

2019



CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Vista Irrigation District tests the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by State and Federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

WHAT'S THIS REPORT ABOUT?

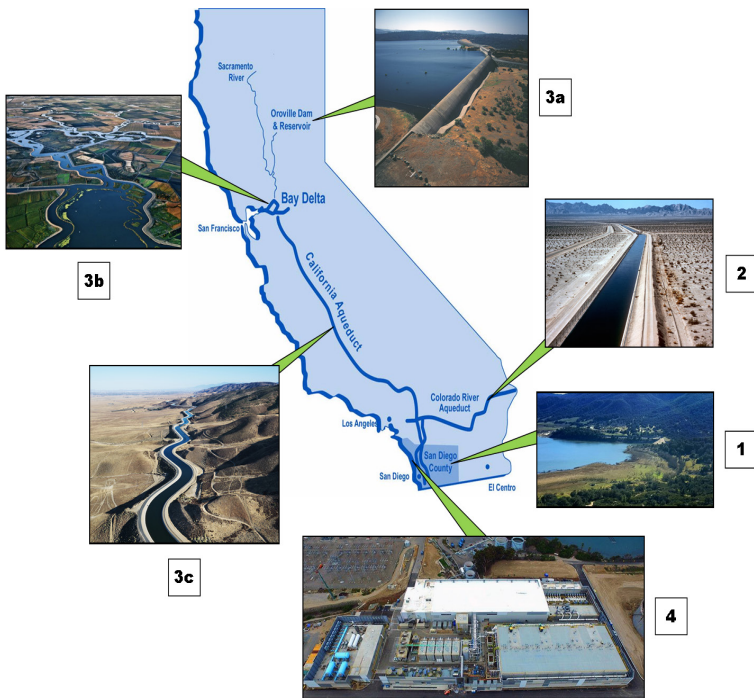
Vista Irrigation District (District) is pleased to present its annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), also known as the Water Quality Report. The District takes all steps necessary to safeguard your water supply, conducting more than 12,000 tests for over 75 drinking water constituents. This report provides a snapshot of the quality of water we provided last year. 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 customers.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information presented in this report, please contact Dean Farris, Water Distribution Supervisor at (760) 597-3143. This report is also available on our website under the publications tab at www.vidwater.org.

**Last year,
your water met
all Federal and State
Drinking Water
Standards.**

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

Vista Irrigation District (District) uses four sources for your drinking water. The first one is local water, which originates from the watershed and well fields located near Lake Henshaw. The District owns the 43,000-acre Warner Ranch which encompasses the lake and monitors activities that could contaminate it. Water from Lake Henshaw is transferred to Lake Wohlford via a canal originally constructed in the 1890s. Once the water reaches the Escondido-Vista Water Treatment Plant (EVWTP), it is treated and disinfected to protect you against microbial contaminants. The second water source is the Colorado River. The third source is from Northern California. The latter two, called imported water, are delivered to San Diego County and ultimately to the District via the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority). Imported water may be treated at EVWTP, Water Authority's Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant in San Marcos, Oceanside's Robert A. Weese Filtration Plant, or MWD's Skinner Treatment Plant in Riverside County. The fourth source is desalinated seawater from the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant.



Pictured Left: California Water Infrastructure Map

- 1. Local Water Source - Lake Henshaw;
- 2. Imported Water Source - Colorado River Aqueduct;
- 3. Imported Water Sources: 3a. Oroville Dam & Reservoir, 3b. Bay Delta, 3c. California Aqueduct;
- 4. Desalinated Seawater - Carlsbad Desalination Plant

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Comuníquese con Vista Irrigation District para obtener una copia de este reportaje en Español. Llame al (760) 597-3100.

WHAT WERE THE FINDINGS OF THE LOCAL AND IMPORTED SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS?

Local Water Sources

In April 2016, Vista Irrigation District (District), in conjunction with the City of Escondido, prepared a sanitary survey of the local watershed. This survey assesses activities within the watershed that have the potential to influence the quality of water delivered from Lake Henshaw, Dixon Lake and Lake Wohlford. While the survey identifies a number of activities that have the potential to adversely affect water quality, including residential septic facilities, highway run-off, and agricultural and recreational activities, no contaminants from these activities were detected in the local water supply in 2016. A copy of the Watershed Sanitary Survey, which contains a Source Water Assessment Program, is available for review at the District office located at 1391 Engineer Street in Vista.



DO I NEED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS?

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) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) 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 1-800-426-4791.

Imported Water Sources

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) completed its source water assessment of its Colorado River and California State Water Project supplies in December 2002. Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/storm water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered most vulnerable to contamination from urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation and wastewater.

