign that there could be a problem with our treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.

What Happened? What Was Done?

Coliforms were found during routine compliance monitoring and testing of the distribution system, in June 2008. Flushing of the distribution system in the area the bacteria was found was performed. Samples were collected for bacteriological analysis and all samples were negative for Total Coliforms. For more information, please contact the California American Water at (831) 646-3258.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

How to Contact Us

If you have any questions about this report, your drinking water, or service, please call California American Water Customer Service toll free: (888) 237-1333.

Water Information Sources

- **California American Water**
www.calamwater.com
- **California Department of Public Health**
http://www.cdph.ca.gov/
- **United States Environmental Protection Agency**
http://www.epa.gov/safewater/
- **Safe Drinking Water Hotline:** (800) 426-4791
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
www.cdc.gov
- **American Water Works Association**
www.awwa.org
- **Water Quality Association**
www.wqa.org
- **National Library of Medicine/
National Institute of Health**
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/drinkingwater

What Are the Sources of 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 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 byproducts 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 State 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 must provide the same protection for public health.

Educational Information – Special Health Information

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 (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. 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).

Notice of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCMR)

Testing was completed in 2003 for a list of contaminants specified by the USEPA. These results were reported directly to the USEPA. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the USEPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether regulation is warranted.

The results of this monitoring are incorporated in the data tables in this report as appropriate. For more information, contact our Customer Service Center at (888) 237-1333.

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the United States. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program or call the USEPA's Radon Hotline (1-800 SOS-RADON) or 1-800-767-7236.

How to Read This Table

California American Water conducts extensive monitoring to ensure that your water meets all water quality standards. The results of our monitoring are reported in the following tables. While most monitoring was conducted in 2008, certain substances are monitored less than once per year because the levels do not change frequently. For help with interpreting this table, see the "Table Definitions" section.

Starting with a **Substance**, read across. **Year Sampled** is usually in 2008 or year prior. **MCL** shows the highest level of substance (contaminant) allowed. **MCLG** is the goal level for that substance (this may be lower than what is allowed). **Average Amount Detected** represents the measured amount (less is better). **Range** tells the highest and lowest amounts measured. A **No** under **Violation** indicates government requirements were met. **Major Sources in Drinking Water** tells where the substance usually originates.

Unregulated substances are measured, but maximum allowed contaminant levels have not been established by the government.

Definitions of Terms Used in This Report

- **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
- **MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (MCLGs) as feasible using the best available treatment technology is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCL) are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.
- **MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety and are set by the USEPA.
- **MFL:** Million fibers per liter
- **MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The level of disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap. (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)
- **MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the USEPA.
- **NA:** Not applicable
- **ND:** Not detected
- **NS:** No standard
- **NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of the water.
- **pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).
- **pH:** A measurement of acidity, 7.0 being neutral.
- **PHG (Public Health Goal):** 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 EPA.
- **ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water or milligrams per liter.
- **ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water, or micrograms per liter.
- **PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard):** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- **TON:** Threshold Odor Number
- **Total Dissolved Solids (TDS):** An overall indicator of the amount of minerals in water.
- **TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Variations and Exemptions:** State or USEPA permission not to meet an MCL or utilize a treatment technique under certain conditions.
- **µmhos/cm (micromhos per centimeter):** A measure of electrical conductance.
- **%:** means percent

Water Quality Statement

California American Water vigilantly safeguards its water supplies.

Water Quality Results

Bishop

Bacterial Results (from the Distribution System) ¹						
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Highest Percentage Detected	Violation	Typical Source
Total Coliform Bacteria	2008	MCL: (systems that collect > 40 samples/month) more than 5% of monthly samples are positive; (systems that collect < 40 samples/month), no more than 1 positive monthly sample	(0)	2 Positive samples (June)	Yes	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Regulated Substances (Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facility or within the Distribution System)							
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2005	15	(0)	2.99	2.95 - 3.03	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2005	5	(0)	< 1.0	< 1.0 - 1.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	2005	20	0.43	1.76	1.51 - 2.00	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb) ²	2008	50	0.4	10	10	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2008	1	2	0.05	0.050	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2008	2	1	0.50	0.50	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate as NO ₃ (ppm)	2008	45	45	2.2	2.2 - 5.8	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks and sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2008	50	(50)	20	20	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; Runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)

Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals, and Disinfection Byproducts Precursors							
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG)	Results	Range Low-High	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
THMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	2008	80	NA	4.0	4.0	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2008	60	NA	ND	ND	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Chlorine	2008	(4.0 as Cl ₂)	0.8	1.54	0.72 - 2.90	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

Secondary Substances (Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facility or within the Distribution System)							
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Results	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Chloride (ppm)	2008	500	NS	157	157	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Seawater influence
Manganese (ppb)	2008	50	NS	20	20	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (umhos/cm)	2008	1,600	NS	1100	1100	No	Substances that form ions when in water; Seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2008	500	NS	100	100	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2008	1000	NS	690	690	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2008	5	NS	0.59	0.59	No	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	2008	5.0	NS	0.110	0.110	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

Unregulated Substances (Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facility or within the Distribution System) Monitoring Formerly Required by Repealed Section 64450, Chapter 15, Title 22, California Code of Regulations ³				
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Action Level	Results	Range Low-High
Vanadium (ppb)	2003	50	4	4 - 4

Tap Water Samples: Lead and Copper Results (from the Distribution System)								
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Action Level	PHG (MCLG)	Number of Samples	Amount Detected at the 90th Percentile	Number of Homes Above Action Level	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2008	1.3	0.17	10	0.702	0	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2008	15	2	10	1	0	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing system; Discharges from industrial manufacturers; Erosion of natural deposits

¹ Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

² While your drinking water meets the USEPA 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 USEPA 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. Effective 01/23/2006, the Federal arsenic MCL is 0.010mg/L. A new state MCL has not yet been adopted and remains as 0.05mg/L (50ppb).

³ Results of monitoring under former section 64450 (UCMR) need only be included for 5 years from the date of the last sampling or until any of the detected contaminants becomes regulated and subject to routine monitoring requirements, whichever comes first. Section 64450 was repealed effective October 18, 2007. Monitoring results in 2008 were ND.

Additional Water Quality Parameters of Interest

This table shows average levels of additional water quality parameters, which are often of interest to consumers. Values shown here are averages of operating data through 2008. Values may vary from day to day. There are no health-based limits for these substances in drinking water.

Additional Constituents (Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facility or within the Distribution System)			
Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	Average Amount Detected	Range Low-High
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	2008	270	270
Calcium (ppm)	2008	81	81
Magnesium (ppm)	2008	24	24
pH	2008	7.50	6.8 - 8.2
Radon (pCi/L)	2007	396	311 - 443
Sodium (ppm)	2008	135	135
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	2008	308	300 - 320