

Important Phone Numbers

General Information (619) 515-3500
Emergency Hotline.....(619) 515-3525
Water Quality Lab (619) 668-3232
Capital Improvements Program (619) 533-4679
Group Job Hotline (858) 573-5081
Water Conservation (619) 239-0132
City Lakes Fishing Line (619) 465-3474
Speakers Bureau (619) 533-6638
EPA Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791
Storm Water Prevention (619) 235-1000
Public Information Office (619) 527-3121

Important Web Links

City:www.sandiego.gov
County Water Authority:www.sdcwa.org
State:www.dhs.ca.gov
EPA:www.epa.gov/safewater
Think Blue:www.thinkbluesd.org

Speakers Bureau Program

In 1999 the Water Department launched the Speakers Bureau program to bring more information to the community. You can request a speaker for your business, civic or social group to discuss water conservation, quality and treatment, reclamation or our Capital Improvements Program by contacting the Speakers Bureau Coordinator at (619) 533-6638.



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This information is available in alternative formats upon request.

هذا التقرير يحتوي على معلومات مهمة تتعلق بمياه الشرب (أو الصرف).
ترجم التقرير، أو تكلم مع شخص يستطيع أن يشرح لكم التقرير.

**Mahalaga ang
impormasyong ito.
Mangyaring ipasalin ito.**

이 안내는 매우 중요합니다.
본인을 위해 번역인을 사용하십시오.

この情報は重要です。
翻訳を依頼してください。

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

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。

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THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Water Department Operations Division
Public Information Office
2797 Caminito Chollas, MS 43
San Diego, CA 92105-5097

Important Water
Quality
Information



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
WATER DEPARTMENT



Consumer Confidence Report 2001

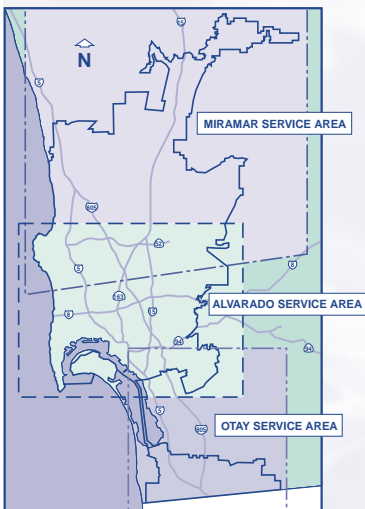


Alvarado Treatment Facility 1950-2002
An American Water Landmark
by the American Water Works Association

What Is This Report About?

This report provides important information about the quality of the water provided to customers last year in the City of San Diego. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are educated customers.

El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Copias en español de este reporte acerca de la calidad de agua están disponibles si llama al (619) 527-3121.



The City of San Diego Water Department serves more than 1.2 million people in a service area of 403 square miles. Depending on where you live in the City, you get your water from one of three water treatment plants: Miramar in the north, Alvarado in the central part and Otay in the southern communities. (See map for breakdown of service areas.) While the City of San Diego gets a small portion of its drinking water from rainfall into its many local watersheds, the majority

is purchased from the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) who in turn purchases water from the Metropolitan Water District who contracts with the Colorado River and State Water Project.

What Else Should I Know?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Health Services (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. 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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Important Health Information

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. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). During calendar year 2001, the City of San Diego analyzed all of our source waters and Cryptosporidium was not detected.

Storm Water Protection And How You Can Help- What Are Storm Drains?

Storm water pollution is a problem that affects all of us. Keeping our waters clean from pollutants has become increasingly difficult. When it rains, water flows over our streets and yards and carries the pollutants it picks up into our watersheds and storm drains. Unfortunately, the water that runs into storm drains and out into the beaches and bays does not get treated. Storm drains are not connected to the sewer system. The City of San Diego Water Department has begun implementing procedural changes and utilizing new equipment developed to help protect these storm drains and water ways during planned and unplanned water discharges.



