

A message from the General Manager
Greg A Hammett

As a result of the prolonged drought and record dry period from January-March 2022, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-7-22 that requires, among other things, urban water suppliers, like West Kern, to implement a water shortage response action for a shortage level of up to 20%. This requirement triggers implementation of “Level 2” (Moderate Water Shortage) actions of West Kern’s Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP), which must be Implemented by June 10, 2022. Level 2 actions include:

- Reducing large & significant landscape watering by 25%
- Eliminating all over-use of water by contracted industrial customers.
- Reducing non-contracted industrial water use by 15%

In addition, given the severity of the drought, the West Kern Board of Directors has determined that implementation of certain Level 3 (Severe Water Shortage) conservation actions of the WSRP is also necessary.

Accordingly, at a special meeting on June 2, 2022, the Board declared the existence of Level 2 and Level 3 conditions. The WSRP allows the Board to select actions within each level that are appropriate to address water shortage concerns at the time. The Board determined that all District customers shall comply with the Level 2 measures identified above and also decided to implement the following Level 3 measure:

- *Lawn watering and landscape irrigation shall be limited to no more than 10 minutes per station per assigned day as follows: Residents with even street number addresses water on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. Residents with odd number addresses water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. NO watering is allowed on Monday. These restrictions apply to manual and automatic watering. irrigation time shall be adjusted to avoid runoff.*

Further, Executive Order N-7-22 bans, with exceptions, irrigation of “non-functional turf” in the commercial, industrial and institutional sector.

The State Water Board has defined “non-functional turf” as follows: “turf that is ornamental and not otherwise used for human recreations purpose such as school field, sports fields and parks.”

The ban on watering “non-functional turf” does not apply to residential turf, watering to maintain tree health or immediate needs for health and safety.

Finally, in addition to the Water Supply Shortage actions described above, all persons using District water shall continue to comply with on-going Level 1 “Water Awareness” conservation practices while Level 2 and Level 3 “Moderate to Severe Water Shortage” conditions exist. Level 1 actions include the following conservation measures:

- Equip hoses with shut-off nozzle.
- Take shorter showers.
- Run dishwasher and washing machine when full.
- Avoid hosing down driveways, street/parking lot, sidewalks, or buildings unless necessary for health or safety.
- Avoid excessive watering that runs off onto sidewalks, streets or gutters.
- Avoid irrigating residential and commercial landscape between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Adjust watering times to avoid runoff.
- Wash motor vehicles, trailers, boats and other types of equipment using a bucket and/or a hand-held hose with a shut-off nozzle, high pressure/low volume wash system, or at a commercial site that recirculates water on-site. Avoid washing vehicles during hot conditions when additional water is required due to evaporation.
- Restaurants should serve water only upon request.
- Hotels, motels, and other commercial lodging establishments should offer customers the option of not laundering towels and linens daily.
- Pools, spas, and ornamental fountains/ponds should be recirculating and leak proof. Drain and refill only as necessary for health, maintenance, or structural reasons.
- Repair all leaks (including evaporative coolers) within twenty-four (24) hours of notification by the District unless other arrangements are made with the General Manager.

The District wants to thank you in advance for your conservation efforts. Impacts of the drought are a reminder that wise use of water, at all times, should be the rule, not the exception. Copies of the District’s WSRP are available on the District’s website and at the District office upon request.



Public Participation

West Kern Water District’s Board of Directors meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the District board room located at 800 Kern Street, Taft. Meeting agendas are posted at the District office as well as on the District’s website. The public is encouraged to attend.

Drinking Water Source Assessment

An assessment of West Kern’s drinking water sources was completed in May 2001. The sources are considered the most vulnerable during artificial recharge activities in spreading basins, but these activities have not been associated with any detected contaminants. For more information contact Wendy Adams-Rosenberger at 661-763-3151.

This Annual Water Quality Report describes in detail the quality of your water during 2021. As in previous years, your water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and State drinking water health standards. You will find further explanation of the requirements and test results in the accompanying pages.

Where our water comes from...

West Kern’s water supply comes from a contract with the Kern County Water Agency for State Water Project water. The water is transported through the California aqueduct, where it is recharged into the ground through spreading ponds. Your water is extracted from the Tulare Lake aquifer from 13 groundwater wells located in the northeast corner of the District, in the underflow of the Kern River Sub-basin and from an area north and adjacent to the State of California’s Tule Elk Reserve. The water is then transported through a 36” transmission pipeline to our Station A facility located at the corner of Highway 119 and Golf Course Road where it is treated with chlorine before being disseminated to 318 miles of pipeline, 26 above ground water storage reservoirs and 15 booster pump stations. The District has one of the most complex systems in California and our employees are dedicated to ensuring you have a reliable and high quality water service at a reasonable cost.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs & wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, 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, can be naturally occurring or come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife
 - Inorganic contaminants- Such as salts & metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
 - Pesticides & herbicides-May come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater run-off, and residential uses.
 - Organic chemical contaminants- Are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater run-off and septic systems
 - Radioactive contaminants-Can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. Department Regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Recipient Name
Address
City, ST ZIP Code



The process of converting all West Kern customers to Automatic Meter Reading devices is in progress and should be complete by December 2022. Please contact the District to register for Eye on Water, which allows you to view your daily water usage and set a leak alert.

Annual
Drinking Water
Quality Report
July 2022

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 1-December 31, 2021



Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse West Kern Water District a 661-763-3151 para asistirlo en espanol.

(This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please contact West Kern Water District at 661-763-3151 for assistance in Spanish.)

