

# East Los Angeles District 2004 Water Quality Report

At California Water Service Company, we are committed to supplying you with high-quality water. We are pleased to provide this annual water quality report, which includes information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards. It also explains the steps we take to protect your water supply.

We care about what you think. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please call us. Also, please watch for bill inserts, which is where you will find announcements of any water related public meetings or workshops as well as important information about your water.

## About Your Water Supply

California Water Service Company (Cal Water) has provided high-quality water utility services in the East Los Angeles area since 1928. In addition to the 26,400 customer connections in our East Los Angeles system, we serve 2,700 customer connections through operating contracts with the Cities of Commerce and Montebello. To meet our customers' needs, we use a combination of local groundwater and purchased water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), which is imported from the Colorado River and the State Water Project in northern California. The East Los Angeles water system includes 20 wells, 29 booster pumps, 16 storage tanks, and three MWD connections. Cal Water proactively maintains and upgrades its facilities to ensure a reliable, high-quality supply.

***If you have any questions, please contact David Karraker, District Manager, at (323) 722-8601.***

3316 West Beverly Boulevard  
Montebello, CA 90640  
Customer Center: (323) 722-8601  
24 Hour Emergencies: (323) 263-4145  
www.calwater.com



1. While your drinking water meets the current standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The California Department of Health Services continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

2. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than 6 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.

3. Nitrite was detected one time in excess of the MCL. Nitrite in drinking water at levels above 1 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than 6 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. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

4. For surface water systems, the Treatment Technique dictates that the turbidity level of the filtered water is less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of the measurements taken each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. The "Lowest Monthly Percent" reported represents the lowest percentage of turbidity measurements that were less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in any given month. Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water. Our wholesaler Metropolitan Water District (MWD) monitors it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of their filtration systems.

5. Manganese was found at several wells at levels exceeding the secondary MCL (SMCL). SMCLs were set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects such as color and staining of plumbing fixtures and clothing while washing. High manganese levels are due to leaching of natural deposits. Exceeding an SMCL does not pose a health risk. We are presently developing a treatment plan for its removal.

6. Four of the 10 active wells were found to contain 1,4-Dioxane at levels greater than the Notification Level (NL) established by the California Department of Health Services (DHS). A NL is defined as a health-based advisory level for an unregulated contaminant in drinking water. DHS uses it to provide guidance to drinking water systems.

µmhos/cm = measure of specific conductance	pCi/L = picoCuries per liter (measure of radioactivity)
n/a = not applicable	ppb = parts per billion (micrograms per liter)
ND = none detected	ppm = parts per million (milligrams per liter)
NTU = nephelometric turbidity unit	SMCL = secondary maximum contaminant level

