

PUBLISHED JULY 2020

# The SOURCE



f i t @vcwdwater

## TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Para más información ó traducción, favor de contactar a Sra. Jandy Macias al (626) 338-7301.

# Committed to a Safe, Reliable, Affordable Water Supply

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Valley County Water District understands our responsibility in providing a vital resource to the community we serve. These past few months have certainly impacted all our lives, but like many others, our staff adjusted and quickly stepped up to meet these challenges and continued to deliver a safe water supply to all our customers. By working together with our community leaders, we will continue to create a safe work environment for our employees to operate and monitor your water system.



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE DISTRICT AND MEET SOME OF OUR STAFF THROUGH SEVERAL INSIGHTFUL VIDEOS.**



To Watch the Videos Online Visit:  
[www.vcwd.org/page/829141\\_District\\_Videos.asp](http://www.vcwd.org/page/829141_District_Videos.asp)

   @vcwdwater

Embracing available technology has been key for District staff in adapting to the new reality in performing our daily routines. With this in mind, we encourage our customers to explore new options to make payments and receive information on all the services the District provides. Please visit our website, follow us on social media, or contact customer service to learn about alternative payment options, affordable rate program, and other District programs and activities.

This year's Consumer Confidence Report contains water quality test results for 2019. Read more to learn about our continued efforts and commitment to provide a Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Drinking Water Supply.

José Martinez  
*General Manager*



## Governing Board of Directors

**MARGARITA VARGAS**  
*Board President*

**LENET PACHECO**  
*Board Vice President*

**JAZMIN LOPEZ**  
*Board Member*

**DAVID L. MUSE**  
*Board Member*

**JAVIER E. VARGAS**  
*Board Member*

## MAKING WATER RELIABLE



Valley County Water District is the principle public water utility serving within a 10-square mile community located in the San Gabriel Valley.



### SYSTEM RELIABILITY

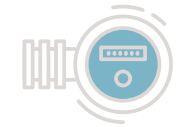
We take great pride in knowing that when you turn on the tap you have a safe, reliable and affordable drinking water source. Reliability means that even during an emergency or a natural disaster, you can count on us. We have implemented several programs to ensure your water is there when you need it most, including:

- Installation of Emergency Generators
- Computerized Control Upgrades
- Treatment System Monitoring 24/7, 365 days/year
- System Redundancy
- Proactive System Maintenance
- After Hours Emergency Service

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Every five years the District undergoes a thorough evaluation of our water system which helps us to anticipate future water demands, identify aging infrastructure and improve system reliability. This evaluation is the basis for the District's framework for future capital improvement projects. Ongoing projects include:

- Pipeline Replacement Projects
- Reservoir Rehabilitation
- Meter Replacement Program
- Design and Construction of New District Headquarters
- Emergency Fuel Storage
- Additional Storage Capacity Design and Construction



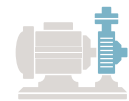
**12,470**  
 SERVICE CONNECTIONS



**120**  
 MILES OF WATER MAIN PIPELINES



**06**  
 RESERVOIRS



**17**  
 BOOSTER PUMPS



**03**  
 WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES



**04**  
 ACTIVE WELLS

# trust THE tap

As water service providers, VCWD understands the need to have safe drinking water readily available. It's our mission to exceed water quality standards through testing, monitoring and treatment of our groundwater supply and delivering it to our customers at a reasonable cost.

**TAP WATER IS VITAL TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY.**



The Trust the Tap communications campaign officially launched on social media in January 2020.

## WATER SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

The District regularly tests your drinking water using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Drinking Water—approved methods. Our staff monitors the District's water supply 24 hours a day and uses state-of-the-art treatment processes to remove potential contaminants.



## BUILDING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

Open and honest communication is part of the District's commitment to keeping our customers informed. We do this by using third-party laboratories for testing analysis, regular reporting to the USEPA and SWRCB, and providing the community with information about the quality of your drinking water in the yearly Consumer Confidence Report. The District welcomes the public to attend monthly Board meetings and invites the community to regular water education events.

