

Lake Hemet Municipal Water District

2002 Consumer Confidence Report

IT'S YOUR WATER. . . HANDLE IT WITH CARE!

This year presents a little different outlook than the past few years. We have experienced a few late season storms and will end this rainfall season with slightly better than average rainfall total. Don't start watering everything yet. We are not at the point that we can relax and forget about conserving. Conserving water along with most other natural resources is a way of life that we might just as well make up our collective minds to live with. We may even manage to add a little more moisture to our totals but Mother Nature does have a way of reminding us that she's in charge!

As the District makes plans for the future, we look ahead at ways to continue to be efficient and stay in step with growing responsibilities of serving a large customer base. At the same time we do not want to lose our ability to maintain our small town feeling. Thank you for your commitment to working with us to preserve our natural resources.

Rob Lindquist, General Manager

2480 E. Florida Avenue, Hemet, California 92544

WATER RESOURCES

CONSERVATION NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE

Taking a proactive attitude now may provide future benefits.



Make sure your home and yard are leak free.



Store drinking water in the refrigerator. Don't let the tap run while you are waiting for cool water.



Closely cut grass makes the roots work harder, requiring more water. Raise mower to highest position



When washing the car, use the soap and water from a bucket. Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle for the final rinse.



Use a broom when cleaning the driveway.



Keep a close watch for faucets that start to drip and repair or replace them right away.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Once again, the District was kept busy in 2002. Due to the continuing drought many changes were required to keep the water wells performing properly. Pumps had to be redesigned and lowered in the wells to keep them productive. Additionally, purchases of Northern California water through EMWD were necessary to maintain District delivery of quality water to our rapidly growing number of customers.

CONSTRUCTION

The Pipeline Replacement Program, funded by the California Department of Water Resources, has gone well. By the time you read this over 37,000 feet of pipeline and appurtenances will have been replaced. This program has enabled Lake Hemet Water District to obtain low interest rate financing available for this specific type of construction. The District's Construction Crew has been busy with the maintenance of the balance of the water system repairing leaks and other projects. In Garner Valley the District's Garner Master Plan requirements included a new well that was installed in 2002 and we will see an additional large water storage tank, planned for this year, put into operation.

CAMPGROUND

Above average rainfall has helped raise the lake level but it remains below normal. The campground is in top condition and remains one of the best places to experience a lake and mountain environment in Southern California. The many species of water birds are enjoyable to watch and among the blue herons, mallard ducks and others, you can sometimes see one of the resident bald eagles. For fishing or just relaxing come to see Lake Hemet Campground. Call 659-2680 for information. We think you will like it here.

MOUNTAIN MAN DAYS

Once again this year the popular Mountain Man Days were held at Lake Hemet. This year it was May 14 through May 18. This authentic nineteenth century encampment features true to the period dress, crafts, games, black powder shoots plus food, dancing and an old fashioned good time for all ages. Be sure to come up next year (in May).

SECURITY

As the world has undergone changes in the last year District Security has continued to be a priority and to this purpose has also made some changes.

- Additional Public Safety Training for District Rangers.
- Guidelines to follow during routine and non-routine assignments.
- Notification of all departments of alerts as soon as they issued.
- Maintained contact with county, state and federal authorities involved in emergency activities.
- Continued District wide awareness to surroundings and conditions.
- Water quality monitoring and sampling exceeds requirements.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

This brochure is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. For more information about your water, call 909-658-3241 and ask for John Loncar.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entiende bien.

The District's Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of every month at the main office, located at 2480 E. Florida Avenue. The meeting times are at 3:00 PM January - July, and 7:00 PM August - December. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

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 systems 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. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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, 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 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 byproducts 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 can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 your water poses a health risk. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the California Department of Health services (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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791.)

Your water comes from twelve wells located along the San Jacinto River from Valle Vista to San Jacinto. During high demand in the summer, the District purchases local ground water from Eastern Municipal Water District. Information concerning contaminants in this water is provided later in this report. All source water is disinfected with chlorine to protect you against microbial contaminants.

The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2002 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2002. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms & abbreviations used:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of 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 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.
- **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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.
- **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 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- **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 the contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **n/a:** not applicable; **ND:** not detectable at testing limit; **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation); **umhos/cm:** a measure of electrical conductance; **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter (a contaminant at 4 ppm equals 0.000004 gallon of contaminant in 1 gallon of water); **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter (a contaminant at 7 ppb equals 0.00000007 gallon of contaminant in 1 gallon of water).

