

2008 Annual Consumer Confidence Report



Chualar
PWS ID: 2701202

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
Mahalaga ang impormasyong ito. Mangyaring ipasalin ito.

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 of California 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. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all State and Federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. 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 more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 15 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.

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.

About Your Water

Chualar is served entirely by groundwater sources from a local aquifer. Drinking water treatment technologies used in your water system include disinfection with sodium hypochlorite 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 Chualar water system was completed in February 2003. No man-made contaminants have been detected in the groundwater supplies. The sources are considered vulnerable to the following activities (not associated with any detected contaminants): automobile-gas stations.

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.

Our Water Research Efforts

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in the surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. People with severely weakened immune systems have a risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage such people to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Researchers with American Water have developed a new, more accurate test for Cryptosporidium in water.

For additional information regarding cryptosporidiosis and how it may affect those with weakened immune systems, please contact our Customer Service Center at (888) 237-1333 or speak to your health care provider.

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 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 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 USEPA 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. 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

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all USEPA and State drinking water health standards. California American Water vigilantly safeguards its water supplies, and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Water Quality Results

Chualar

| Regulated Substances (Measured on the water 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) | 2006 | 15 | (0) | 2.60 | 2.26 - 2.93 | No | Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Combined Radium (pCi/L) | 2006 | 5 | (0) | < 1.0 | < 1.0 - 1.01 | No | Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Uranium (pCi/L) | 2006 | 20 | 0.43 | 1.78 | 1.70 - 1.87 | No | Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 2007 | 2 | 1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 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 | 1.75 | 1.3 - 2.2 | No | Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks and sewage; Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Disinfection By-products, Disinfectant Residuals, and Disinfection By-products Precursors | | | | | | | | |
| Substance (units) | Year Sampled | MCL (MRDL) | PHG (MCLG) | Results | Range Low-High | Violation | Major Sources in Drinking Water | |
| TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb) | 2008 | 80 | NA | ND | ND | No | By-product 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 | 1.06 | 0.68 - 1.33 | 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 | 18 | 18 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Seawater influence | |
| Odor (units) | 2008 | 3 | NS | 1 | 1 | No | Naturally-occurring organic materials | |
| Specific Conductance (µmhos/cm) | 2008 | 1,600 | NS | 511 | 485 - 535 | No | Substances that form ions when in water; Seawater influence | |
| Sulfate (ppm) | 2008 | 500 | NS | 93 | 93 - 94 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes | |
| Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) | 2008 | 1000 | NS | 370 | 350 - 390 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits | |
| Turbidity (NTU) | 2008 | 5 | NS | 0.5 | 0.2 - 0.8 | No | Soil runoff | |
| 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 Regulations¹ | | | | | | | | |
| Substance (units) | Year Sampled | Action Level | Results | Range Low-High | | | | |
| Boron (ppb) | 2003 | 1,000 | 103 | 100 - 106 | | | | |
| Chromium VI (Hexavalent chromium) (ppb) | 2003 | NA | 5.1 | 5.0 - 5.1 | | | | |
| 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 | 20 | 0.138 | 0 | No | Internal corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives |
| Lead (ppb) | 2008 | 15 | 2 | 20 | 0 | 0 | No | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing system; Discharges from industrial manufacturers; Erosion of natural deposits |
| ¹ 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, 2008. | | | | | | | | |

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 | 155 | 150 - 160 |
| Calcium (ppm) | 2008 | 46 | 46 |
| Magnesium | 2008 | 14 | 14 - 15 |
| pH | 2008 | 7.49 | 7.38 - 7.6 |
| Radon (pCi/L) | 2008 | 395 | 340 - 450 |
| Sodium (ppm) | 2008 | 38 | 38 |
| Total Hardness as CaCO ₃ (ppm) | 2008 | 185 | 180 - 195 |