### Did you know?

Flushing the water mains improves water quality by removing sediment that slowly builds up at the bottom of the water main over time. Flushing water is one of the most critical water quality practices carried out by public drinking water systems.



*Tap water is necessary for your overall health and hygiene.*

# MAKING WATER AFFORDABLE

## Affordable Rate Program

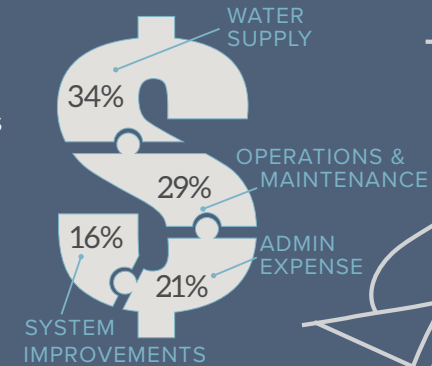
The District offers an Affordable Rate Program to customers who meet certain income requirements. Residential customers may qualify for a discount of \$10.00 off fixed charges per billing period on their water bill. *For more information, visit [vcwd.org](http://vcwd.org).*



**57,000**  
POPULATION  
SERVED

## HOW YOUR DOLLARS ARE SPENT

The District uses resources as efficiently and effectively as possible, providing the highest level of service to our customers at the lowest possible cost. As a public agency, VCWD can only charge customers for the cost of water served. The District allocates each dollar of revenue from customers as shown here.

