

A Consumer Confidence Report

Demonstrating its commitment to public health protection and the public's right-to-know about local environmental information, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires water suppliers to put annual drinking water quality reports into the hands of their customers.

Sources:

Carmichael Water District's 40,000 customers receive approximately 75 percent of their water from the American River (surface water) and 25 percent from District ground-water wells.

Testing:

Your water is tested for more than 200 constituents on a daily, weekly, monthly, and/or annual basis. Water samples are subject to the most up-to-date testing methods and then are re-tested for accuracy. Samples are then measured against state and federal standards to ensure quality.

Water Quality Table

The water quality table is intended to identify any constituent detected at a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) as determined by state and federal regulations. As there were no detections of constituents above the MCL in 2003, the District chose to select constituents and display the results in the table based on the constituents of concern and the constituents that are most frequently asked about by District customers.

This is a partial list of the constituents that are tested. The intent is to give you an idea of where the District stands with regard to regulations. A complete Annual Water Quality Report is available on the District's website at www.carmichaelwd.org under the water quality section.

How to Read the Table:

1. Identify constituent in the left column.
2. Compare the detection range and average to the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) in the third column and the Public Health Goal/Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (PHG/MCLG) in the far right column.

As you can see, all results fall safely within federal/state regulations for drinking water quality.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please translate it or speak with someone who understands it.

Water Quality Measurement Units:

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) – A measure of water's clarity. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

None Established (NE) – a standard has not yet been established.

None Detected (ND) – a detection of the contaminant was not found in the samples taken.

Parts per million (PPM) – a measurement of the concentration of a substance roughly equivalent to 4 drops in 55 gallons or one part in 1,000,000.

Parts per billion (PPB) – a measurement of the concentration of a substance roughly equivalent to one drop in one of the largest tanker trucks used to haul gasoline or one part in 1,000,000,000.

Parts per trillion (PPT) – a measurement of the concentration of a substance roughly equivalent to one drop in a 12-million-gallon reservoir or 1 part in 1,000,000,000,000.

Definitions:

Action Level (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed by the state of California in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the public health goals and maximum contaminant level goals as feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

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 the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Primary Drinking Water Standards – maximum contaminant levels for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

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.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards – maximum contaminant levels for contaminants that affect taste, odor or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with secondary drinking water standards do not affect health at the MCL levels.

CONSTITUENT	SOURCE	MCL (GW/SW)	Groundwater (GW) Range	Groundwater (GW) Average	Surface Water (SW) Range	Surface Water (SW) Average	PHG/MCLG
Primary Drinking Water Standards							
Turbidity	Suspended matter present in water	5 / 0.3 ntu	0.10-0.65 ntu	0.21 ntu	0.02-0.06 ntu	0.04 ntu	NE
Arsenic	Erosion of natural deposits	10 ppb	ND-3.2 ppb	1.7 ppb	ND-ND	ND	0.004 ppb
NDMA	Breakdown product of liquid rocket fuel	AL 10 ppt	ND-ND	ND	ND-ND	ND	NE
Perchlorate	Rocket fuel propellant	4 ppb	ND-ND	ND	ND-ND	ND	NE
MTBE	Gasoline additive	1.3 ppb	ND-ND	ND	ND-ND	ND	NE
Tetrachloroethylene	Organic solvent widespread environment	5 ppb	ND-1.4ppb	.15 ppb	ND-ND	ND	0
Secondary Drinking Water Standards							
Hardness	Occurring in water from magnesium, calcium	NE	55-149 ppm	93ppm	18-33 ppm	26.3 ppm	NE
Iron	Erosion of natural deposits	300 ppb	ND-48 ppb	8 ppb	ND-ND	ND	NE
Manganese	Erosion of natural deposits	50 ppb	ND-50 ppb	6.4 ppb	ND-ND	ND	NE

Information You Should Know

Drinking Water – 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)426-4791.

Drinking Water Contaminants – the sources of drinking water (both tap 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA and California DHS prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. DHS regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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**, 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 and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Special Information for Sensitive Populations

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, people 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. EPQ/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)426-4791.

Source Water Assessment Available

The California Department of Health Services requires water providers to conduct a Source Water Assessment to help protect the quality of future water supplies. This assessment describes where a water system's drinking water comes from, the types of polluting activities that may threaten source water quality and an evaluation of the water's vulnerability to those threats.

To meet the DHS requirements and provide our customers with information about our water supply, the District completed its surface source water assessment in May 2003 and its groundwater source assessment in July 2003.

The results indicate that our surface water source (the American River) is considered most vulnerable to contamination from sewer system spills, body contact recreation, urban runoff and discharge of regulated and unregulated contaminants. The contaminants to which the surface water sources are considered most vulnerable include the following:

- Perchlorate, nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) and volatile organic chemicals discharged into the American River by the Aerojet General Corporation. Aerojet is under the joint regulatory oversight of the EPA, California Department of Toxic Substance Control and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply:

- Dry cleaners
 - Manufacturers of rocket fuel
- In addition, the groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to these activities:
- Illegal activities and unauthorized dumping
 - Sewer collection systems
 - Dry cleaners
 - Automobile repair shops
 - Chemical/petroleum pipelines
 - Electrical/electronic manufacturing
 - Underground storage tanks
 - Gas stations

A copy of the complete assessment is available for inspection at the Carmichael Water District office, 7837 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael, CA, 95608. You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting General Manager, Steve Nugent at (916)483-2452.