What’s In Our Water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water, both tap 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 may pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and 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 must provide the same protection for public health.

Hardness of the water in your system depends on your location within the District and the season due to the source of supply. The level of hardness measured during fall and winter can range from 0.2 ppm to 23 ppm which classifies the water as “soft” or “hard” depending on your location within the District. Any increase in hardness will classify the water between “soft” and “hard”.

How to Read the Table:
1. Identify constituent in the left column.
2. Compare the detection range and averages to the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) and the Public Health Goal (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (PHG)/MCLG).

Sodium and Hardness:
Sodium is a naturally occurring chemical element that is present in our source water. The level of sodium measured during 2012 was 6.4 ppm from our source water surface and as close to the PHEGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible.ickly MCLs are set to protect the consumer from natural and agricultural activity.

Hardness consists of various cations present, generally naturally occurring magnesium and calcium, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and 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 must provide the same protection for public health.

Table Definitions:
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set close to the PHEGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the taste, color and appearance of the 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 do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)(b) – The sum of polyhalogenated aldehydes, ketones, and halogenated hydrocarbons.

Microbial contaminants, including viruses and bacteria, can make people sick. Some examples of microbial contaminants are: bacteria from feces; other pathogens from sewage; and protozoa and helminths from animal or human feces.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or commercial 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 use.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic compounds and pesticides, are byproducts of urban stormwater runoff, industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Special Health Information:
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, persons as children, pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Common plumbing materials include lead, copper, brass, solder and flux that may contain lead. Lead from service lines and household plumbing. By protecting your drinking water from lead, you can protect your family’s health.

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. Common plumbing materials include lead, copper, brass, solder and flux that may contain lead. Lead from service lines and household plumbing. By protecting your drinking water from lead, you can protect your family’s health.

The District has hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any contaminants. This is a table of detected constituents. The intent is to give you an idea of where the District stands with regard to water quality standards set by the California Department of Public Health and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

Detected Primary Drinking Water Constituents

Detected Secondary Drinking Water Constituents (regulated for aesthetic qualities)

Other Unregulated Constituents of Interest

Organic Samples from the Distribution System

Lead & Copper (Sampled 2011)

CARMICHAEL WATER DISTRICT
2012 Water Quality

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CARMICHAEL WATER DISTRICT
2012 Consumer Confidence Report

This report contains important information about your drinking water:
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

A copy of the complete Source Water Assessment is available for inspection at the Carmichael Water District (CWD) office, 7837 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael, CA, 95608. You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting the District’s Public Information Officer Chris Nelson at (916)483-2452.

Public Meetings
The Carmichael Water District Board of Directors typically meets at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of each month at the Carmichael Water District office. Meeting dates are posted at our website. The public is welcome to attend.

Testing Program Shows Carmichael Water District’s Drinking Water is Safe and Healthy
Demonstrating its commitment to public health protection and the public’s right-to-know about local environmental information, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) require water suppliers to provide annual drinking water quality reports to its customers. This publication summarizes the most recent testing and includes a comparison of detectable constituents in your drinking water against established federal and state standards.

This year’s report concludes that, once again, your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards.

Water Efficiency Tips
Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference, try one today and soon it will become second nature.

• Take short showers—a 5 minute shower uses 4-5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
• Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
• Use a water-efficient showerhead and save up to 750 gallons a month.
• Fix leaking toilets and faucets. Fixing or replacing a leaking toilet can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
• Adjust sprinklers so only your landscape is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it. Applying water during the cool parts of the day will reduce evaporation.
• Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely.
• Visit our website at www.carmichaelwd.org for more information on our conservation programs.

CARMICHAEL WATER DISTRICT
2012 Water Quality

Where Does Our Water Come From?
Carmichael Water District’s (District) approximately 38,354 customers receive on average approximately 84 percent of their water from the American River (surface water) and 16 percent from District groundwater wells. Since the expansion of the water treatment plant in 2008, the District has reduced the number of groundwater sources to three primary wells. The wells are operated seasonally, May through September. The water is tested for more than 200 constituents on a regular basis. Water samples are subject to the most up-to-date testing methods and then are re-tested for accuracy. Samples are then measured against state and federal standards to ensure quality.

The CDPH requires water providers to conduct a Source Water Assessment to help protect the quality of future water supplies. This assessment describes where a water system’s drinking water comes from, the types of polluting activities that may threaten source water quality and an evaluation of the water’s vulnerability to those threats.

Groundwater and Surface Water Assessment
To meet the CDPH requirements and provide our customers with information about our water supply, the District completed the American River Watershed Sanitary Survey in 2008.

The results indicate that our surface water source, the American River, is considered most vulnerable to contamination from sewer system spills, body contact, recreation, urban runoff and discharge of regulated and unregulated contaminants. The contaminants to which the surface water sources are considered most vulnerable include the following: perchlorate, nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) and volatile organic chemicals discharged into the American River by the Aerojet General Corporation. Aerojet is under the joint regulatory oversight of the USEPA, California Department of Toxic Substance Control and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to contamination from illegal activities and unauthorized dumping, sewer collection systems, dry cleaners, automobile repair shops, chemical/petroleum pipelines, electrical/electronic manufacturing, underground storage tanks and gas stations. The contaminants to which groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable include the following: liquid rocket fuel (NDMA), rocket fuel propellant (perchlorate), dry cleaning solvent (PCE), and gasoline additive (MTBE).