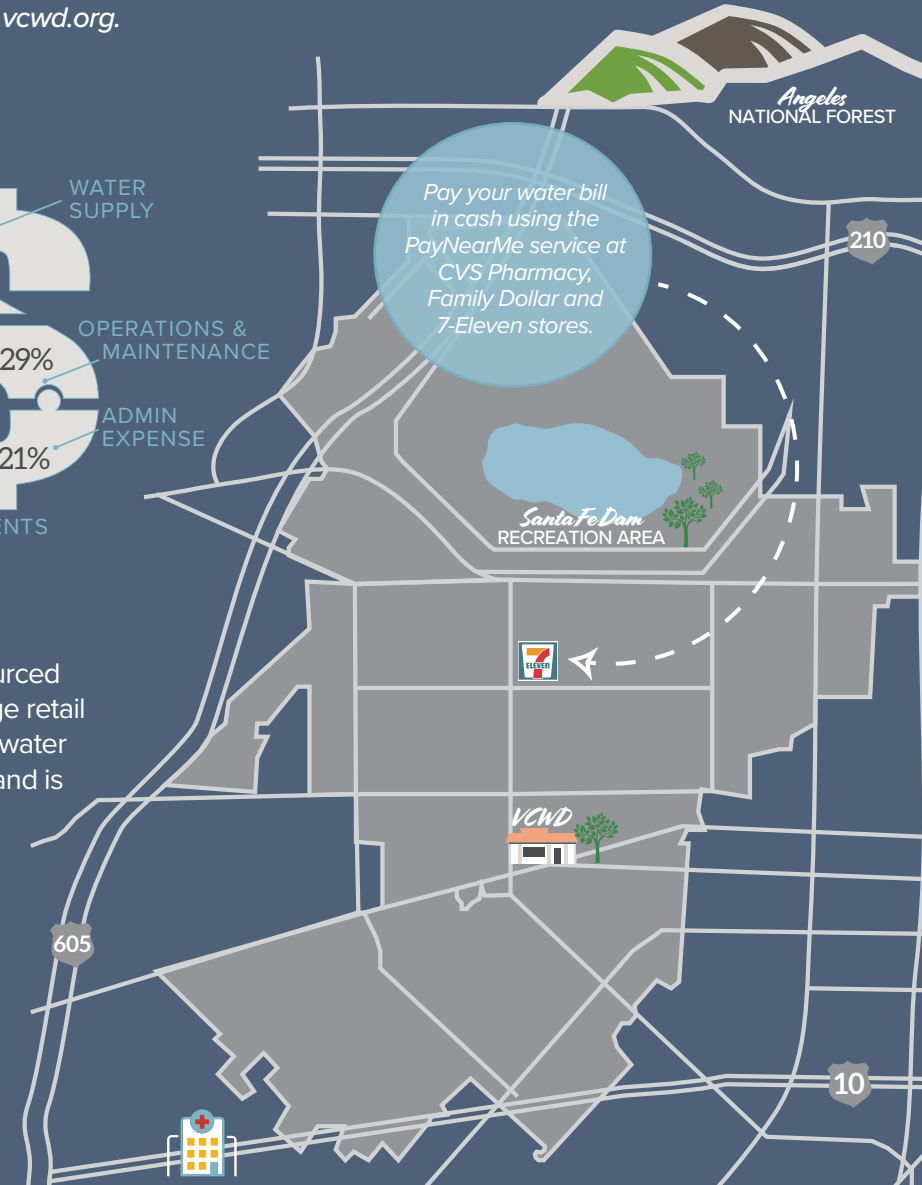


## CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

Major brands of bottled water are actually sourced from tap water supplies and sold at an average retail cost of \$1.29 per bottle. The same amount of water provided by VCWD costs less than one cent and is available from the convenience of home.

### Did you know?

Tap water is held to higher water quality standards than bottled water and it takes three times the amount of water to produce one bottle of water.



# REGULATING DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Water utilities in California have provided an annual report to their customers since 1991 which summarizes the prior year's water quality and explains important issues regarding their drinking water. In 1996, the United States Congress reauthorized the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which was originally passed in 1974 and later amended in 1986. The 1996 reauthorization called for the enhancement of nationwide drinking water regulations to include important components such as source water protection and public information. This year's water quality report covers water quality testing from calendar year 2019 and has been prepared in compliance with the consumer right-to-know regulations required by the SDWA 1996 amendments.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) are the public

agencies responsible for drafting and implementing regulations that ensure your tap water is safe to drink. USEPA and DDW establish drinking water standards that limit the amount of contaminants in water provided to the public. 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.

*For information about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact Mr. Tom Mortenson at (626) 962-1915.*

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para más información ó traducción, favor de contactar a Mr. Tom Mortenson al (626) 962-1915.*

## REGULAR TESTING

VCWD regularly tests your drinking water using DDW-approved methods to ensure its safety. Over 100 compounds have been monitored in the District's water supply. Only the detected constituents are reported in the accompanying table. Detected unregulated contaminants of interest are also included. Again in 2019, the water delivered to you by the District met or surpassed all the State and Federal drinking water standards. In June 2020, a notification was sent to our customers indicating a lapse in

sampling requirements. For additional information visit our website. In addition, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Watermaster), who manages our groundwater basin, continuously and vigilantly reviews upcoming State and Federal drinking water regulations. Watermaster has been proactive when monitoring unregulated contaminants in the Main San Gabriel Basin to ensure the water supply meets water quality standards.

## DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for the District 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 District's sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: gasoline stations, chemical/petroleum processing and storage, automobile repair shops, fleet/truck/bus terminals, food processing, landfills/dumps, leaking underground

storage tanks, dry cleaners and metal plating/finishing/fabricating. In addition, the sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: pesticide/fertilizer/petroleum storage and transfer areas, railroad yards/maintenance/fueling area.

*A copy of the complete assessment is available at Valley County Water District at 14521 Ramona Blvd., Baldwin Park, California 91706. You may request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting Mr. Tom Mortenson at (626) 962-1915.*

## Source of Supply

The District's water supply comes from groundwater wells located in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. However, as a result of historic industrial discharges, several of the District's groundwater wells are contaminated and have been taken out of service. Water treatment facilities have been constructed at the District to clean up groundwater contamination.

100%  
GROUNDWATER  
SUPPLY

*Sources of drinking water generally 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.*

It is important to note that even a small concentration of certain contaminants can adversely affect a water supply. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

## POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS IN DRINKING WATER

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.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.