MWD updates its source water assessment through watershed sanitary surveys every five years. The most recent watershed sanitary surveys of its source water supplies from the Colorado River was updated in 2015 and the State Water Project was updated in 2016. Watershed sanitary surveys examine potential sources of contamination, summarize and evaluate water quality data and compliance with regulations, and recommend actions to better protect and improve source water quality.

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.

The following contaminants may potentially be present in our water sources:

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

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS ENHANCE SECURITY, SAFETY AND RELIABILITY AT WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Escondido-Vista Water Treatment Plant (EVWTP), jointly owned by the City of Escondido and Vista Irrigation District (District), was constructed in 1976 and has capacity to produce 75 million gallons of potable water per day. Water treatment at the EVWTP includes mechanical and chemical removal of impurities, followed by inactivation of pathogens (e.g. viruses, bacteria, etc.) through disinfection. The result is clear and healthful water, meeting all state and federal requirements.



The 43-year old EVWTP recently received a major upgrade with the completion of the On-Site Chlorine Generation and Electrical System Upgrades Project. This project took three years to complete, and while it included many disinfection and electrical system improvements, its key objective was to replace the EVWTP's gaseous chlorine storage and disinfection system with an on-site chlorine generation system. Project elements included the demolition of gaseous chlorine storage and feed systems, installation of new sodium hypochlorite and chlorine dioxide generation systems, electrical system upgrades and upsizing emergency power generators capable of managing the demands of the redesigned EVWTP. The two newly installed emergency power generators can fully operate the EVWTP during a power outage, thus increasing water supply reliability.

On-site chlorine generation greatly enhances the security, safety and reliability of the overall water treatment process. These investments support the District's mission of providing high quality, safe and reliable water to its customers.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. SWRCB regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

VID HAS NOT HAD ANY VIOLATIONS OF THESE REGULATIONS!

LEAD AND COPPER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Lead and Copper Rule requires Vista Irrigation District (District) to collect special samples of lead and copper every three years; the last samples were collected in 2018. Lead was not detected at reporting levels in either the source water or private households. Copper was not detected at reporting levels in the source water but was detected in low levels in private households; the source of copper comes from the leaching of copper used in household plumbing fixtures.

In addition to the required Lead and Copper Rule testing, the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water required all water agencies to complete lead sampling at schools (K-12) within their service areas upon request. In 2018, the District completed lead sampling at two schools.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

WHAT ARE THESE TABLES?

The data tables shown on this page and the following two pages list all of the drinking water constituents that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these constituents in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) requires Vista Irrigation District to monitor for certain constituents less than once per year because the concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. The terms used in these data tables can be found listed at the end of the table.

The following tables show water from three sources - local water from Lake Henshaw, which is treated at the Escondido-Vista Water Treatment Plant (EVWTP); imported water, which is treated at the San Diego County Water Authority's Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Robert A. Skinner Treatment Plant, the City of Oceanside's Robert A. Weese Filtration Plant and the EVWTP; and desalinated seawater, which comes from the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant (Carlsbad Desalination Plant).

