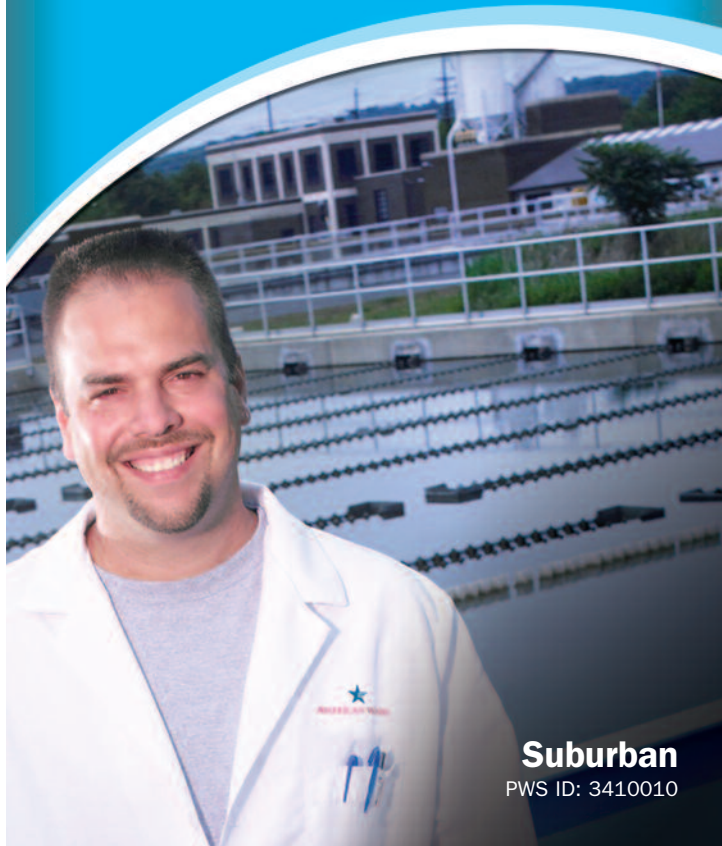


# 2008 Annual Water Quality Report



**Suburban**  
PWS ID: 3410010

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.

Данный рапорт содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде.  
Переведите его или проконсультируйтесь с тем, кто его понимает.

## 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 our customers. 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 water quality report, which outlines information applicable to your local water system for testing completed through December 2008. You'll find that we provide water that meets or surpasses 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 throughout the year on our website, [www.calamwater.com](http://www.calamwater.com).

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

Sincerely,

B. Kent Turner

## Continuing our Commitment

Once again, we proudly present our annual water quality report. This document covers all testing completed through December 2008. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations 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.

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.

## What is a Water Quality 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. Since 2006, 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. 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. The data presented in this report is a combination of data from our nationally recognized main water quality lab and commercial laboratories, all certified in drinking water testing by the California Department of Public Health.

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call our Customer Service Center 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

Water in the Suburban system comes from deep wells that pump groundwater from aquifers here in the Sacramento Valley. California American Water chlorinates your drinking water to ensure that it meets bacteriological quality standards, and also fluoridates it to promote dental health. The water is distributed for residential and commercial use.

## Notice of Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources in the Suburban system was completed in February 2003.

The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities (associated with detected chemicals): sewer collection systems, known contaminant plumes, military installations, fertilizer, and pesticide/herbicide application.

Although not associated with any detected chemicals the sources are also considered vulnerable to dry cleaners, plastics/synthetics producers, automobile – gas stations, underground storage tanks – confirmed leaking tanks, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, and chemical/petroleum processing/storage.

A copy of the completed assessment may be viewed at: California American Water; 4701 Beloit Drive; Sacramento, CA 95838.

## How to Contact Us

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

## Water Information Sources

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

## How to Read This Table

California American Water conducts extensive monitoring to ensure that your water meets water quality standards. The results of our monitoring are reported in the adjacent tables. While some 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 "Definition of Terms" section.

Starting with a **Substance**, read across. **Year Sampled** is usually 2008 or the most recent data from a prior year. **MCL** shows the highest level of the substance (contaminant) allowed. **PHG** or (**MCLG**) is the goal level for that substance (this may be lower than what is allowed). **Average Amount Detected** represents the (calculated) average level of that substance from the drinking water sources that California American Water used in 2008. **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, however, no maximum contaminant level has been established for them by either the California Department of Public Health, or the USEPA.

