

## INTRODUCTION

**WE WANT YOU TO KNOW** that water quality continues to be a main priority with the City of Monterey Park. This report provides important information about your water quality, and I encourage you to read it and to contact us with any questions you may have.

The state and federal government require that this annual water quality report be sent to every customer to insure you are kept informed regarding the quality of your water. Monterey Park continues to meet, and in many cases exceed, all drinking water requirements. In 2010, we conducted thousands of water quality tests to ensure that your water is clean and safe to drink.

In 2010, the City tested for additional contaminants that have known health risks but are not yet regulated in drinking water by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) or the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA and CDPH determine where certain contaminants occur and whether new regulations need to be established for those contaminants. Also, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster tests the City's wells annually as an early warning system for several industrial contaminants that have already contaminated other parts of the Main San Gabriel Basin. The City of Monterey Park will continue to maintain a high quality, reliable water supply; we would appreciate your support in using this valuable and precious resource wisely.

For more information or questions about this report, please contact the Water Utility Manager at 626-307-1295.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para más información ó traducción, favor de contactar El Gerente de Servicio de Agua (626-307-1295).

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。

**Elias Saykali,**

**Public Works Director/City Engineer**

## HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN WATER DECISIONS?

Regularly scheduled meetings of the City Council are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at 320 West Newmark Avenue, Monterey Park. These meetings provide an opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of your water.



## WHERE DOES MY DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

Monterey Park's water supply comes from production wells located in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin (Main Basin). As a result of historical industrial discharge, groundwater in some areas of the Main Basin is contaminated. The City has worked with San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority to clean up groundwater contamination. Several water treatment facilities, which include an air stripper, an ion exchange unit and three separate granular activated carbon units were constructed by the City to remove contaminants in the groundwater.

## WHAT ARE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the CDPH prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water standards established by USEPA and CDPH set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **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 as is economically and technologically feasible.
- **Secondary MCLs** are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing

evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial pathogens.

- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs 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 that a water system must follow.

## WHAT IS A WATER QUALITY GOAL?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and CDPH have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

- **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 USEPA.
- **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 Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment 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.
- **Notification Level (NL):** An advisory level which, if exceeded, requires the drinking water system to notify the governing body of the local agency in which users of the drinking water reside (i.e. city council, county board of supervisors).

## WHAT CONTAMINANTS MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER?

The sources of drinking water generally 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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants** that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **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 stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

## ARE THERE ANY PRECAUTIONS THE PUBLIC SHOULD CONSIDER?

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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious 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 City of Monterey Park 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/safewater/lead>.

#### WHAT IS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

Your drinking water is tested by certified professional water system operators and certified laboratories to ensure its safety. The City of Monterey Park Public Works Department routinely tests drinking water from its wells, treatment facilities, and distribution system pipes for bacterial and chemical contaminants. The chart in this report shows the average and range of concentrations of the constituents tested in your drinking water during year 2010 or from the most recent tests. The State allows the City to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants in groundwater do not change frequently. Some of our data, although representative, are more than one year old. The chart lists all the contaminants **detected** in your drinking water that have federal and state drinking water standards. Detected unregulated contaminants of interest are also included. We are proud to report that during 2010, the drinking water provided by the City to your home met or surpassed all federal and state drinking water standards. We remain dedicated to providing you with a reliable supply of high quality drinking water.

#### NITRATE

Although nitrate in your drinking water never exceeds the MCL of 45 milligrams per liter (mg/l), nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of

time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/l 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 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 for advice from your health care provider.

#### ARSENIC

The following advisory is issued because in 2010 we recorded an arsenic measurement in the drinking water supply between 5 and 10 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ). While your drinking water meets the 10  $\mu\text{g/l}$  MCL for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The USEPA 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.