2018 WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

| Parameter | Units | Federal or State MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG] | Range ----- Average | Treatment Plant Effluents | | | DLR | Typical Source/ Comments |
|--|-------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|------|---|
| | | | | | Escondido-Vista Water Treatment Plant | Skinner, Twin Oaks Valley, & Weese Water Treatment Plants Combined Effluents | Carlsbad Desalination Plant | | |
| Primary Standards | | | | | | | | | |
| Clarity (Turbidity) | | | | | | | | | |
| Combined Filter Effluent Turbidity* | NTU | TT=1 | NA | Range | 0.04 - 0.12 | 0.01 - 0.25 | NR | NA | Soil Runoff |
| | | | | Average | 0.06 | 0.01 | NR | | |
| | | | | Highest | 0.12 | 0.25 | 0.15 | | |
| | % | TT=95% of samples ≤ 0.3% | NA | Percentage | 100.0% | 100.0% | 98.0% | NA | Soil Runoff |
| * Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Turbidity results, which meet performance standards, are considered to be in compliance with filtration requirements. | | | | | | | | | |
| Inorganic Constituents | | | | | | | | | |
| Arsenic (As) | ug/L | 10 | 0.004 | Range | NR | ND - 3 | ND | 2 | Erosion of natural deposits; glass and electronics production waste |
| | | | | Average | NR | 3 | ND | | |
| Chlorite | mg/L | 1 | 0.05 | Range | 0.13 - 0.23 | NR | NR | 0.02 | By-products of drinking water chlorination |
| | | | | Average | 0.15 | NR | NR | | |
| Fluoride (F-) Treatment Related | mg/L | 2 | 1 | Range | 0.6 - 0.8 | 0.13 - 0.31 | 0.6 - 0.8 | 0.1 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for dental health |
| | | | | Average | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.7 | | |
| Nitrate (N) | mg/L | 10 | 10 | Range | NR | ND - 0.43 | ND | 0.4 | Runoff/leaching from fertilizer use; sewage; natural erosion |
| | | | | Average | NR | ND | ND | | |
| Total Organic Carbon (TOC) | mg/L | TT | NS | Range | 1.7 - 2.3 | 2.0 - 2.7 | NA | 0.3 | Naturally occurring organic material |
| | | | | Average | 2 | 2.4 | NA | | |
| Radionuclides Analyzed Every Four Years, for Four Consecutive Quarters | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross Alpha Activity | pCi/L | 15 | 0 | Range | ND - 3.12 | ND - 7 | ND - 1.87 | 3 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| | | | | Average | ND | ND | ND | | |
| Gross Beta Activity | pCi/L | 50 | 0 | Range | ND - 6.91 | ND - 6 | 1.21 - 2.64 | 4 | Decay of natural and man-made deposits |
| | | | | Average | ND | ND | ND | | |
| Uranium (U) | pCi/L | 20 | 0.43 | Range | 1.3 - 2.0 | ND - 3.0 | ND - 0.2 | 1 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| | | | | Average | 1.7 | 1.4 | ND | | |
| Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproduct in Treatment Plant Effluent | | | | | | | | | |
| Effluent Total Trihalomethanes | ug/L | 80 | NS | Range | 24 - 46 | 15 - 35 | ND | NS | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| | | | | Average | 37 | 27 | ND | | |
| Effluent Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | ug/L | 60 | NS | Range | 10 - 21 | ND - 18 | ND | NS | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| | | | | Average | 16 | 6 | ND | | |

2018 WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS (continued)

| Parameter | Units | Federal or State MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) [MRDL] | Range ----- Average | Treatment Plant Effluents | | | DLR | Typical Source/ Comments |
|-----------|-------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| | | | | | Escondido-Vista Water Treatment Plant | Skinner, Twin Oaks Valley, & Weese Water Treatment Plants Combined Effluents | Carlsbad Desalination Plant | | |

Primary Standards (continued)

Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproduct in Treatment Plant Effluent (continued)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|-----|-----|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|--|
| Effluent Total Chlorine Residual | mg/L | [4] | [4] | Range | 2.3 - 3.3 | 1.3 - 3.4 | 1.8 - 3.4 | - | Addition of chlorine and ammonia as combined disinfectant chloramines. |
| | | | | Average | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.1 | | |

Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproduct in VID Distribution System

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------|-----|-----|--------------|-----------|--|--|----|--|
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) | ug/L | 80 | NS | Range | 38 - 52 | | | NS | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| | | | | Highest LRAA | 52 | | | | |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | ug/L | 60 | NS | Range | 14 - 20 | | | NS | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| | | | | Highest LRAA | 20 | | | | |
| Total Chlorine Residual | mg/L | [4] | [4] | Range | 0.4 - 3.4 | | | - | Addition of chlorine and ammonia as combined disinfectant chloramines. |
| | | | | Average | 2.5 | | | | |

Microbiological Constituents in VID Distribution System

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|-----------------|-------|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Total Coliform Bacteria (monthly positives) | % | 5 | (0) | Range | 0% | | | - | Naturally present in the environment |
| | | | | Monthly Highest | 0.00% | | | | |
| Fecal Coliform/ E.Coli | % | * | (0) | Range | 0% | | | - | Naturally present in the environment |
| | | | | Average | 0 | | | | |

*Fecal Coliform/E.Coli MCLs: The occurrence of two consecutive total coliform positive samples, one of which contains fecal coliform/E.Coli, constitutes an acute MCL violation. **The MCL was not violated in 2018.**