How Can You Help?

Whether at home or at work, by adopting the following simple Best Management Practices (BMPs) you can stop pollutants from entering our storm drain system.

Know The Three C's:

CONTROL: Before you start your project, locate the nearest storm drains and take appropriate measures to ensure that nothing will discharge into them.

CONTAIN: Isolate your work area to prevent any potential flow or discharge from leaving the area.

CAPTURE: Once your job is complete be sure to clean up the area by sweeping or using a wet-vac.

For more information about the Storm Water Prevention program please call (619) 235-1000.

Why Is There Anything In My 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 waters before it goes through the treatment process include:

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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

Unusual Tastes and Odors - Occasionally, water suppliers experience episodes of unpleasant tastes and odors in their water, often characterized as "musty" or "earthy." These taste and odor variations are caused by naturally occurring algae growth. In San Diego, this algae is occasionally found in the source water reservoirs and aqueducts that supply water to the City. Specifically, this algae will seasonally produce trace amounts of taste and odor causing chemical compounds. While they do not pose any health risks to the population, the City of San Diego closely monitors our source waters for this algae growth and, when possible, will switch to a different water source if a problem arises.

In 2001, the City of San Diego completed a "Watershed Sanitary Survey" which is currently under review by the California Department of Health Services. This survey examines the potential impacts in the watersheds surrounding the nine reservoirs maintained by the City. We encourage all San Diegans to take an active role in supporting pollution prevention programs in their communities and to learn more about their local watersheds. For information about the upcoming "Watershed Sanitary Survey" please contact our Public Information Office at (619) 527-3121.

How Do I Read The Tables?

For calendar year 2001, your tap water met all EPA and DHS drinking water health standards. The City of San Diego's Water Department vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and is proud to report that our extensive water system met all state and federal standards. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in these tables are from tests performed between January 01 - December 31, 2001. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some data may be more than one year old yet is still representative of the water quality. Many other compounds were tested for but were not found at detectable levels. You can request a copy of these and other test results by contacting the Public Information Office at (619) 527-3121 or find them on the Water Department's web page at www.sandiego.gov/water.

Table 1 below lists all the regulated CCR contaminants with Primary MCLs that the City of San Diego's Water Quality Laboratory detected in the drinking water at a level at or above the California Department of Health Services (DHS) Detection Limits for Purposes of Reporting (DLRs) during the 2001 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the drinking water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Important Note About Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)

Compliance with the MCL regulation for TTHMs are based on the running average of samples collected over the entire year. An individual sample greater than 100 ppb does not constitute a violation of the MCL. Some people who use water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of contracting cancer.

In 2001 the City of San Diego's Trihalomethane levels did not exceed 100 ppb.

Table 2 is a listing of regulated contaminants with Secondary MCLs that were detected at or above the DHS's DLR for each contaminant.

Table 3 is a listing of regulated contaminants with no MCLs that were detected at or above the DHS's DLR for each contaminant.

Table 4 is a listing of the unregulated CCR contaminants that were detected at or above the DHS's DLR for each contaminant.

Important Note About Perchlorate

Some people who drink water containing Perchlorate in excess of the Action Level may experience effects associated with hypothyroidism. Perchlorate interferes with the production of thyroid hormones, which are required for normal pre- and postnatal development in humans, as well as normal body metabolism.

Table 5, a listing of non-detected contaminants can be found on our website at www.sandiego.gov/water.

Water Quality Data And Terminology

During calendar year 2001 the City of San Diego's Water Quality Laboratory conducted over 201,000 tests for drinking water contaminants. We only detected 26 contaminants and none at a level higher than the state or federal standards allow. Terms & abbreviations used below:

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 EPA.

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 or technologically 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.

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.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS): MCLs for contaminants that effect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Corrosivity: The corrosivity of a sample is measured by the Langlier Stability Index. A positive index, indicating non-corrosivity, was maintained at all plant effluents.