#### 1,4-DIOXANE

1,4-Dioxane is a chemical primarily used as an industrial stabilizer to enhance performance of solvents in many manufacturing processes. It is found in food (shrimp, chicken, tomatoes, etc.), food additives, and ordinary household products (cosmetics, deodorants, and shampoos). The USEPA has classified 1,4-dioxane as a probable human carcinogen. There is no federal or state Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for 1,4-dioxane in drinking water; however, CDPH established a Notification Level (NL) and a reporting limit in 1998 of 3 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ). A Notification Level is a health-based advisory level established by CDPH for chemicals in drinking water that lack MCLs. The City of Monterey Park has been required to test several of its wells and treated water for 1,4-Dioxane since 2004 and has never exceeded the initial NL of 3  $\mu\text{g/l}$ . In 2010, CDPH revised the 1,4-dioxane NL and reporting limit lower to 1  $\mu\text{g/l}$  resulting in detections in some City wells that exceeded the new 1  $\mu\text{g/l}$  NL. In 2010, 1,4-dioxane

levels in City wells ranged from non-detect to 2.0  $\mu\text{g/l}$ . We believe the 1,4-dioxane found in these wells originated from discharge from industrial sources. The City of Monterey Park's 1,4-dioxane level are below the California Department of Public Health's response level, the level at which removal of the source from service, is now 35  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

#### DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Monterey Park was completed in December 2002. The assessment concluded that the City of Monterey Park's sources are considered vulnerable to the following activities or facilities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: fleet/truck/bus terminals, utility stations maintenance areas, gas stations, dry cleaners, known contaminant plumes, metal plating/ finishing/ fabricating, plastics/ synthetics producers, chemical/ petroleum processing/ storage. The sources are also considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: leaking underground storage tanks and transportation corridors. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the City of Monterey Park Water Department at 320 West Newmark Avenue, Monterey Park, CA 91754. You may request a summary of the assessment by contacting the Water Utility Manager at 626-307-1295.

#### 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 research are:

**City of Monterey Park:**  
[www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us](http://www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us) •

**San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority:**  
[www.wqa.com](http://www.wqa.com) •

**Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster:**  
[www.watermaster.org](http://www.watermaster.org) •

**Water Education Foundation:**  
[www.watereducation.org](http://www.watereducation.org) •

**Metropolitan Water District of So. California:**  
[www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com) •

**California Department of Public Health:**  
[www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater) •  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:**  
[www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/) •

**California Department of Water Resources:**  
[www.water.ca.gov](http://www.water.ca.gov) •

**Water Conservation Tips:**  
[www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) [www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com)

#### CONTINUING EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT

Although Gov. Brown has canceled the water shortage "State of Emergency", all urban water users should continue to increase their water conservation activities in an effort to reduce their individual water use. The City of Monterey Park is committed to encouraging efficient water use. Programs, incentives, and informational assistance are offered to customers to help you implement water conserving measures at your home or place of business. Water conservation is a vital component of everyday life in southern California. People can look to themselves and make behavioral changes that, although seem small, in the long run make more efficient use of our valuable resource, water.

