

2009 Water Quality Report

NIGHTTIME AT
HOOVER DAM

*City of
San Juan Capistrano
Utilities Department*

Your 2009 Water Quality Report

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 2008 water quality testing, and has been prepared in compliance with 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.

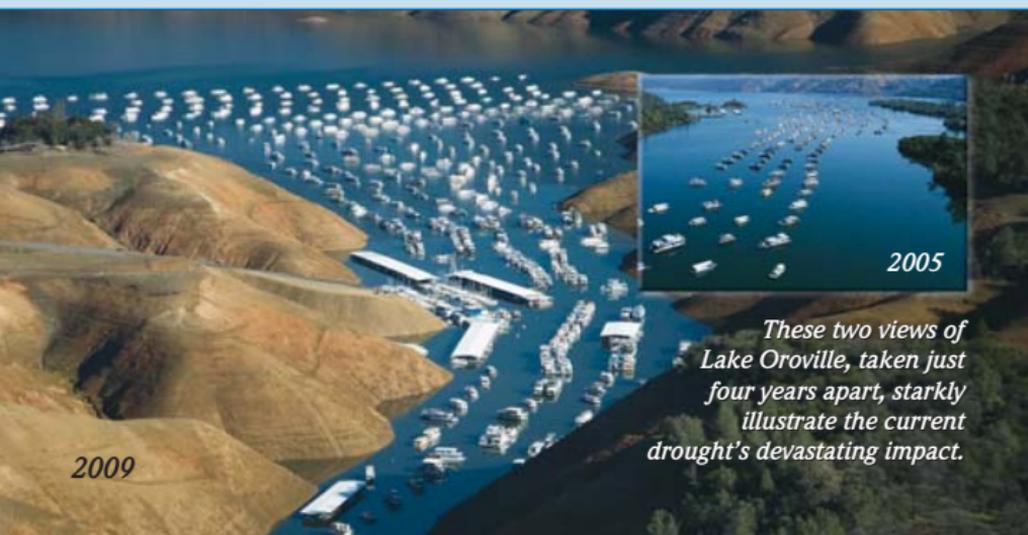
USEPA and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are the agencies responsible for establishing drinking water quality standards. To ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and CDPH prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH 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 Juan Capistrano 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, the City goes beyond what is required by testing for unregulated contaminants that may have known health risks.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to establish regulations for those contaminants.



These two views of Lake Oroville, taken just four years apart, starkly illustrate the current drought's devastating impact.

2009

What You Need to Know About Your Water, and How it May Affect You

Sources of Supply

The City of San Juan Capistrano receives its water from three sources. Water is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Metropolitan's imported water sources are a blend of State Water Project water from northern California, and water from the Colorado River Aqueduct. Furthermore, the City is supplied with treated water from the Ground Water Recovery Plant and two potable production wells located in the Northern portion of the City.

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.

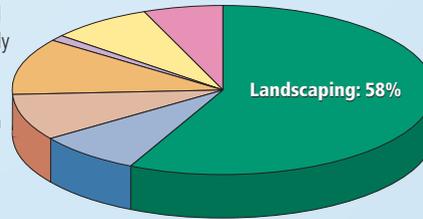
The winter snow pack and spring rains have only temporarily eased the intensity of the state's drought. Reduced water allocations combined with judicially imposed environmental pumping restrictions from the State Water Project in northern California continue to affect southern California's water supply. Water conservation, both indoors and outdoors, has never been more important. Many cities and water districts may implement mandatory conservation measures beginning this summer.



How Residential Water is Used in Orange County

Outdoor watering of lawns and gardens makes up approximately 60% of home water use. By cutting your outdoor watering by 1 or 2 days a week, you can dramatically reduce your overall water use.

Visit www.bewaterwise.com for water saving tips and ideas for your home and business.



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, agricultural application and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the CDPH prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH 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 (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 tested their source water and treated surface water for *Cryptosporidium* in 2008 but did not detect it. If it ever is detected, *Cryptosporidium* is

Questions about your water? Contact us for answers.

For information about this report, or your water quality information in general, please contact the City of San Juan Capistrano, Utilities Department, Customer Service at (949) 493-1515.

The City of San Juan Capistrano Utilities Commission meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 8:00 am and is open to the public. The City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm and is open to the public. Meetings are held in the City of San Juan Capistrano Council chambers located at 32400 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

For more information about health effects of the listed contaminants in the following tables, call the U.S. Environmental Protection agency hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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.

