



ANNUAL  
WATER  
QUALITY  
REPORT

*Water testing performed in 2006*

*Proudly Presented By:*

CITY OF LOMA LINDA

PWS ID#: 3610013

## Continuing Our Commitment

Once again we proudly present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January 1 through December 31, 2006. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Russ Handy, Water Utilities Superintendent, at (909) 799-4420.



## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Is it Safe to Drink Water From a Garden Hose?

Substances used in vinyl garden hoses to keep them flexible can get into the water as it passes through the hose. These chemicals are not good for you nor are they good for your pets. Allow the water to run for a short time in order to flush the hose before drinking or filling your pet's drinking containers. There are hoses made with "food-grade" plastic that will not contaminate the water. Check your local hardware store for this type of hose.

## Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of medium. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours.



## What Makes Water Hard?

If substantial amounts of either calcium or magnesium, both nontoxic minerals, are present in drinking water, the water is said to be hard. Hard water does not dissolve soap readily, so making lather for washing and cleaning is difficult. Conversely, water containing little calcium or magnesium is called soft water.

## What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. *Serratia* is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including man). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of the above mentioned sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to continually clean and dry the involved surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and to help eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help minimize its occurrence.

*Serratia* will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

## Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. Although all of the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	2006	1	0.6	9.2	ND-55	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic <sup>1</sup> (ppb)	2006	10	0.004	3.59	ND-33	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	2006	2.0	1	1.05	0.82-1.12	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2006	15	(0)	0.7	ND-4.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as Nitrate] (ppm)	2006	45	45	1.4	ND-4.4	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sew-age; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite [as Nitrogen] (ppb)	2006	10,000	10,000	323	ND-990	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sew-age; erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2006	80	NA	0.45	ND-4.0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Uranium (pCi/L)	2006	20	0.43	0.66	ND-3.7	No	Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2006	200	NS	55	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2006	500	NS	22.4	8.6-34	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Foaming Agents [MBAS] (ppb)	2006	500	NS	38	30-50	No	Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Odor-Threshold (TON)	2006	3	NS	1	1-1	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2006	1,600	NS	330	230-420	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2006	500	NS	33	21-43	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2006	1,000	NS	185	120-240	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2006	5	NS	0.18	0.1-0.3	No	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2006	108	78-160
Calcium (ppm)	2006	8.6	2.1-22
Carbonate (ppm)	2006	7	ND-13
Magnesium (ppm)	2006	.18	ND-1.1
pH (Units)	2006	8.5	7.8-8.8
Potassium (ppm)	2006	1.5	ND-2.7
Sodium (ppm)	2006	68.2	52-80
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2006	100.2	85-130
Total Hardness (ppm)	2006	22.8	5.6-58
Vanadium (ppb)	2006	34.8	0.76-83

<sup>1</sup> Effective 01/23/2006, the federal arsenic MCL is 10 ppb. A new state MCL has not yet been adopted and remains at 50 ppb. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

## Substances That Might Be in Drinking 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Department of Health Services (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, which 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.

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 can 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

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

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## Table Definitions

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

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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. EPA.

**µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter):** A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.

**NA:** Not applicable

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NS:** No standard

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

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

**PHG (Public Health Goal):** 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 EPA.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**TON (Threshold Odor Number):** A measure of odor in water.

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

## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The city council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Loma Linda Council Chamber, 25541 Barton Road, Loma Linda, California.