Secondary Standards (Aesthetic Standards)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|------|----|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|--|
| Aluminum (Al) | ug/L | 200 | NS | Range | NR | ND - 170 | ND | 50 | Residue from water treatment process; natural deposits; erosion |
| | | | | Average | NR | 82 | ND | | |
| Color | units | 15 | NS | Range | 1 - 1 | ND - 3 | ND | - | Decaying vegetation or other naturally occurring organic materials |
| | | | | Average | 1 | 2 | ND | | |
| Chloride (Cl) | mg/L | 500 | NS | Range | 66 - 97 | 56 - 93 | 55 - 118 | - | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence |
| | | | | Average | 87 | 86 | 74 | | |
| Iron (Fe) | mg/L | 0.3 | NS | Range | NR | ND | ND | 0.1 | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| | | | | Average | NR | ND | ND | | |
| Sulfate (SO ₄) ²⁻ | mg/L | 500 | NS | Range | 94 - 190 | 68 - 240 | 9 - 17 | 0.5 | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| | | | | Average | 159 | 164 | 12 | | |
| Specific Conductance | umho/cm | 1600 | NS | Range | 571 - 969 | 810 - 851 | 304 - 600 | - | Substances that form ions in water; seawater influence |
| | | | | Average | 803 | 828 | 418 | | |
| Total Dissolved Solids | mg/L | 1000 | NS | Range | 310 - 700 | 308 - 583 | 199 - 333 | - | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| | | | | Average | 494 | 499 | 217 | | |

Additional Analyzed

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|----|----|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Total Alkalinity | mg/L | NS | NS | Range | 83 - 120 | 76 - 116 | 42 - 80 | - | Erosion of natural deposits; leaching |
| | | | | Average | 106 | 105 | 63 | | |
| Bicarbonate (HCO ₃) | mg/L | NS | NS | Range | 100 - 140 | NR | NR | - | Erosion of natural deposits; leaching |
| | | | | Average | 125 | NR | NR | | |
| Hardness as CaCO ₃ | mg/L | NS | NS | Range | 140 - 250 | 120 - 280 | 42 - 71 | - | Erosion of natural deposits; leaching |
| | | | | Average | 203 | 217 | 54 | | |
| Calcium (Ca) | mg/L | NS | NS | Range | 33 - 63 | 28 - 71 | 17 - 35 | - | Erosion of natural deposits; leaching |
| | | | | Average | 50 | 54 | 23 | | |
| Magnesium (Mg) | mg/L | NS | NS | Range | 13 - 22 | 12 - 27 | 0.46 - 1.1 | - | Erosion of natural deposits; leaching |
| | | | | Average | 19 | 20 | 0.69 | | |

2018 WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS (continued)

| Parameter | Units | Federal or State MCL | PHG (MCLG) | Range ----- Average | Treatment Plant Effluents | | | DLR | Typical Source/ Comments |
|---|-------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | Escondido-Vista Water Treatment Plant | Skinner, Twin Oaks Valley & Weese Water Treatment Plants Combined Effluents | Carlsbad Desalination Plant | | |
| Additional Analyzed (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
| Sodium (Na) | mg/L | NS | NS | Range | 56 - 86 | 66 - 92 | 16 - 78 | - | Erosion of natural deposits; leaching |
| | | | | Average | 76 | 79 | 54 | | |
| pH | units | NA | NS | Range | 7.8 - 8.0 | 7.1 - 8.5 | 8.0 - 8.7 | - | Measurement of acidity/ alkalinity |
| | | | | Average | 8.0 | 8.1 | 8.5 | | |
| Potassium (K) | mg/L | NS | NS | Range | 3.1 - 4.5 | 4.0 - 4.5 | 1.0 - 3.7 | - | Erosion of natural deposits; leaching |
| | | | | Average | 4.0 | 4.1 | 2.4 | | |
| Chlorate | ug/L | NL=800 | NS | Range | 300 - 430 | 43 - 290 | NA | 20 | By-products of drinking water chlorination |
| | | | | Average | 370 | 131 | NA | | |
| Silica (SiO ₂) | mg/L | NS | NS | Range | 7.2 - 8.8 | NR | NR | - | Erosion of natural deposits; leaching |
| | | | | Average | 7.8 | NR | NR | | |
| Unregulated | | | | | | | | | |
| Boron (B) | mg/L | NL=1 | NS | Range | 0.11 - 0.13 | 0.12 - 0.13 | 0.37 - 0.92 | 0.1 | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| | | | | Average | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.61 | | |
| Parameter | Units | Action Level | PHG (MCLG) | Distribution System 90th Percentile | Number of Samples | Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level | DLR | Typical Source/ Comments | |
| Inorganic Constituents - Copper/Lead in Residential Taps (Sampled in 2018) | | | | | | | | | |
| Copper (Cu) | mg/L | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.40 | 53 | 0 | 0.05 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits | |
| Lead (Pb) | ug/L | 15 | 0.2 | ND | 53 | 0 | 5 | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits | |

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

Detection Limit for Reporting (DLR): A detected contaminant is any contaminant detected at or above its detection level for purposes of reporting.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs, set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), are not regulatory standards, not enforceable and are not required to be met by public water systems.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the water treatment process and distribution system.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs 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, set by the California Environmental Protection Agency, are not regulatory standards, not enforceable and are not required to be met by public water systems.