Lead

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested; you could also flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Everyone can do something to save water – use drought-tolerant plants; install synthetic turf; install a "smart" irrigation controller; purchase a water-efficient clothes washer; make sure your dishwasher is full before running it; or simply cut back on the water used for daily living; don't run the water while shaving or brushing teeth; take shorter showers; use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks – the list is endless, and so much of it is very easy to do. Visit the websites listed on the next page for information on California's water supply situation and what you can do to preserve this precious resource.



Data as of April 2009

The Quality of Your Water is Our Primary Concern

Drinking Water Fluoridation

Fluoride has been added to U.S. drinking water supplies since 1945. Of the 50 largest cities in the U.S., 43 fluoridate their drinking water. In December 2007, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California joined a majority of the nation's public water suppliers in adding fluoride to drinking water in order to prevent tooth decay. In line with recommendations from the CDPH, as well as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Metropolitan adjusted the natural fluoride level in imported treated water from the Colorado River and State Project water to the optimal range for dental health of 0.7 to 1.3 parts per million. Our local water is not supplemented with fluoride. Fluoride levels in drinking water are limited under California state regulations at a maximum dosage of 2 parts per million.

There are many places to go for additional information about the fluoridation of drinking water.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1-800-232-4636

www.cdc.gov/Oralhealth

American Dental Association

www.ada.org/public/topics/fluoride

American Water Works Association

www.awwa.org

For more information about Metropolitan's fluoridation program, please contact Edgar G. Dymally at (213) 217-5709 or at edymally@mwdh2o.com.

Source Water Assessments Imported (Metropolitan) Water Assessment

In December 2002, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California completed its source water assessment of its Colorado River and State Water Project supplies. Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to recreation, urban/storm water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation and wastewater. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting Metropolitan by phone at (213) 217-6850.

Groundwater Assessment

A copy of the assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of San Juan Capistrano completed March 2001 is available at Department of Public Health District Office, Public Water Supply Branch, 28 Civic Center Drive RM 325, Santa Ana, California 92701 or the City of San Juan Capistrano – Water Division office, 32400 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano, California 92675.

Disinfection and Disinfection Byproducts

Disinfection of drinking water was one of the major public health advances in the 20th century. Disinfection was a major factor in reducing waterborne disease epidemics caused by pathogenic bacteria and viruses, and it remains an essential part of drinking water treatment today.

Chlorine disinfection has almost completely eliminated from our lives the risks of microbial waterborne diseases. Chlorine is added to your drinking water at the source of supply (groundwater well or surface water treatment plant). Enough chlorine is added so that it does not completely dissipate through the distribution system pipes. This "residual" chlorine helps to prevent

the growth of bacteria in the pipes that carry drinking water from the source into your home.

However, chlorine can react with naturally-occurring materials in the water to form unintended chemical byproducts, called disinfection byproducts (DBPs), which may pose health risks. A major challenge is how to balance the risks from microbial pathogens and DBPs. It is important to provide protection from these microbial pathogens while simultaneously ensuring decreasing health risks from disinfection byproducts. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the USEPA to develop rules to achieve these goals.

Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) are the most common and most studied DBPs found in drinking water treated with chlorine. In 1979,

Want Additional Information? There's a wealth of information on the internet about Drinking Water Quality and water issues in general. Some good sites — both local and national — to begin your own research are:

City of San Juan Capistrano: www.sanjuancapistrano.org • Municipal Water District of Orange County: www.mwdoc.com

Orange County Water District: www.ocwd.com • Water Education Foundation: www.watereducation.org

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: www.mwdh2o.com

Calif. Dept. of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water & Environmental Management: www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/safewater • Calif. Department of Water Resources: www.water.ca.gov