### Definition of Terms

- **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that 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 (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible.
- **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 are set by the USEPA.
- **MFL:** Million fibers per liter.
- **MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.
- **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.
- **N/A:** Not applicable.
- **ND:** Not detected.
- **NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity of the water.
- **Notification Level:** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, requires notification to the California Department of Public Health (Department) and the consumer. Not an enforceable standard.
- **pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).
- **PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- **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.
- **ppt (parts per trillion):** One part substance per trillion parts water, or nanograms per liter.
- **SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** SMCLs are set to protect the aesthetic properties of drinking water (odor, taste and appearance of drinking water).
- **TON:** Threshold Odor Number.
- **Total Dissolved Solids:** An overall indicator of the amount of minerals in water.
- **µmhos/cm (micromhos per centimeter):** A measure of electrical conductance.

## 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, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, 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**, 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**, can be naturally-occurring, or may 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 California 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.

## Notice of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCMR)

Testing was conducted in 2008 for contaminants specified by the USEPA. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the USEPA have 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 of this report, as appropriate. If no contaminants are reported the results were non-detect. 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 in most cases will 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 (800) SOS-RADON.

## 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. You can obtain more information about contaminants and potential health effects by calling the USEPA'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. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

## Water Quality Statement

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

## Water Quality Results

Suburban

Regulated Substances								
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water	
Arsenic (ppb)	2006	10	0.004	2	ND - 4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass, and electronics production wastes	
Asbestos (MFL)	2003	7	7	ND	ND - 0.38	No	Internal corrosion of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits	
Barium (ppm)	2006	1	2	ND	ND - 0.15	No	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub> (ppm) <sup>1</sup>	2008	45	45	10.2	2.7 - 35.9	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
Dibromochloropropane DBCP (ppt)	2008	200	1.7	18	ND - 36	No	Banned nematocide that may still be present in soils due to runoff/leaching from former use on soybeans, cotton, vineyards, tomatoes, and fruit trees	
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2003 - 2006	15	(0)	ND	ND - 5.90	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Uranium (pCi/L)	2006	20	0.43	5.71 <sup>2</sup>	5.71 <sup>2</sup>	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2006 - 2007	5 <sup>3</sup>	(0) <sup>3</sup>	ND	ND - 1.31	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Distribution System Monitoring								
Chlorine (ppm)	2008	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	0.41	0.35 - 0.49	No	Treatment chemical used to disinfect drinking water	
Fluoride (ppm) <sup>4</sup>	2008	0.7 - 1.3 <sup>5</sup>	NA	0.9	0.6 - 1.2	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth	
Secondary Substances								
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	SMCL		Average Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source	
Chloride (ppm)	2006	500		5.5	2.8 - 12.6	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	
Color (units)	2006	15		ND	ND - 5	No	Naturally occurring organic materials	
Iron (ppb)	2006	300		ND	ND - 150	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	
Manganese (ppb)	2006	50		2.7	ND - 43	No	Leaching from natural deposits	
Odor (TON)	2006	3		1	1 - 1	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials	
Specific Conductance (µmhos/cm)	2006	1,600		208	140 - 420	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence	
Sulfate (ppm)	2006	500		6.9	1.6 - 20.9	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2006	1000		166	100 - 290	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	
Turbidity (NTU)	2006	5		ND	ND - 0.43	No	Soil runoff	
Lead and Copper (tap water samples)								
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Action Level	PHG (MCLG)	Number of Samples	Amount Detected at 90th Percentile	Homes Above Action Level	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2007	1.3	0.17	30	0.142	0	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2007	15	2	30	4.0	1	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; discharges from industrial manufacturers

## Additional Water Quality Parameters of Interest

This table shows average levels of additional water quality parameters, which are often of interest to consumers. The average levels shown here are calculated from the levels detected at each source in 2006 and used to supply water in 2008. Values may vary from day to day. There are no health-based limits for these substances in drinking water.

Additional Constituents			
Substance (units)	Year Sampled	Average Amount Detected	Range Low-High
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	2006	97	66 - 180
Calcium (ppm)	2006	23	14 - 54
Magnesium (ppm)	2006	8	3 - 14
pH	2006	7.9	6.9 - 8.2
Radon (pCi/L)	2006	324	134 - 690
Sodium (ppm)	2006	11	7 - 22
Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	2006	91	56 - 200

<sup>1</sup> 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 women 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.

<sup>2</sup> Uranium monitoring was required at only one well.

<sup>3</sup> Radium 228 does not have its own MCL. The MCL/MCLG for total radium (radium 226 & radium 228) are shown. Monitoring for radium 226 was not required.

<sup>4</sup> California American Water adjusts the natural levels of fluoride in your water to the California Department of Public Health's recommended optimum level.

<sup>5</sup> Fluoride control range, not a MCL.