



CITY OF WHITTIER

2008 ANNUAL

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Important Information About The Quality of Your Drinking Water

May 20, 2009

Dear Customer,

The City of Whittier is committed to keeping you informed on the quality of your drinking water. This report is provided to you annually. It includes information describing where your drinking water comes from, the constituents found in your drinking water and how the water quality compares with the regulatory standards. During 2008, the drinking water provided by the City of Whittier to its service area (see map) complied with all Federal and State drinking water quality standards. We remain dedicated to providing you with a safe and reliable supply of high quality drinking water.

The information that follows represents only a fraction of the activity in which the City of Whittier engages to provide you, the consumer, a high level of confidence in the water that you drink. We, along with our State-certified laboratories, routinely scrutinize our water supplies for the entire range of elements that have the potential to degrade the quality of your 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800- 426-4791).

Some people, however, may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with

infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

USEPA/Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800 426-4791).

Our City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located in City Hall at 13230 Penn Street. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

DEFINITIONS

- **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 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 California Environmental Protection Agency.
- **MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible.
- **ACTION LEVEL (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a

treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

- **MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL (MRDL):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.
- **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 are set by the USEPA.
- **PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD:** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **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).

- **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 productions and mining activities.

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 must provide the same protection for public health.

WHAT KINDS OF CONTAMINANTS MIGHT BE FOUND 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 surfaces 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 storm 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.

WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM ?

During 2008, the City of Whittier pumped 100 percent of our source water from nine (9) active deep wells located in the Whittier Narrows area. These wells draw water from the Main San Gabriel groundwater basin and the Central groundwater basin. This water is then treated, pressurized and delivered to the City's eleven reservoirs for your use.

In December 2005, the City of Whittier started receiving water from a groundwater treatment facility located in the Main San Gabriel Basin. The groundwater treatment facility was constructed by USEPA as a part of the Whittier Narrows Operable Unit cleanup projects. In addition, the City of Whittier assists in the operation of a groundwater treatment facility located in the Central Basin and receives treated water from the Central Basin Plant as a drinking water supply. Both facilities removed Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs) to non-detectable levels. Most of the City of Whittier's water supply came from the groundwater treatment facility located in the Main San Gabriel Basin.

Water conservation is the wise use of our resource to ensure an adequate supply. Whittier has had a voluntary 10 percent water conservation goal since the early 1990's. Although we have enough water pumping rights in reserve to meet the City's needs, conservation at this time would help to meet the City's supply need in the future if the lack of precipitation continues.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT (DWSA)

In accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Whittier was completed in December 2002. The purpose of the drinking water source assessment is to promote source water protection by identifying types of activities in the proximity of the drinking water sources which could pose a threat to the water quality. The assessment concluded that the City of Whittier's sources are considered vulnerable to the following activities or facilities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: research laboratory, known VOC contamination plumes, and parking lots/mall. In addition, the sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: research laboratories and parks. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the City of Whittier Water Division at 13230 E. Penn Street, Whittier, CA 90602. You may request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting Customer Service at (562) 464-3530.

This report is intended to provide information for all water users. If received by an absentee landlord, a business or school, please share the information with tenants, employees or students. We will be happy to make additional copies of this report available for review by the public upon request.

If you would like additional information regarding water quality, please call Mr. Kenneth Kittridge, Water Manager at (562) 464-3549.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información ó traducción , favor de contactar a Mr. Kenneth Kittridge. Telefono: (562) 464-3530.

Sincerely,

David A. Pelser, PE, BCEE
Director of Public Works