Water Conservation Tips: www.bewaterwise.com • www.wateruseitwisely.com

2008 City of San Juan Capistrano Groundwater Quality

Chemical	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Radiologicals							
Alpha Radiation (pCi/L)	15	(0)	6.1	3.0 – 9.4	No	2007	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	7.4	4.5 – 12	No	2007	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Inorganic Chemicals							
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.30	0.29 – 0.30	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Nitrate (ppm as NO ₃)	45	45	9.5	6.9 – 12	No	2008	Fertilizers, Septic Tanks
Secondary Standards*							
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	185	160 – 210	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	1,700	1,500 – 1,900	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	330	270 – 390	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	1,145	990 – 1,300	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Turbidity (ntu)	5*	n/a	0.5	0.5	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Unregulated Contaminants Requiring Monitoring							
Bicarbonate (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	305	300 – 310	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	185	160 – 210	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	44	35 – 52	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	7.1	7.1	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	3.2	2.8 – 3.7	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	121	92 – 150	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Alkalinity (ppm as CaCO ₃)	Not Regulated	n/a	305	300 – 310	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Hardness (ppm as CaCO ₃)	Not Regulated	n/a	645	560 – 730	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Hardness (grains per gallon)	Not Regulated	n/a	38	33 – 43	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits

ppb = parts-per-billion; ppm = parts-per-million; pCi/L = picoCuries per liter; ntu = nephelometric turbidity units; ND = not detected; n/a = not applicable; < = average is less than the detection limit for reporting purposes; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; (MCLG) = federal MCL Goal; PHG = California Public Health Goal µmho/cm = micromho per centimeter. *Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).

2008 City of San Juan Capistrano Distribution System Water Quality

Disinfection Byproducts	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	38	10 – 63	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	13	5.1 – 26	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4 / 4)	1.6	0.1 – 2.7	No	Disinfectant Added for Treatment
Aesthetic Quality					
Color (color units)	15*	1	1	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Odor (ton)	3*	1	1	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Turbidity (ntu)	5*	0.14	0.11 – 0.18	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits

Eight locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids; three locations are tested monthly for color, odor and turbidity. MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal; ntu = nephelometric turbidity units; ND = not detected *Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).

Lead and Copper Action Levels at Residential Taps

Action Level (AL)	Health Goal	90th Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding AL / Number of Sites	AL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	<5	0 / 30	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.27	0 / 30	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing

Every three years, selected residences are tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of thirty samples was collected in 2008. Lead was detected in 1 home and copper was detected in 30 homes, none of which exceeded the lead and copper regulatory Action Levels. A regulatory Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

the USEPA set the maximum amount of total THMs allowed in drinking water at 100 parts per billion as an annual running average. Effective in January 2002, the Stage 1 Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts Rule lowered the total THM maximum annual average level to 80 parts per billion and added HAAs to the list of regulated chemicals in drinking water. Your drinking water complies with

the Stage 1 Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts Rule. In 2003, the USEPA / proposed a Stage 2 regulation that will further control allowable levels of DBPs in drinking water without compromising disinfection itself. This regulation was finalized by USEPA in January 2006 and preliminary studies to select Stage 2 DBP sampling locations in our distribution system started in 2008.

Non-Compliance Notice

The fourth quarter 2008 quarterly disinfection by-products water quality monitoring of the San Juan Basin Authority Groundwater Recovery Plant (SJBA GWRP) was not collected as required by state regulation during the 2008 calendar year. The samples were collected on January 20, 2009 and the results are within the limits. The manganese, total dissolved solids (TDS), and specific conductance exceeded the secondary standards levels in the SJBA GWRP product effluent water in the months of January and February 2008. The secondary standards are associated with aesthetics.

Water conservation doesn't have to inconvenience our lives to be effective. Simple changes in how we do our daily tasks can have a tremendous impact on our water usage. A little effort can save a lot of water.



2008 City of San Juan Capistrano Groundwater Desalter Plant Water Quality

Chemical	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Inorganic Chemicals:							
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.42	0.21 – 0.63	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Nitrate (ppm as NO ₃)	45	45	4.5	4.0 – 5.3	No	2008	Fertilizers, Septic Tanks
Secondary Standards*							
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	78	76 – 80	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Color (color units)	15*	n/a	1	1	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Manganese (ppb)	50*	n/a	29	ND – 50	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Iron (ppb)	300*	n/a	<100	ND – 105	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	771	680 – 940	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	122	121 – 123	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	498	410 – 628	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Turbidity (ntu)	5*	n/a	0.14	0.06 – 0.25	No	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Unregulated Contaminants Requiring Monitoring							
Bicarbonate (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	130	108 – 142	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	47	45 – 59	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	12	11 – 12	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	7.9	7.8 – 8.1	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	1.0	1.0	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	80	78 – 82	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Alkalinity (ppm as CaCO ₃)	Not Regulated	n/a	130	108 – 142	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Hardness (ppm as CaCO ₃)	Not Regulated	n/a	162	156 – 167	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Hardness (grains per gallon)	Not Regulated	n/a	9.5	9.1 – 9.8	n/a	2008	Erosion of Natural Deposits

