

2015 Consumer Confidence Report

Water is Precious



MEINERS OAKS WATER DISTRICT CONSUMERS CONFIDENCE REPORT FOR 2015

Last year, as in years past, your tap water meets all EPA and State drinking water health standards. Meiners Oaks Water District has delivered safe drinking water that did not violate any maximum contaminant levels. This report details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 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. Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of

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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, which 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- Disposing of unused, unwanted, and expired medications once it was common practice to flush these medications (also known as pharmaceuticals) down the toilet. Your doctor or pharmacist may have directed you to do this. We now know that these substances are bad for our environment - the ground, water, and the air around us. Please return all unused medications to your pharmacist.
- Department of Health and EPA regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

For more information please look to (www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org)

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the California Department of Public Health prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish a limit for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. To add to the delivery and protection of your drinking water, we have added a new EPA approved 2 stage filtration system with a coagulant to aid the removal of turbidity, *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. The first stage has a run of 10 filters and the second has a run of 8 filters. The filtration system combined with chlorine gas at a level of .8 to 1.2 ppm (parts per million) meet the minimum removal and inactivation requirements of the State of California which are 2 log (99%) for *Cryptosporidium*, 3 log (99.9%) *Giardia* and 4 log (99.99%) viruses. With the addition of chlorine gas at a level of .8 to 1.2 ppm (parts per million) which can help to ensure that the best water possible is being delivered to our customers.

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Sources of your Water

Your water comes from four district wells drilled 100 to 400 feet into underground aquifers. Two groundwater wells are located at Lomita and Rice, and two wells three miles north of Meiners Oaks. We also have two 4" connections to receive surface water from Lake Casitas. Customers may receive Lake Casitas surface water if our wells need repair or cannot keep up with system demand. A blend of surface and ground water is delivered on those occasions.

Water Conservation

On January 17, 2014 Governor Edmund G. Brown has declared a drought emergency throughout California, April 25th, 2014 proclaimed that a State of Emergency continues to exist including a call for a mandatory statewide reduction of up to 36% in some areas depending on 2013 usage and amount of service connections within the agencies boundary while Executive Orders B-26-14, B-28-14, B-29-15, B-36-15 and B-37-16 are to remain in full force. Governor Brown also called for water agencies to develop and implement their own Drought Contingency Plans to implement water restrictions later on. Meiners Oaks Water District completed its plan in August 2014 and is currently being updated for 2016. A draft of our Drought Contingency Plan can be found on our website for public comment.

Meiners Oaks Water District would like to remind its customers that a **phase 3 water shortage** has been declared requesting that every customer **reduce their water consumption by 30%**. Lake Casitas is currently measuring at 39.6% of its capacity. This will help reduce the strain on our wells and lower the amount of water that would need to be purchased from Lake Casitas. It is a precious natural resource that we cannot afford to waste. We would also like to remind everyone that this has been another below normal year for rainfall at 14.01". This means that we all should pay close attention to the amount we all use from day to day indoor and outdoor. So please keep in mind to use positive shut off valves when washing your car or watering your plants or garden. Use low flow shower heads and faucets. Low flow toilets are also a big water saver. If you cannot afford low flow fixtures or any of the many other water saving devices available to you, as a customer of Meiners Oaks Water District, you are eligible for rebates from Casitas Municipal Water District as a Meiners Oaks Water District customer. At this point in the year our well levels are very low, if the weather doesn't become more cooperative in the upcoming years water levels will drop and conditions will become very severe. So please remember to conserve our precious resource. Another way to save water is to use smart controllers for your irrigation valves. They are available through Casitas Municipal Water rebate program and most irrigation supply houses. Let Casitas Water know that you are one of our customers and present them a water bill from our district and they will take it from there. Please contact Ron Merckling at 649-2251 EXT. 118 for more information.

