WATER QUALITY TIPS

- Pick up after your pet, rain washes pet waste directly into the storm drain, which leads to the ocean when it rains. Animal waste contains bacteria and viruses that contaminate shellfish and causes beach closures.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly, don’t over water.
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints and household chemicals properly, not hosed down into the street where they will eventually reach the ocean.
- Recycle used motor oil by taking it to a service station or local recycling center.
- Place litter, especially cigarette butts in trash receptacles, never throw litter in the street.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- Decrease the amount of impervious area in your landscape by planting drought tolerant plants.
- Sweep, don’t hose down the driveway.
- Gutters and down spouts should drain to vegetated or gravel filled seepage areas, not directly onto paved surfaces.
- Install water saving shower heads and adjustable toilet flappers to reduce flush volume.
- Don’t leave the water running while washing dishes.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The City of Inglewood conducted an assessment of its ground water supplies in 2003. Groundwater supplies are considered most vulnerable to airport maintenance/fueling areas, historic waste dumps/landfills, injection wells/dry wells/sumps, landfills/dumps, and confirmed leaking underground storage tanks. A copy of the approved assessment may be obtained by contacting the Water Department at (310) 412-5333.

MWD completed an assessment of its Colorado River and State Water Project supplies in 2002. Colorado River supplies are considered most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation and urban/storm water runoff. State Water Project supplies are considered most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation and urban/storm water runoff. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting MWD at (213) 217-4860 or contacting the City of Inglewood at (310) 412-5333.

WATER QUALITY TIPS

- 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. The USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection of Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

Since 1991, California water utilities have been providing information on water served to its consumers. This report is a snapshot of the tap water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, how it is tested, and how it compares with state and federal limits. We strive to keep you informed about the quality of your water, and to provide a reliable and economic supply that meets all regulatory requirements.

WHERE DOES MY TAP WATER COME FROM?

Your tap water comes from 2 sources: Groundwater and surface water. We pump groundwater from 4 local, deep wells. We also use Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s (MWD) surface water from both the Colorado River and the State Water Project in northern California. These water sources supply your tap water. The quality of our groundwater and MWD’s surface water supplies is presented in this report.

HOW IS MY DRINKING WATER TESTED?

Your drinking water is tested regularly for unsafe levels of chemicals, radioactive and bacteria at the source and in the distribution system. We test weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually or less often depending on the substance. State and federal laws allow us to test some substances less than once per year because their levels do not change frequently. All water quality tests are conducted by specially trained technicians in state-certified laboratories.

WHAT ARE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS?

The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) limits the amount of certain substances allowed in tap water. In California, the State Department of Public Health (Department) regulates tap water quality by enforcing limits that are at least as stringent as the USEPA’s. Historically, California limits are more stringent than the Federal ones. There are two types of these limits, known as standards.

Primary standards protect you from substances that could potentially affect your health. Secondary standards regulate substances that affect the aesthetic qualities of water. Regulations set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for each of the primary and secondary standards. The MCL is the highest level of a substance that is allowed in your drinking water. Public Health Goals (PHGs) are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency. PHGs provide more information on the quality of drinking water to customers, and are similar to their federal counterparts. Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) are advisory levels that are nonenforceable. Both PHGs and MCLGs are concentrations of a substance below which there are no known or expected health risks.

WHY DO I SEE SO MUCH COVERAGE IN THE NEWS ABOUT THE QUALITY OF TAP WATER?

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, including 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, agricultural application, 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, 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, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or low level nuclear waste activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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.

All 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 Information Line (1-800-426-4791). You can also get more information on tap water by logging on to these helpful web sites:

- USEPA’s drinking water website at http://water.epa.gov/drink/index.cfm
- California’s drinking water program website at http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/DWP.aspx

Although we test for over 100 substances, regulations require us to report only those found in your water. The first column of the water quality table lists substances detected in your water. The next columns list the average concentration and range of concentrations found in your drinking water. Following are columns that list the MCL and PHG or MCLG, if applicable. The last column describes the likely sources of these substances in drinking water.

To review the quality of your drinking water, compare the highest concentration and the MCL. Check for substances greater than the MCL. Exceedance of a primary MCL does not usually constitute an immediate health threat. Rather, if it requires testing the source water more frequently for a short duration. It test results show that the water continues to exceed the MCL, the water must be treated to remove the substance, or the source must be removed from service.

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