The 2005 Water Quality Report

Drinking Water Quality

Since 1990, California water utilities have been providing an annual Water Quality Report to their customers. This year’s report covers calendar year 2004 water quality testing, and has been prepared in compliance with new regulations called for in the 1996 reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The reauthorization charged the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) with updating and strengthening the tap water regulatory program and changed the report’s due date to July 1.

USEPA and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) are the agencies responsible for establishing drinking water quality standards. To ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and CDHS prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDHS regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also sets regulations for bottled water.

The City of Newport Beach vigilantly safeguards its water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets the standards required by the state and federal regulatory agencies. In some cases, your local utility goes beyond what is required to monitor for additional contaminants that have known health risks. For example, the Orange County Water District, which manages our groundwater basin, monitors our groundwater for the solvent 1,4-dioxane.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to establish regulations for those contaminants.

If you have any questions about your water, please contact us for answers...

For information about this report or your water quality information in general, please contact Pete Antista, Utilities Operations Manager at (949) 718-3401. The City of Newport Beach Council meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. Meetings are held at the Council Chambers located at 3300 Newport Boulevard, Newport Beach. Matters from the public are heard at each meeting. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

For more information about the health effects of the listed contaminants in the following tables, call the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hotline at (800) 426-4791.
What You Need to Know About Your Water, and How it May Affect You

Sources of Supply

Orange County’s water supplies are a blend of groundwater provided by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and water imported from Northern California and the Colorado River by the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) via the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET). Groundwater comes from a natural underground aquifer that is replenished with water from the Santa Ana River, local rainfall and imported water. The groundwater basin is 350 square miles and lies beneath north and central Orange County from Irvine to the Los Angeles border and from Yorba Linda to the Pacific Ocean. More than 20 cities and retail water districts draw from the basin to provide water to homes and businesses. In south Orange County, nearly 100 percent of the water is imported and delivered to the cities and retail water districts, where it is stored in above-ground reservoirs and tanks before being sent to homes and businesses.

Orange County’s Water Future

For years, Orange County has enjoyed an abundant, seemingly endless supply of high-quality water. However, as water demand continues to increase statewide, we must be even more conscientious about our water supply and maximize the efficient use of this precious natural resource.

OCWD and MWDOC work cooperatively to evaluate new and innovative water management and supply development programs, including water reuse and recycling, wetlands expansion, recharge facility construction, ocean and brackish water desalination, surface storage and water use efficiency programs. These efforts are helping to enhance long-term countywide water reliability and water quality.

A healthy water future for Orange County rests on finding and developing new water supplies, as well as protecting and improving the quality of the water that we have today. Your local and regional water agencies are committed to making the necessary investments today in new water management projects to ensure an abundant and high-quality water supply for our future.

Basic Information About Drinking Water Contaminants

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 land or through the layers of the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal and human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.

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

- 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the CDHS prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDHS regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. 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.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic organism that, when ingested, can cause diarrhea, fever, and other gastrointestinal symptoms. The organism comes from animal and/or human wastes and may be in surface water. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which did not detect it in the water, tested your surface water for Cryptosporidium in 2004. If it ever is detected, Cryptosporidium is eliminated by an effective treatment combination including sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

The USEPA and the federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from USEPA’s safe drinking water hotline at (800) 426-4791 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time (6 a.m. to 2 p.m. in California).
The City of Newport Beach's water system violated monitoring requirements of drinking water standards over the past year. Although these restrictions were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets federal standards. During September 2003 to September 2004 we did not complete all monitoring for coliform bacteria in some areas and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your water during that time.

What should I do? There is nothing you need to do at this time. We must be sure to have your water tested or take other corrective actions.

For more information, please contact Pete Antista, at (949) 718-3401 of the City of Newport Beach. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can also do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Newport Beach.