Fun Facts about Water



It takes 200,000,000 litres per second to grow food for the planet



Over 90% of the world's supply of fresh water is located in Antarctica



70% of the Earth is covered with water but only about 1% of the world's water is readily available for human use. Nearly 97% is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in the ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1% for all humanity's needs



Since life began, we have had the same amount of water on the planet. To the best of human understanding, life can only exist with water



The water from your tap could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank



More than half (63%) our daily water consumption at home originates from the bathroom and the toilet



Water regulates the Earth's temperature



Water is the only mineral that is found naturally on Earth in three forms; liquid, gas, solid



Each Briton uses about 150 litres of tap water a day, but if you include the amount of water embedded within products, our water consumption increases to about 3400 litres a day



It takes about 37 gallons of water to grow the coffee beans and process them to make one cup of coffee.



To produce just one pint of beer for example, takes 170 litres of water

For more information about saving water and doing your part go to

www.bewaterwise.com or www.meinersoakswater.org or www.casitaswater.org

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Water System Name: MEINERS OAKS CWD

Report Date: July 2016

We test 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 - December 31, 2015.

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

Type of water source(s) in use: According to SWRCB records, the Sources Well 01 and Well 02 are Groundwater under the influence of Surface Water. This Assessment was done using the Default Groundwater System Method. According to CDPH records, the Sources Well 04, Well 07, and Well 08 are Groundwater. This Assessment was done using the Default Groundwater System Method.

Your water comes from 4 source(s): Well 01, Well 02, Well 04 and Well 07

For more information about this report, or any questions relating to your drinking water, please call (805) 646-2114 and ask for Mike Hollebrands.

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

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 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 (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 (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.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for the contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for the contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

ND: not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

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

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 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.
- *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*, that 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, the USEPA and the California Department of Public Health (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 provide the same protection for public health.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Department allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

Table 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER						
Lead and Copper (complete if lead or copper detected in last sample set)	Sample Date	90th percentile level detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	20 (2014)	4.7	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers, erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	20 (2014)	0.66	0	1.3	.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Table 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	(2014)	63	52 - 72	none	none	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	(2014)	471	447 - 499	none	none	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

Table 3 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Fluoride (ppm)	(2014)	0.4	0.3 - 0.5	2	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

Nitrate as N (ppm)	(2015)	3.3	0.5 - 7.0	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite as N (ppm)	(2014)	2.5	ND - 5.6	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	(2008)	1.133	ND - 2.86	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits.

Table 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	(2014)	59	55 - 67	500	n/a	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	(2014)	ND	ND - 120	300	n/a	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Specific Conductance (umhos/cm)	(2014)	1093	1040 - 1120	1600	n/a	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	(2014)	258	213 - 303	500	n/a	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	(2014)	743	700 - 780	1000	n/a	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	(2014)	0.4	0.2 - 0.7	5	n/a	Soil runoff

Table 5 - DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Notification Level	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Boron (ppm)	(2014)	0.9	0.5 - 1.3	1	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing boron in excess of the notification level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals.

Table 6 - DETECTION OF FEDERAL DISINFECTANT/DISINFECTANT BYPRODUCT RULE

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG)	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	(2015)	2.2	N/A	80	n/a	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

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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).

Lead Specific Language for Community Water Systems: 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 the service lines and home plumbing. *Meiners Oaks Water 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>.

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Drinking Water Assessment Information

Assessment Information

A source water assessment was conducted for the WELL 01, WELL 02, WELL 04, and WELL 07 of the MEINERS OAKS CWD water system in March, 2001.

Well 01 - is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants:

- Agricultural Drainage
- Septic systems - low density [<1 /acre]

Well 02 - is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants:

- Agricultural Drainage
- Septic systems - low density [<1 /acre]

Well 04 - is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants:

- Agricultural Drainage
- Sewer collection systems
- Wells - Agricultural/ Irrigation

Well 07 - is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants:

- Agricultural Drainage
- Sewer collection systems
- Wells - Agricultural/ Irrigation

Acquiring Information

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at:

SWRCB Division of Drinking Water
1180 Eugenia Place
Suite 200
Carpinteria, CA 93013

You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting:

Jeff Densmore
District Engineer
805 566 1326