

2008 Consumer Confidence Report



Descanso
PWS ID: 3710009

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.

此份有關你的食水報告,內有重要資料和訊息,請找他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

Chi tiết này thật quan trọng.
Xin nhờ người dịch cho quý vị.

A Message from Kent Turner, President

As a trusted leader in the industry, California American Water places a strong emphasis on sharing information about the quality of the water we provide to our customers in the systems we own and in the systems we operate under contract such as in Descanso.

One way we do this is by reporting to you annually the results of our tests on the water we deliver to your home. 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 primary federal and state water quality regulations. In fact, we often address regulations well before they go into effect.

Just as important, Descanso is progressing in making the necessary investments to maintain and upgrade its facilities, so that quality water can be delivered 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 at (888) 237-1333.

Sincerely,

B. Kent Turner

Continuing our Commitment

Once again we proudly present our annual Consumer Confidence Report. This document covers all 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. We are currently in the process of evaluating the feasibility of treatment processes for future implementation.

What is a Consumer Confidence Report?

To comply with state and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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 numerous contaminants at sampling points within your water system. This report provides an overview of last year's (2008) water quality.

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 main 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 California American Water's Customer Service Center at (888) 237-1333.

About Your Water

The Descanso Community Water District is served entirely by two groundwater sources from local aquifers. One well is a primary and the other is secondary and used on an as needed basis. Drinking water treatment technologies used in your water system include sequestration for iron and manganese control and chlorine disinfection to ensure the bacteriological quality. The water supply is distributed for residential and commercial use. (Sequestration is the inhibition or prevention of metallic ion precipitation from solution by formation of a coordination compound with a phosphate).

Notice of Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the Descanso Community Water District 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 (although not associated with any detected chemicals): grazing and other animal operations, agricultural and irrigation wells, and low-density septic systems.

A copy of the completed assessment and sanitary survey may be viewed at: California American Water; 8657 Grand Avenue; Rosemead, CA 91770-1221. You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting: Joe Marcinko, Water Quality Superintendent, at (626) 614-2538.

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.

How to Contact Us

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

Water Information Sources

- **California American Water**
www.calamwater.com
- **California Department of Public Health**
<http://www.dph.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/>
- **United States Environmental Protection Agency**
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 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 may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and Herbicides, which 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 possesses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 EPA 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 EPA's Radon Hotline (800) SOS-RADON.

Nitrate, Arsenic, Lead & Trihalomethanes – EPA Definitions/Descriptions

For more information, please contact the National Lead Information Center (800-LEAD-FYI) or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- **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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- **NA:** Not applicable
- **ND:** Not detected
- **Notification Level:** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, requires notification to CDHS and the consumer. Not an enforceable **standard.**
- **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 EPA 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 primary U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. California American Water vigilantly safeguards its water supplies, and once again we are proud to report that your system has not violated a primary maximum contaminant level.

Water Quality Results

Descanso

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
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2007	15	NA	9	7 - 11	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2008	1	2	0.004	0.004 - 0.026	No	Decay of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2006	50	0	7.4	7.1 - 7.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2008	2.0	1	0.3	0.3 - 0.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

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	58	58 - 65	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (color units) ¹	2007	15	NS	35	35	Yes	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Iron (ppm) ¹	2008	0.3	NS	2.1	2.1 - 3.6	Yes	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppm) ¹	2008	0.05	NS	0.17	0.17 - 0.23	Yes	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Odor (units)	2007	3	NS	2	2 - 2	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (S/cm)	2008	1,600	NS	629	617 - 629	No	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate (ppm)	2008	500	NS	82	65 - 82	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2008	1000	NS	380	380 - 380	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU) ¹	2007	5	NS	33	33 - 33	Yes	Soil runoff

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)	2006	1.3	0.17	5	0.215	0	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives;
Lead (ppb)	2006	15	2	5	ND	0	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing system; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

¹ Iron, manganese, color, and turbidity were measured in our source water at levels that exceed the Secondary MCLs. These limits were set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects, such as color, taste, odor, and the staining of plumbing fixtures and laundry. Exceeding the Secondary MCLs does not pose any health risk.

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 for 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)	2007	147	147 - 147
Calcium (ppm)	2008	58	56 - 58
Chlorine (ppm)	2008	1.13	0.70 - 1.90
Radon (pCi/L)	2008	4986	3264 - 4986
Sodium (ppm)	2008	44	44 - 44
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	2007	220	220 - 220