The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) requires community water systems to publish and make available an annual Consumer Confidence Report to provide background on the quality of your water and to show compliance with federal and state drinking water standards.

If you have any suggestions, questions/concerns, or require further information regarding this report please contact Wendy Adams-Rosenberger at 661-763-3151 or through the District’s webpage at www.wkwd.org

Drinking Water Test Results for the year 2021						
Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 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.						
TABLE 1. Compliance with Total Coliform MCL between January 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021						
Microbiological Contaminants	Sample Date	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Highest # of Detections in a Month	Typical Source of Bacteria	
Total Coliform Bacteria	2021	5% of monthly samples are positive	(0)	0	Naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present	
Fecal Coliform and E. Coli	2021	0 positive	(0)	0	E. Coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal fecal waste	
TABLE 1A. Sampling Results showing the detection of Coliform Bacteria						
Microbiological Contaminants	Highest # of Detections	No of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria	
E-Coli	1*	0	(a)	0	Human and Animal Fecal Waste	
*Although E-Coli was detected, an investigation was conducted, and it was determined to be an isolated event resulting in sample station removal. All samples since detection have been negative and water system remains in compliance. (a) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is <i>E. coli</i> -positive or system fails to take repeat samples following <i>E. coli</i> positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for <i>E. coli</i> .						
TABLE 2 – Sampling Results showing the detection of Lead and Copper						
Lead & Copper	No of Samples Collected	90 th Percentile Level Detected	No Sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (mg/L) 2021	30	.100	0	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ug/L) - 2021	30	3	1	15	2	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits;
TABLE 3 – Sampling Results showing Sodium and Hardness						
Chemical or Constituent (units)	Sample Date	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detections	WKWD Average	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (mg/L)	2019-2021	None	None	38-99	65	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (mg/L)	2019-2021	None	None	72 - 160	112	"Hardness" is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring.
TABLE 4 – Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard						
Chemical or Constituent (units)	Sample Date	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detections	WKW D Average	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (mg/L)	2019-2021	1	0.6	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ug/L)	2021	10	4	ND-6.29	0.98	Erosion of natural deposits
Antimony (ug/L)	2019-2021	6	1	ND – 1.15	.082	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics and solder
Barium (mg/L)	2019-2021	1	2	ND-.051	0.003	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Total Chromium (ug/L)	2019-2021	50	(100)	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L)	2019-2021	2	1	ND-0.15	0.04	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (mg/L)	2021	10	10	ND-4.30	1.28	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use
Gross Alpha (pCi/L) ¹	2019-2021	15	(0)	.44 - 21.6	9.42	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	2019-2021	20	0.43	0 to 19.3	10.02	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHms (Total) Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	2021	80	None	19-20	19.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA) (ug/L)	2021	60	None	3.2-3.3	3.25	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (mg/L)	2021	4	4	0.17-0.24	0.21	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
¹ While your drinking water meets the federal and state standards for Gross Alpha, 2 wells exceeded the MCL. West Kern remains in compliance based on the source wells running annual average of 4 consecutive quarters. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.						
TABLE 5 – Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard						
Chemical or Constituent (units)	Sample Date	MCL	Range of Detections	WKWD Average	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Chloride (mg/L)	2019-2021	500	27 – 88	48.15	Erosion of natural deposits; seawater influence	
Iron (ug/L)	2019-2021	300	ND – 130	10	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	
Silver (ug/L)	2019-2021	100	ND	ND	Industrial discharges	
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2019-2021	1600	320 - 830	539	Substance that forms ions when in water; seawater influence	
Sulfate (mg/L)	2019-2021	500	20- 230	92	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste	
Total dissolved solids (mg/L)	2020-2021	1000	178-490	305	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	
Turbidity (NTU)	2019-2021	5	.10– 2.80	0.66	Soil runoff	
TABLE 6 – Detection of Unregulated Contaminants						
Chemical or Constituent (units)	Sample Date	Notification Level	Range of Detections	WKWD Average	Health Effects	
Boron (mg/L)	2016	1	ND-.25	.10	Decreased fetal weight (developmental effects) in newborn rats.	

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).

TERMS USED IN REPORT:

MCL: [Maximum Contaminant Level](#): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCL’s protect public health and are set as close to the PHGs or MCLGs as are economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs relate to 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and allow a margin of safety.

MRDL:[Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level](#): 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.

MRDLG: [Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal](#): 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.

PDWS: [Primary Drinking Water Standards](#): MCLs, MRDLs and treatment techniques (TTs) for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring, reporting, 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 EPA without regard to cost or available detection and treatment technologies.

SDWS: [Secondary Drinking Water Standards](#): MCLs for contaminants that may adversely affect the taste, odor, or appearance of drinking water. These are aesthetic considerations that *don’t impact health*.

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

AL: [Regulatory Action Level](#): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other required action by the water provider.

ND: Not Detectable at testing limit

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

mg/L: milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (measurement of radioactivity)

ug/L: micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb)

µS/cm: measure of electrical conductivity

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

All 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791

About Arsenic: While your drinking water meets the federal & state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. [Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.](#) West Kern is responsible for providing high quality water but cannot control the variety of materials used in customer plumbing systems. [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 the water for drinking or cooking.](#) If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested by a private lab. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from US EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements during 2021. These revisions add the requirements of the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule, effective since April 1, 2016, to the existing state Total Coliform Rule. The revised rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbes (i.e., total coliform and E. coli bacteria). The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection as the rule requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, these must be corrected by the water system. The state Revised Total Coliform Rule became effective July 1, 2021.