Regulatory Action Level (AL) / Notification Level (NL): 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.

mg/L: Milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm) = 1 drop in 10 gallon aquarium

ug/L: Micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb) = 1 drop in residential size pool

pCi/L: PicoCuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

umho/cm: Micromho per centimeter; measurement of conductivity

NA: Not Applicable

NC: Not Collected

ND: Not Detectable at testing limit

NR: Not Reported

NS: No Standard

≤: Less than or equal to



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What affects the taste of my water?

A. The taste of drinking water is affected by its mineral content as well as the presence of chlorine, which is used to protect against potential bacterial contamination. Sometimes plumbing can cause a metallic flavor, especially if the water has been sitting in pipes for many hours. Taste, however, does not indicate a higher or lower degree of water quality.

Q. What causes bad odors?

A. Musty or fishy odors can be caused by harmless algae in the water, especially during the hot summer months. Even after chlorine has been added to disinfect the water, these odors may persist. Also, many people mistakenly confuse odors from their sink drain with the smell of their tap water. Check for tap water odors by filling a glass with fresh tap water and smelling it away from the sink.

Q. What causes cloudy water?

A. Cloudy or milky-looking water is usually caused by trapped air picked up from an air pocket in the water main or internal plumbing. Unusual surges or flows within the aqueduct can also trap air, similar to a waterfall. If the water is allowed to sit in a glass or pitcher for a few minutes, the air will dissipate and the water will become clear.

Q. What causes hardness in water?

A. A water's "hardness" is a measure of the amount of certain minerals that are dissolved in the water. Depending on varying sources and system flows, the hardness of Vista Irrigation District water ranged from 42 - 280 mg/L in 2018. These values translate to 2.5 - 16.4 grains per gallon (gpg). These numbers may be of interest because some household appliances (such as dishwashers or water treatment devices) have settings that need to be adjusted based on the hardness of the water.

The minerals in water may leave white spots on glasses, coffeepots, shower heads or shower doors. These spots are chiefly calcium deposits and are not harmful to health. Putting vinegar in a coffeepot and allowing it to sit overnight will usually remove the spots. Make sure to rinse well before using. There are also some store products you can use to avoid spotting when glasses are washed and allowed to dry.

Q. Why am I required to have a backflow device?

A. When customers' private pipes intersect with water system pipelines, a cross-connection is created. Without necessary protections, contamination can result from backflow, or reverse flow, due to changes in water pressure in the distribution system; a backflow device prevents the flow of potentially contaminated water from a customer's pipelines into the water distribution system. In compliance with state law, Vista Irrigation District requires an approved backflow device on commercial, industrial, agricultural and multi-family accounts as well as properties with wells. Backflow protection may also be required on accounts considered "high risk", such as chemical processing, medical and dental facilities, flower growers, and recreational vehicle dump stations.

Q. What is Geosmin?

A. Geosmin is a non-harmful, naturally occurring compound produced by bacteria in soil and algae found in surface water. Geosmin is common throughout the United States; in southern California, it is most noticeable during warmer months and when Vista Irrigation District's water supply is sourced from open surface reservoirs. Geosmin typically produces an earthy or musty odor similar to the odor of damp soil and is detectable by many people at concentrations of 5 to 10 parts per trillion (that's five to ten drops in 16 Olympic size pools). Chilling water, adding ice cubes, a slice of lemon or cucumber, or a few drops of lemon juice will improve the taste and odor.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

San Diego County Water Authority
(858) 522-6600
www.sdcwa.org

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
(213) 217-6000
www.mwdh2o.com



State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water Programs
(619) 525-4159 – Southern California
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch
www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/index.shtml

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Ground Water & Drinking Water
(800) 426-4791
www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water



1391 ENGINEER STREET
VISTA, CA 92081-8840
(760) 597-3100 fax (760) 598-8757
www.vidwater.org

District's office hours:
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

A public agency serving the city of Vista and portions of San Marcos, Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego County

Vista Irrigation District's board meetings are normally held the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the District's facilities located at 1391 Engineer Street in Vista.

UPDATE YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO WITH US

Please take a moment and provide us with a telephone number (or telephone numbers) where you can be reached in case of an emergency. Having updated information allows us to contact you quicker during a situation that affects your water supply. You can update your emergency contact number(s) by emailing or calling Customer Service at (760) 597-3120. When providing your updated telephone number(s) via email, please include your name and address or account number. Feel free to give us your work, home and cell phone numbers. Thank you for helping us keep you informed.