ppb = parts-per-billion; ppm = parts-per-million; pCi/L = picoCuries per liter; ntu = nephelometric turbidity units; ND = not detected; n/a = not applicable; < = average is less than the detection limit for reporting purposes; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; (MCLG) = federal MCL Goal; PHG = California Public Health Goal
µmho/cm = micromho per centimeter. *Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).

2008 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Treated Surface Water

Chemical	MCL	PHG, or (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Radiologicals – Tested in 2008						
Alpha Radiation (pCi/L)	15	(0)	5.6	3.8 – 9.3	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Beta Radiation (pCi/L)	50	(0)	4.3	ND – 6.4	No	Decay of Man-made or Natural Deposits
Uranium (pCi/l)	20	0.42	3.3	2.9 – 3.7	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Inorganic Chemicals – Tested in 2008						
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	0.16	0.08 – 0.28	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	2.4	ND – 2.9	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	0.12	0.11 – 0.12	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm) treatment-related	Control Range 0.7 – 1.3 ppm Optimal Level 0.8 ppm		0.8	0.6 – 0.9	No	Water Additive for Dental Health
Nitrate as NO ₃ (ppm)	45	45	2.2	ND – 2.6	No	Agriculture Runoff and Sewage
Secondary Standards* – Tested in 2008						
Aluminum (ppb)	200*	600	164	78 – 280	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	96	92 – 103	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Color (color units)	15*	n/a	2	1 – 2	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	n/a	2	2	No	Naturally-occurring Organic Materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	947	837 – 1,080	No	Substances that Form Ions in Water
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	212	170 – 272	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	569	505 – 668	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Turbidity (ntu)	5*	n/a	0.05	0.04 – 0.05	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Unregulated Chemicals – Tested in 2008						
Alkalinity, total as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	110	100 – 121	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Boron (ppb)	Not Regulated	n/a	140	130 – 150	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	61	55 – 72	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	257	226 – 300	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (grains/gal)	Not Regulated	n/a	15	13 – 18	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	25	22 – 29	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
N-Nitrosodimethylamine NDMA (ppt)	Not Regulated	n/a	16	16	n/a	Byproduct of Drinking Water Disinfection
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	8.1	8.0 – 8.2	n/a	Hydrogen Ion Concentration
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	4.5	4.1 – 4.9	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	94	85 – 106	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	Not Regulated	TT	2.3	1.9 – 2.5	n/a	Various Natural and Man-made Sources
Vanadium (ppb)	Not Regulated	n/a	3.8	3.5 – 4.0	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits

ppb = parts-per-billion; ppm = parts-per-million; ppt = parts-per-trillion; pCi/L = picoCuries per liter; ntu = nephelometric turbidity units; µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter; ND = not detected; < = average is less than the detection limit for reporting purposes; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; (MCLG) = federal MCL Goal; PHG = California Public Health Goal; n/a = not applicable; TT = treatment technique *Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard.

Turbidity – combined filter effluent	Treatment Technique	Turbidity Measurements	TT Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
1) Highest single turbidity measurement	0.3 NTU	0.05	No	Soil Run-off
2) Percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	No	Soil Run-off

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, an indication of particulate matter, some of which might include harmful microorganisms. Low turbidity in Metropolitan's treated water is a good indicator of effective filtration. Filtration is called a "treatment technique" (TT). A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water that are difficult and sometimes impossible to measure directly.

What are Water Quality Standards?

Drinking water standards established by USEPA and CDPH set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.
- **Secondary MCLs** are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

How are Contaminants Measured?

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year.

Contaminants are measured in:

- parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l)
- parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/l)

What is a Water Quality Goal?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and CDPH have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by USEPA.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by USEPA.
- **Public Health Goal (PHG):** 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 Environmental Protection Agency.

This report contains important information
about your drinking water.

Translate it,
or speak with someone
who understands it.



Este informe contiene información
muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien
que lo entienda bien.



City of San Juan Capistrano
Utilities Department

32450 Paseo Adelanto

San Juan Capistrano, California 92675