

# 2016 - 2019 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: Owens Valley Water Company

Report Date: May 14, 2020

*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, 2016 to December 31, 2019 and may include earlier monitoring data.*

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber.**

**Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

Type of water sources in use: Groundwater wells

Name & general location of source(s): Well 01 E and Well 03 N are both located within the subdivision.

Drinking Water Source Assessment

information:

Source Water Assessments were completed in June 2001. The water sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected containments: sewage collection system, historic gas station, known gasoline contaminant plumes, and leaking underground fuel tanks. The complete

assessment is available for review through Inyo County Environmental Health, at W South Street Bishop or (760) 873-7867.

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: Not applicable

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## TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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 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 (U.S. EPA).

**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 contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS):** MCLs for 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.

**Variations and Exemptions:** Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**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)

**ppt:** parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

**ppq:** parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L)

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

**NTU:** nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of cloudiness)

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 byproducts 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 U.S. EPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 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 State Board 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. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

**TABLE 1 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA**

Microbiological Contaminants (complete if bacteria detected)	Highest No. of Detections	No. of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria (state Total Coliform Rule)	(In a month) 2019: 3 2018: 0 2017: 0 2016: 0	2019: 1 2018: 0 2017: 0 2016: 0	1 positive monthly sample <sup>(a)</sup>	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i> (state Total Coliform Rule)	(In the year) 2019: 0 2018: 0 2017: 0 2016: 0	2019: 0 2018: 0 2017: 0 2016: 0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive		Human and animal fecal waste
<i>E. coli</i> (federal Revised Total Coliform Rule)	(In the year) 2019: 0 2018: 0 2017: 0 2016: 0	2019: 0 2018: 0 2017: 0 2016: 0	(b)	0	Human and animal fecal waste

(a) Two or more positive monthly samples is a violation of the MCL

(b) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*.

**TABLE 2 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER**

Lead and Copper (complete if lead or copper detected in the last sample set)	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentil e Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	No. of Schools Requesting Lead Sampling	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Lead (ppb)</b>	7/3/2017	5	ND	0	15	0.2	N/A	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Copper (ppm)</b>	7/3/2017	5	0.0535	0	1.3	0.3	N/A	

**TABLE 3 – SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Sodium (ppm)</b>	12/18/2019 12/30/2019	6.5 Avg.	6 – 7	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
<b>Hardness (ppm)</b>	12/18/2019 12/30/2019	57.7 Avg.	55.6 – 59.8	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

**TABLE 4 – 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 Source of Contaminant
<b>Arsenic (ppb)</b>	12/18/2019 12/30/2019	2.5 Avg.	2 – 3	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes.
<b>Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)</b>	12/28/2019 1/2/2019	4.31 Avg.	3.87 – 4.75	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Uranium (pCi/L)</b>	12/28/2019 6	5.4	N/A	20	0.43	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Nitrate (as N) (ppm)</b>	6/20/2018	0.5	N/A	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Nitrate + Nitrite (as N) (ppm)</b>	3/6/2017	0.6	N/A	10	N/A	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Trichloroethylene (ppb)</b>	6/20/2018	1.4	N/A	5	1.7	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

**TABLE 5 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Color (units)</b>	12/18/2019 12/30/2019	5	N/A	15	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials.
<b>Sulfate (mg/L)</b>	12/18/2019 12/30/2019	5.75 Avg.	5.7 – 5.8	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.
<b>Specific Conductance (µS/cm)</b>	12/18/2019 12/30/2019	155 Avg.	147 - 163	1600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence.

<b>Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)</b>	12/18/2019 12/30/2019	115 Avg.	110 - 120	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
<b>Turbidity (NTU)</b>	12/18/2019 12/30/2019	1.05 Avg.	0.3 – 1.8	5	N/A	Soil runoff.
<b>Odor (units)</b>	12/18/2019 12/30/2019	2 Avg.	ND – 4	3	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials

**TABLE 6 – DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS**

<b>Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)</b>	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>Notification Level</b>	<b>Health Effects Language</b>
<b>Vanadium (ug/L)</b>	12/18/2019	4	N/A	50	Vanadium exposures resulted in developmental and reproductive effects in rats.

**Additional General Information on Drinking 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. 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. U.S. EPA/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:** 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. Owens Valley Water Company 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 do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Our water contains an average fluoride level of less than 0.1 mg/L. You may want to contact your child’s pediatrician and/or dentist with this information to help them determine if fluoride supplements or treatments are needed.

**Summary Information for Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement**

<b>VIOLATION OF A MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, OR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT</b>				
<b>Violation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Actions Taken to Correct the Violation</b>	<b>Health Effects Language</b>
Failure to create and distribute annual	Annual report was not created or distributed to water system users.	2016, 2017, and 2018	A consumer confidence report was created to	The health effects of this violation are unknown.

Consumer Confidence Report			include all missing data from 2016 to present.	
Failure to submit a Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan	Plan for bacteria sampling was not created and submitted.	2010 – 2019	A plan was created and submitted in January 2020.	The health effects of this violation are unknown.
Failure to submit an Emergency Notification Plan	Plan for emergency notification was not created and submitted.	2018 and 2019	A plan was created and submitted on 1/14/2020.	The health effects of this violation are unknown.

<b>VIOLATION OF A MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, OR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT</b>				
<b>Violation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Actions Taken to Correct the Violation</b>	<b>Health Effects Language</b>
Failure to meet routine monitoring requirements for total coliform	The number of required routine coliform bacteria samples were not collected.	January and February 2016	Regular monitoring resumed.	The health effects of this violation are unknown.
Failure to complete a Level 1 Assessment in response to violation of the Total Coliform MCL	A Level 1 Assessment was not conducted	March 2019	Although a Level 1 Assessment form was not completed, an assessment was conducted by the system operator	The health effects of this violation are unknown.
Failure to comply with maximum contaminant levels for total coliform	The number of total coliform bacteria positive samples exceeded the maximum allowable level.	March 2019	Water system was chlorinated to abate bacteriological contamination.	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

**Summary Information for Fecal Indicator-Positive Groundwater Source Samples, Uncorrected Significant Deficiencies, or Groundwater TT**

<b>SPECIAL NOTICE OF FECAL INDICATOR-POSITIVE GROUNDWATER SOURCE SAMPLE</b>
There were no fecal indicator-positive groundwater source samples between 2016 and 2019.

<b>SPECIAL NOTICE FOR UNCORRECTED SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES</b>
It is unknown if there were outstanding deficiencies between 2016 and 2019.

**Summary Information for Operating Under a Variance or Exemption**

This system did not operate under a variance or exemption between 2014 and 2019.

## **Summary Information for Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule Level 1 and Level 2 Assessment Requirements**

### **Level 1 or Level 2 Assessment Requirement not Due to an *E. coli* MCL Violation**

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

Between 2016 and 2019, no Level 1 Assessment was required to be completed by our water system.

Between 2016 and 2019, no Level 2 Assessment was required to be completed for our water system.

### **Level 2 Assessment Requirement Due to an *E. coli* MCL Violation**

*E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. Since 2016, we have not found *E. coli* bacteria in our water supply, and therefore have not needed to conduct any assessments.