East Los Angeles Ground											MWD Weymouth Plant			
Primary Drinking Water Standards														
RADIOLOGICAL	Year Range	Reporting Units	MCL (SMCL)	PHG (MCLG)	Violation	Result Range	Average	Result Range	Average	Source of Substance				
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	2001 - 2004	pCi/L	15	(0)	No	ND - 4.95	1.32	ND - 4.3	ND	Erosion of natural deposits				
Gross Beta Particle Activity	2004	pCi/L	50	(0)	No	ND - 2.01	ND	ND - 5.0	ND	Decay of natural and man-made deposits				
Uranium	2001 - 2004	pCi/L	20	0.5	No	ND - 2.01	ND	ND - 3.0	ND	Erosion of natural deposits				
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	Year Range	Reporting Units	MCL (SMCL)	PHG (MCLG)	Violation	Result Range	Average	Result Range	Average	Source of Substance				
Aluminum	2002 - 2004	ppm	1 (0.2)	0.6	No	ND - 0.25	ND			Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes				
Arsenic <sup>1</sup>	2002 - 2004	ppb	50	0.004	No	ND - 8	3			Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes				
Barium	2002 - 2004	ppm	1	(2)	No	ND - 0.16	0.1			Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits				
Chromium	2002 - 2004	ppb	50	(100)	No	ND - 14	ND			Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits				
Fluoride	2002 - 2004	ppm	2	1	No	0.23 - 0.44	0.32	0.16 - 0.21	0.18	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories				
Mercury	2002 - 2004	ppb	2	1.2	No	ND - 2	ND			Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills and cropland				
Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>2</sup>	2004	ppm	45	45	No	ND - 28	10			Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits				
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	2002 - 2004	ppm	1	1	No	ND - 1	ND	ND - 0.74	0.47	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits				
Nitrite (as Nitrogen) <sup>3</sup>	2004	ppm	1	1	Yes	0.67 - 1.12	0.9			Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits				
			MCL (SMCL)	PHG (MCLG)	Violation	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly Percent	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly Percent	Source of Substance				
Turbidity (Surface water requiring filtration) <sup>4</sup>	2004	NTU	TT	n/a	No			0.11	100%	Soil runoff				
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	Year Range	Reporting Units	MCL (SMCL)	PHG (MCLG)	Violation	Result Range	Average	Result Range	Average	Source of Substance				
1,1-Dichloroethylene (11DCE)	2004	ppb	6	10	No	ND - 3.6	ND			Discharge from industrial chemical factories				
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)	2004	ppb	5	0.06	No	ND - 2.1	ND			Discharge from factories; dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)				
Trichloroethylene (TCE)	2004	ppb	5	0.8	No	ND - 1.2	ND			Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories				
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	2004	ppm	TT	n/a	No			1.7 - 2.9	2.2	Various natural and man-made sources				
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS	Year Range	Reporting Units	MCL (SMCL)	PHG (MCLG)	Violation	Result Range	Average	Highest Annual Average	Average	Source of Substance				
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM)	2004	ppb	80	n/a	No	ND - 77.6		32.7		By-product of drinking water chlorination				
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2004	ppb	60	n/a	No	ND - 51.3		16.0		By-product of drinking water chlorination				
DISINFECTANT	Year Range	Reporting Units	MRDL	MRDLG	Violation	Result Range	Average	Result Range	Average	Source of Substance				
Chlorine	2004	ppm	4.0	(4)	No	ND - 2.1		0.4		Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment				
Chloramine	2004	ppm	4.0	(4)	No	0.26 - 2.5		1.6		Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment				
Other Regulated Substances														
METALS (Lead & Copper Monitoring)	Year Range	Reporting Units	AL	PHG (MCLG)	Violation	Level Detected	# Samples exceeding AL	Source of Substance						
Copper	2002	ppm	1.3	0.17	No	0.15	0 of 58	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives						
Secondary Drinking Water Standards and Unregulated Compounds														
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	Year Range	Reporting Units	MCL (SMCL)	PHG (MCLG)	Violation	Result Range	Average	Result Range	Average	Source of Substance				
Alkalinity	2002 - 2004	ppm	n/a	n/a	No	169 - 224	198	75 - 99	90	Erosion of natural deposits				
Boron	2002 - 2003	ppm	NL=1	n/a	No	0.12 - 0.25	0.18	140 - 150	140	Erosion of natural deposits				
Calcium	2002 - 2004	ppm	n/a	n/a	No	64 - 111.2	86	32 - 47	41	Erosion of natural deposits				
Chloride	2002 - 2004	ppm	(500)	n/a	No	63 - 180	106	76 - 104	86	Erosion of natural deposits; seawater influence				
Chromium Hexavalent	2002	ppb	n/a	n/a	No	0.2 - 1.7	0.97			Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits				
Color	2002 - 2004	UNITS	(15)	n/a	No	1 - 7	3	1 - 3	2	Naturally occurring organic matter				
Hardness	2002 - 2004	ppm	n/a	n/a	No	226 - 420	314	142 - 206	181	Erosion of natural deposits				
Magnesium	2002 - 2004	ppm	n/a	n/a	No	16 - 34	25	15 - 21.5	19.5	Erosion of natural deposits				
Manganese <sup>5</sup>	2002 - 2004	ppb	(50)	n/a	No	ND - 230	76			Leaching from natural deposits				
Odor	2002 - 2004	T.O.N.	(3)	n/a	No			2	2					
pH	2002 - 2004	UNITS	n/a	n/a	No	7.26 - 8.00	7.67	8.1 - 8.2	8.2	Inherent characteristic of water				
Potassium	2004	ppm	n/a	n/a	No			3.0 - 4.1	3.6					
Sodium	2002 - 2004	ppm	n/a	n/a	No	55 - 96	73	75 - 94	82	Erosion of natural deposits; seawater influence				
Specific Conductance	2002 - 2004	µmhos/cm	(1600)	n/a	No	747 - 1184	927	641 - 867	762	Erosion of natural deposits; seawater influence				
Sulfate	2002 - 2004	ppm	(500)	n/a	No	62 - 125	106	104 - 189	145	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes				
Total Dissolved Solids	2002 - 2004	ppm	(1000)	n/a	No	256 - 685	520	371 - 515	445	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits				
Turbidity (groundwater)	2002 - 2004	NTU	(5)	n/a	No	ND - 5.2	0.71			Soil runoff				
Vanadium	2002 - 2004	ppb	NL=50	n/a	No	ND - 8.8	4.5	ND - 3.6	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; manufacturing of alloys and steel				
ORGANIC CHEMICALS	Year Range	Reporting Units	NL	PHG (MCLG)	Violation	Result Range	Average	Result Range	Average	Source of Substance				
1,4-Dioxane <sup>6</sup>	2004	ppb	3	n/a	No	ND - 10.2	4.2			Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories				
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA)	2004	ppt	10	n/a	No			ND - 5.5		By-product of drinking water chlorination; industrial processes				



