The 2005 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 2004 water quality testing, and has been prepared in compliance with new regulations called for in the 1996 reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The report also outlines the City’s drinking water quality testing program and changing the report’s due date to July 1.

The City of La Habra vigilantly safeguards our water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets the standards required by the state and federal regulatory agencies. The City of La Habra diligently samples our water supply and for additional contaminants that have known health risks. For example, the City monitors groundwater for Methyl tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE). Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA determine what contaminants occur and sets regulations for bottled water. The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also has regulations for contaminants in bottled water. USEPA and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) are the agencies responsible for establishing drinking water quality standards. To ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and CDHS prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

CDHS regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must be the same protection for public health. The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also has regulations for contaminants in bottled water. USEPA and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) are the agencies responsible for establishing drinking water quality standards. To ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and CDHS prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA determine what contaminants occur and sets regulations for bottled water. The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also has regulations for contaminants in bottled water. USEPA and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) are the agencies responsible for establishing drinking water quality standards. To ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and CDHS prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

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

City of La Habra
Water Department
201 E. La Habra Boulevard
La Habra, California 90633-0337
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.
- **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 and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the CDHS prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDHS 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 1-800-426-4791.

### 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. Metropolitan tested your surface water for *Cryptosporidium* in 2004 and did not detect it. If it ever is detected, Cryptosporidium is 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-Ccompromised 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.

---

If you have any questions about your water, please contact us for answers...

For information about your water quality, or to find out about upcoming opportunities to participate in public meetings, please call Carlo Nafarrete at (562) 905-9792.

For more information about the health effects of the listed constituents in the following tables, please call the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hotline at (800) 426-4791.
The maximum allowable level of nitrate in drinking water, also called the maximum contaminant level (MCL), is 45 milligrams per liter as nitrogen (mg N/L). The nitrate MCL can also be expressed as 10 milligrams per liter as nitrogen (mg N/L). Both numbers are equivalent values. At times nitrate in your tap water may have exceeded one-half the MCL, but it was never greater than the MCL. The following advisory is issued because in 2004 we recorded nitrate measurements in the drinking water supply which exceeded one-half the nitrate MCL.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L (or the equivalent of 10 mg/L as N) is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of a baby's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 ppm per million 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.

**Source Water Assessments**

**Import (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/water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/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**

An assessment of the drinking water sources for City of La Habra Water Department was completed in December 2002. The sources are considered to be most vulnerable to contamination activities associated with contaminated ground water supplies. Ground water supplies include: bodies of water, gas stations, machine shops, metal plating/milling/fabricating, repair shops, and sewer collection systems.

A copy of the complete assessment is available at Department of Health Services at 788 East Industrial Drive, Suite 282, City of Industry, CA 91738-2824. You may request a summary of the assessment by contacting the City of La Habra Water Department at (562) 905-9792.

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 investigation are:

- **Municipal Water District of Orange County**
- **Orange County Water District**
- **Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**
- **California Department of Health Services, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management (same site/pw/edwm) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**
- [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)

**Table Definitions**

- **Chemical** - The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water source must follow.
- **MCL (Maximum Contaminant Limit)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are the same as the PRDLs (PRDLG) for most contaminants and are considered to be regulatory in nature. Secondary MCLs are considered to be advisory in nature.
- **PRDL/PRDLG (Public Health Goal)** - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PRDLs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Secondary Standards** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Variance** - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
- **Regulatory Action Level** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Monitoring** - A required process to determine if a contaminant is at levels that require treatment techniques.
- **TT Violation** - When a monitoring technique results in the level of a contaminant in drinking water being above a certain level of concern.
- **Typical Source of Contaminant**

---

**2004 City of La Habra Local Groundwater Quality**

**Chemical**

| PHG | MCL | Average | MCL Violation? | Most Recent Sampling Date
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**City of La Habra Distribution System Water Quality**

**Chemical**

| PHG | MCL | Average | MCL Violation? | Most Recent Sampling Date
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**2004 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Treated Surface Water**

**Chemical**

| PHG | MCL | Average | MCL Violation? | Most Recent Sampling Date
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
<td>N = Not Regulated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**The Continuing Quality of Your Water is Our Primary Concern**

The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are not more than one year old.