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm (as Nitrogen) is a health risk for infants less than six 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 10 ppm may also affect the ability of blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with specific enzyme deficiencies. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Regulated Contaminants with Primary MCLs or MRDLs						
Microbiological Contaminants	Units	MCLG	MCL	Highest monthly		Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	% of samples	0	5%	6.0		Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants	Units	PHG	MCL	Range (Average)		
Gross Alpha particle activity	pCi/l	n/a	15	0.3-16.6 ¹ (3.5)		Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	pCi/l	n/a	5	0-0.66 (0.1)		Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	pCi/l	0.5	20	0-15.7 (1.9)		Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants	Units	PHG (MCLG)	MCL	Range (Average)		
Aluminum	ppm	0.6	1	ND-0.08 (0.007)		Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppm	(2)	1	ND-0.17 (0.059)		Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	1	2	0.2-0.5 (0.3)		Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.3-6.4 (3.0)		Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use
Selenium	ppb	(50)	50	ND-7 (1)		Erosion of natural deposits
	Units	PHG	MCL	90th percentile	# of sites	# sites over AL
Copper (sampled in 2001)	ppm	0.17	AL=1.3	0.3	30	0
Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors	Units	MRDLG	MCL (MRDL)	Highest Annual Average	Range	
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	n/a	80	9.1	0-19.0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Halocetic Acids	ppb	n/a	60	3	0-1.1	By-product of water disinfection
Chlorine	ppm	4	(4.0)	1.05	0.85-1.57	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Regulated Contaminants with Secondary MCLs						
	Units	PHG (MCLG)	MCL	Range (Average)		Typical Source of Contaminant
Iron	ppb	n/a	300	ND-230 (22)		Leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	n/a	1000	220-380 (289)		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	umhos/cm	n/a	1600	300-580 (445)		Substances that form ions when in water
Chloride	ppm	n/a	500	11-30 (19)		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate	ppm	n/a	500	14-72 (39)		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	NTU	n/a	5	0.07-3.5 (0.4)		Soil runoff
State Regulated Contaminants with No MCLs						
	Units	AL	Range (Average)			
Chromium VI	ppb	n/a	ND-1.6 (0.1)			
Vanadium	ppb	50	3.8-11.0 (6.6)			

¹ One well exceeded 15 pCi/l, however, it was blended with other sources to a level less than the MCL before water entered the distribution system.

Other Detected Contaminants That May Be Of Interest To The Consumer		
	Units	Range (Average)
Calcium	ppm	35-58 (51)
Magnesium	ppm	4.0-6.8 (5)
Potassium	ppm	3-5 (4)
Sodium	ppm	17-48 (30)
Bicarbonate	ppm	130-200 (175)
Total Alkalinity	ppm	110-170 (143)
Total Hardness	ppm	100-170 (149)
pH	Std. Units	7.4-8.0 (7.8)

During October 2002, the District's water system violated the coliform drinking water standard. Coliforms are bacteria, which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. District staff believe that the total coliform positive test results may have resulted from low chlorine levels in the water. Changes have been made to increase water circulation and a rigorous flushing program has been instituted to prevent a reoccurrence.

Source water assessments of all twelve wells were completed in November 2002. These sources, based on assessments, are most vulnerable to sewer collection systems, septic systems, wells – agricultural / irrigation, and high-density housing.

Copies of the completed assessments are available at Department of Health Services, Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, 1350 Front Street, Room 2050, San Diego, CA 92101 or at Lake Hemet Municipal Water District, 2480 East Florida Avenue, Hemet, CA 92544. You may request summaries of the assessments be sent to you by contacting Steve Williams at 619-525-4580 or John Loncar at 909-658-3241.

In 2002, the District purchased 2822 acre-feet of supplemental water from Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). This amounted to 23% of the District's source of supply. The data in the tables below were supplied by Eastern Municipal Water District and are from a blend of water from 13 wells located in the San Jacinto Valley.

Regulated Contaminants with Primary MCLs

Radioactive Contaminants	Units	PHG	MCL	Range (Average)	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Gross Alpha particle activity	pCi/l	n/a	15	1.32-14.1 (3.49)	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants	Units	PHG (MCLG)	MCL	Range (Average)	
Aluminum	ppm	0.6	1	ND-0.089 (0.037)	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	ppb	n/a	50	ND-8.1 (1.013)	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Chromium	ppb	(100)	50	ND-6.3 (0.78)	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	1	2	0.2-0.8 (0.4)	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	ND-6.3 (2.0)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite	ppm	1	1	ND-0.07 (0.01)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	ppb	(50)	50	ND-17 (4.3)	Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminants with Secondary MCLs

	Units	PHG (MCLG)	MCL	Range (Average)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Iron	ppb	n/a	300	ND-550 (94)	Leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	n/a	1000	160-600 (300)	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	umhos/cm	n/a	1600	260-930 (510)	Substances that form ions when in water
Chloride	ppm	n/a	500	7.5-82 (25)	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Manganese	ppb	n/a	50	ND-490 (47)	Leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate	ppm	n/a	500	9.7-207 (66)	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Zinc	ppm	n/a	5.0	ND-4 (0.3)	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

State Regulated Contaminants with No MCLs

	Units	AL	Range	Average
Chromium VI	ppb	n/a	ND-1.3	0.1
Vanadium	ppb	50	ND-46	14

Other Detected Contaminants That May Be Of Interest To The Consumer

	Units	Range (Average)
Calcium	ppm	22-82 (48)
Magnesium	ppm	1.4-14 (5.4)
Phosphate	ppm	ND-0.44 (0.24)
Potassium	ppm	1.8-7.4 (3.8)
Radon 222	pCi/l	8.68-293 (220)
Silica	ppm	18-27 (22)
Sodium	ppm	12-93 (42)
Bicarbonate	ppm	120-218 (156)
Carbonate	ppm	ND-5.2 (0.4)
Total Alkalinity	ppm	99-180 (130)
Total Hardness	ppm	60-260 (140)
Total Inorganic Nitrogen	ppm	ND-6.3 (1.7)
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	0.8-2.5 (1.2)
pH	Std. Units	6.7-8.4- (7.5)

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through the soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in the air is 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

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.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Lake Hemet Municipal Water District is to produce and deliver high quality water to our customers for domestic and agricultural use, to provide sewer collection services and to maintain Lake Hemet as a clean safe water reservoir and recreational facility, in an economical, efficient and responsible manner now and in the future.



2002 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Board of Directors
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