## ***Our Commitment to Our Customers***

All of us at California Water Service Company appreciate having the opportunity to serve you, our valued customer. We know that water quality is important to you, and we are committed to providing water that meets or surpasses all water quality standards. Toward that end, our team of leading water quality experts vigilantly monitors our supply and maintains a state-of-the-art water quality laboratory. And we are always looking for opportunities to improve our operations. In fact, our mission is to be **the** leader in providing communities and customers with traditional and innovative utility services.

***Cal Water is coordinating with state and federal agencies to enhance the security of our water supplies. Please report any suspicious activities near water facilities to us immediately.***

2004 Water Quality Report for East Los Angeles

## ***General Information About Water***

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) 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, 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 by-products 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.

***In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA 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.***

## ***Recommendation for Those Who May Have Special Water Needs***

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people, and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/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 at (800) 426-4791.

## ***Water Hardness***

Water is considered soft if total hardness is less than 75 ppm; moderately hard at 75 to 150 ppm; hard at 150 to 300 ppm; and very hard at 300 ppm or higher. To determine total hardness of your water in grains per gallon, simply divide amount given in parts per million by 17.1.

## ***Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection Program (DWSAPP)***

By the end of 2002, Cal Water had submitted to the California Department of Health Services a DWSAPP report for each water source in the water system. The DWSAPP report identifies possible sources of contamination to aid prioritizing cleanup and pollution prevention efforts. All reports are available for viewing or copying at our Customer Center.

## ***EAST LOS ANGELES***

The water sources in your system are considered most vulnerable to contamination from gas stations, confirmed leaks, known contaminant plumes, chemical/petroleum storage, metal fabrication, and plastic producers.

We encourage customers to join us in our efforts to prevent water pollution and protect our most precious natural resource.

## ***How to Read the Table***

We test your water for more than 100 contaminants for which state and federal standards have been set. THIS TABLE LISTS ONLY THOSE THAT WERE DETECTED. 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. The water quality test results shown in this table are divided into two main sections: those related to "primary standards" and those related to "secondary standards." Primary standards protect public health by limiting the levels of contaminants in drinking water. Secondary standards are limits for substances that could affect the water's taste, odor, and appearance.

## ***Definitions of terms and abbreviations used in the table***

**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.

**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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**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. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**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 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

**Notification Level (NL):** A health-based advisory level for an unregulated contaminant in drinking water. It is used by DHS to provide guidance to drinking water systems.

**Primary Drinking Water Standard or PDWS:** MCLs and MRDLs 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 which a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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