MDL: Lowest quantifiable concentration of a measured analyte detectable by the Laboratory.

How Can I Get More Information About My Water?

The Public Utilities Advisory Committee (PUAC) holds monthly meetings the 3rd Monday of each month to discuss water issues facing the City of San Diego Water Department. The public is welcome to attend and give input. Simply call the PUAC's support line at (619) 236-6750 for information about meeting location, dates and times.

TABLE 1 – Detected Regulated CCR Contaminants with MCLs

Primary Standards (Mandatory Health Related Standards) CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS												
CONTAMINANT	CCR			CSD MDL	TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION						YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
	UNITS	MCL	PHG (MCLG)		ALVARADO		MIRAMAR		OTAY			
				AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE			
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	0.04	0.267	0.241-0.311	0.275	0.238-0.370	0.370	0.295-0.487	2001	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	100	n/a	0.2	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AVERAGE = 58.5 Range= 40.5-95.5						2001	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Note: Total Trihalomethane compliance is based on a flow-weighted system wide average. Reported values reflect Citywide results.

Primary Standards (Mandatory Health Related Standards) RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS												
CONTAMINANT	CCR			CSD MDL	TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION						YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
	UNITS	MCL	PHG (MCLG)		ALVARADO		MIRAMAR		OTAY			
				AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE			
Gross Beta Particle Activity	pCi/L	50	(0)	---	<3.7	nd-8.8	<3.2	nd-7.2	2.6	1.8-4.2	1998	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	pCi/L	15	(0)	---	3.8	1.6-7.0	4.6	2.2-8.9	2.6	1.7-3.2	1998	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	pCi/L	20	(0)	---	<1.4	nd-1.8	2.2	1.8-2.5	<0.8	nd-1.1	1998	Erosion of natural deposits

Primary Standards (Mandatory Health Related Standards) AT THE TAP CONTAMINANTS

CONTAMINANT	CCR			CSD MDL	TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION						YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
	UNITS	MCL	PHG (MCLG)		ALVARADO		MIRAMAR		OTAY			
					AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE		
Total Coliform Bacteria		<5%P TT	(0)	A	0.42%P	A-P	0.00%P	A-P	0.41%P	A-P	2001	Naturally present in the environment
Sodium	ppm	na	na	5	80.0	69.8-88.2	76.9	70.9-81.2	77.6	70.6-83.6	2001	Naturally present in the environment
Total Hardness	ppm	na	na	2	228	204-251	250	241-274	200	166-251	2001	Naturally present in the environment
Total Hardness	gr/Gal	na	na	0.117	13.3	11.9-14.7	14.6	14.1-16.0	11.7	9.70-14.7	2001	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	NTU	TT	TT	0.07	0.11	0.07-0.25	<0.09	nd-0.20	<0.14	nd-0.45	2001	Soil runoff

TABLE 2 – Detected Regulated CCR Contaminants with Secondary MCLs

Primary Standards (Mandatory Health Related Standards) CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

CONTAMINANT	CCR			CSD MDL	TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION						YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANTS
	UNITS	CA	PHG (MCLG)		ALVARADO		MIRAMAR		OTAY			
		SMCL			AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE		
Color	CU	15	n/a	1	<2	nd-3	2	1-4	<5	nd-14	2001	Naturally - occurring organic materials
Corrosivity	---	non-corrosive	n/a		0.59	0.16-1.08	0.69	0.10-1.04	0.56	0.25-0.98	2001	Natural or industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in water. A positive index indicates that the water is non-corrosive
Odor-Threshold	OU	3	n/a	1	<1	nd-1	<1	nd-1	<1.4	nd-2.0	2001	Naturally - occurring organic materials
Turbidity	NTU	5	n/a	0.07	0.11	0.07-0.25	<0.09	nd-0.20	<0.14	nd-0.45	2001	Soil runoff
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	n/a	10	487	434-540	515	504-527	425	372-539	2001	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	µmhos/cm	1600	n/a	n/a	847	782-909	886	855-909	761	648-865	2001	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride	ppm	500	n/a	0.5	73.6	65.2-85.9	73.4	69.3-78.0	81.4	76.1-87.6	2001	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate	ppm	500	n/a	0.5	150	120-176	174	167-185	80.1	42.0-182	2001	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence

TABLE 3 – Information Collection Rule (ICR) Disinfection By-Products

Primary Standards (Mandatory Health Related Standards) CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

CONTAMINANT	CCR			CSD MDL	TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION						YEAR SAMPLED
	UNITS	MCL	PHG (MCLG)		ALVARADO		MIRAMAR		OTAY		
					AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	
THM4	ppb	100	n/a	0.2	43.6	25.5-63.9	49.4	36.2-60.5	69.3	33.9-95.5	2001
Haloacetic Acids 5	ppb	n/a	n/a	0.5	<26.4	<16.2-31.4	<26.9	<21.4-30.5	<41.4	<28.9-49.3	2001
Haloketones	ppb	n/a	n/a	0.5	1.75	1.26-2.05	2.15	1.42-2.81	2.40	1.60-3.53	2001
Haloacetonitriles	ppb	n/a	n/a	0.25	<7.26	<4.98-<8.95	<8.61	<6.00-<11.8	<10.7	<7.51-<16.3	2001
Chlorhydrate	ppb	n/a	n/a	0.25	1.38	0.56-2.21	2.54	2.01-3.44	1.27	0.74-2.16	2001
Chloropicrin	ppb	n/a	n/a	0.25	<0.44	nd-0.81	<0.41	nd-0.75	nd	nd	2001
TOX as Chloride	ppb	n/a	n/a	10	190	94.5-355	194	103-411	297	210-417	2001
Disinfectant Residual	ppm	n/a	n/a	0.1	2.6	1.2-3.9	2.8	2.0-3.7	2.5	1.0-3.5	2001
Cyanogen Chloride	ppb	n/a	n/a	0.5	4.88	1.68-7.23	2.31	1.31-3.06	5.72	2.18-10.2	1999

Abbreviations

- A/P:** Absent/Present
- AL:** Action Level
- CCR:** Consumer Confidence Report
- CSDWQL MDL:** City of San Diego Water Quality Laboratory Method Detection Limit
- CU:** Color Units
- DLR:** Detection Limit for Reporting
- gr/Gal:** Grains per Gallon
- MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level
- MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
- MDL:** Method Detection Limit
- n/a:** not applicable
- nd:** <WQL MDL
- NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- OU:** Odor Units
- pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)
- PDWS:** Primary Drinking Water Standard
- PHG:** Public Health Goal
- ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L) -- [1 ppb = 1,000 ppt]
- ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L) -- [1 ppm = 1,000 ppb]
- ppt:** parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L) -- [1 ppt = 0.001 ppb]
- Sample Year:** This column is to record the last time a contaminant was analyzed.
- TOX:** Total Organic Halides
- TT:** A required treatment technique process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- µg/l:** micrograms per liter (ppb)
- µmhos/cm:** measurement of conductivity
- <:** Less than
- >:** Greater than

TABLE 4 – Detected Unregulated CCR Contaminants

Primary Standards (Mandatory Health Related Standards) CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

CONTAMINANT	CCR		CSD MDL	TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT CONCENTRATION						YEAR SAMPLED
	UNITS	ACTION LEVEL		ALVARADO		MIRAMAR		OTAY		
				AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	
Boron	ppb	1000	5	107	94.0-162	128	112-162	103	74.0-127	2001
Perchlorate	ppb	18	4	nd	nd	<4.07	nd-4.81	nd	nd	2001
Vanadium	ppb	50	0.2	nd	nd	<1.01	nd-1.01	<1.00	nd-1.00	2001