## CITY OF MONTEREY PARK 2010 DRINKING WATER WATER QUALITY

CONSTITUENT AND (UNITS)	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG or (MCLG) [MRDL G]	DLR	Drinking Water Quality			TYPICAL ORIGINS
				Results (a)	Range (Min-Max)	Most Recent Sampling	
<b>PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Health-Related Standards</b>							
<b>ORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>							
1,1 - Dichloroethane (1,1 - DCA) (µg/l)	5	3	0.5	<0.5	ND - 0.9	Weekly	Discharge from industrial sources
1,1-Dichloroethylene (1,1-DCE) (µg/l)	6	10	0.5	<0.5	ND - 0.6	Weekly	Discharge from industrial sources
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (cis-1,2-DCE) (µg/l)	6	100	0.5	<0.5	ND - 2.2	Weekly	Discharge from industrial sources
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria (b)	5.0%	(0)	(0)	0.0%	--	Weekly	Naturally present in the environment
<b>DISINFECTANT AND DISINFECTION PRODUCTS (c)</b>							
Chlorine Residual (mg/l)	[4]	[4]	n/a	0.6	0.3 - 1.3	Weekly	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Haloacetic Acid HAA5(µg/l)	60	n/a	1	0.3	ND - 1.1	Quarterly	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes TTHM (µg/l)	80	n/a	0.5	2.4	1.7 - 3.6	Quarterly	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>							
Arsenic (µg/l) (d)	10	0.004	2	<2	ND - 5.7	Weekly	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (mg/l) (e)	AL = 1.3	0.3	0.05	0.44	--	2009	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system
Fluoride (mg/l)	2.0	1	0.1	0.62	0.28 - 0.76	2010	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (µg/l) (e)	AL = 15	0.2	5	ND	--	2009	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system
Nitrate as NO3 (mg/l) (f)	45	45	2	13	2.7 - 23	Weekly	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use
<b>RADIOACTIVITY</b>							
Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/l)	15	(0)	3	3	ND - 9.3	2009	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/l)	20	0.43	2	3.4	ND - 11	2010	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium, Combined (pCi/l)	5	(0)	1	1.1	ND - 5.9	2008	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards, Not Health-Related</b>							
Chloride (mg/l)	500	n/a	n/a	20	8.8 - 37	2009	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Manganese (µg/l)	50	n/a	20	<20	ND - 21	2009	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Odor (threshold odor number) (g)	3	n/a	1	1	1	Monthly	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Sulfate (mg/l) (f)	500	n/a	0.5	67	24 - 160	Weekly	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600	n/a	n/a	544	330 - 830	2010	Substances that form ions in water
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)	1,000	n/a	n/a	358	190 - 560	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU) (g)	5	n/a	n/a	<0.1	ND - 0.3	Monthly	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
<b>OTHER CONSTITUENTS OF INTEREST</b>							
Alkalinity, total (mg/l as CaCO3)	n/a	n/a	n/a	174	110 - 250	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Boron (µg/l)	NL = 1,000	n/a	100	<100	ND - 140	2009	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Calcium (mg/l)	n/a	n/a	n/a	64	22 - 140	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Chromium, hexavalent (µg/l)	n/a	n/a	1	3.6	1.2 - 5.3	2006	Natural deposits or discharge from industrial activities
1,4-Dioxane (µg/l)	NL = 1	n/a	1	<1	ND - 2.0	2010	Discharge from industrial sources
Hardness as CaCO3 (mg/l)	n/a	n/a	n/a	210	62 - 410	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Hardness as grains per gallon	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	4 - 24	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Magnesium (mg/l)	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	3 - 34	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
pH (pH units)	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.8	7.3 - 8.5	2010	Hydrogen ion concentration
Sodium (mg/l)	n/a	n/a	n/a	40	27 - 64	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Vanadium (µg/l)	NL = 50	n/a	3	11	ND - 48	2009	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

### NOTES

**AL** = Action Level  
**DLR** = Detection Limit for the Purpose of Reporting  
**MCL** = Maximum Contaminant Level  
**MCLG** = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal  
**µg/l** = parts per billion or micrograms per liter  
**mg/l** = parts per million or milligrams per liter

**µmho/cm** = micromhos per centimeter  
**MRDL** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level  
**MRDLG** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal  
**n/a** = No Applicable Limit  
**ND** = Not Detected at DLR  
**NL** = Notification Level

**NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Units  
**pCi/l** = picoCuries per liter  
**PHG** = Public Health Goal  
**"<"** = Detected but the average is less than the indicated DLR

- (a) The results reported in the table are average concentrations of the constituents detected in your drinking water during 2010 or from the most recent tests, except for Total Coliforms, TTHM, HAA5, Chlorine Residual, Lead, and Copper which are described below.
- (b) Coliform bacteria were not detected in any of the 900 samples collected from the Monterey Park distribution system during 2010. Coliform bacteria are used as an indicator that if present, indicates other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.
- (c) Samples were collected in the distribution system. The running annual average is reported as "Results" while the maximum and minimum of the individual results are reported as "Range".
- (d) Monterey Park tests the Delta Plant drinking water weekly to comply with the CDPH-approved blending plan for Arsenic
- (e) Concentrations are measured at the tap. The 90th percentile concentration is reported in the table. Out of 47 distribution system locations sampled, copper was detected in 44 samples, none of which exceeded the AL for copper; lead was not detected in any sample. The samples were collected in October 2009.
- (f) Monterey Park tests nitrate and sulfate weekly at the Delta Plant.
- (g) Nineteen samples are collected each month in the Monterey Park distribution system. The arithmetic average and the range of the individual results for Odor and Turbidity are reported. Color was not detected in 2010.