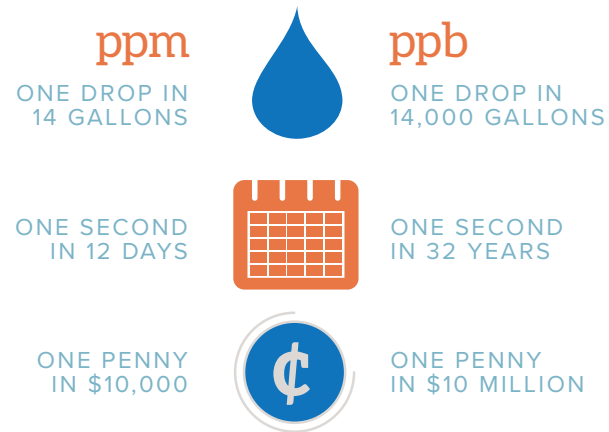
## IMMUNO-COMPROMISED PEOPLE

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.

*USEPA/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).*

## Measurements

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. Contaminants are measured in parts per million (ppm), parts per billion (ppb), and parts per trillion (ppt).



## ABOUT LEAD IN TAP WATER

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. The District 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 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 or at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-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 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 (1-800-426-4791), visit USEPA's Drinking Water website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water> or visit DDW website at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/publicwatersystems.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/publicwatersystems.shtml).*

## Definitions

- **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.
- **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 EPA.
- **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.
- **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).
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **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.
- **Regulatory Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Secondary MCLs:** They are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

# 2019 Drinking Water Quality Data

CHEMICAL	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	AVERAGE AMOUNT	RANGE OF DETECTION	MCL VIOLATION	RECENT TEST YEAR	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
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## PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS — Health-Related Standards

RADIOLOGICALS							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	(0)	<3	ND - 3.6	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	1.5	1.1 - 1.9	No	2017	Erosion of natural deposits

INORGANIC CHEMICALS							
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	2.1	2.0 - 2.1	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	0.12	0.11 - 0.13	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm) - <i>Naturally Occurring</i>	2	1	0.28	0.26 - 0.31	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate as N (ppm)	10	10	1.2	0.64 - 1.8	No	2019	Leaching from fertilizer use

## SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS — Aesthetic Standards, Not Health-Related

Chloride (ppm)	500	N/A	23	22 - 24	No	2018	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3	N/A	1	1	No	2018	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600	N/A	430	390 - 470	No	2018	Substances that form ions in water
Sulfate (ppm)	500	N/A	27	23 - 31	No	2018	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000	N/A	220	200 - 240	No	2019	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

## UNREGULATED CHEMICALS OF INTEREST

Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	NR	N/A	160	140 - 170	N/A	2018	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Calcium (ppm)	NR	N/A	53	45 - 60	N/A	2018	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	NR	N/A	180	150 - 200	N/A	2018	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Grains of Hardness (gpg)	NR	N/A	11	8.8 - 12	N/A	2018	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	NR	N/A	10	8.8 - 12	N/A	2018	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
pH (pH Units)	NR	N/A	7.8	7.7 - 7.9	N/A	2018	Hydrogen ion concentration
Potassium (ppm)	NR	N/A	3.4	3.0 - 3.6	N/A	2018	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	NR	N/A	14	12 - 16	N/A	2018	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

## UNREGULATED CHEMICALS REQUIRING MONITORING

Bromide (ppb)	NR	N/A	88	75 - 98	N/A	2019	Industrial Discharge
Chlorate (ppb)	NL = 800	N/A	65	55 - 80	N/A	2015	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination; industrial processes
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)	NR	0.02	0.58	0.31 - 1.1	N/A	2015	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial discharge
Chromium, Total (ppb)*	50	(100)	0.53	0.31 - 0.97	N/A	2015	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; natural deposits erosion
Manganese (ppb)**	SMCL = 50	N/A	0.4	ND - 2.4	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits

MCL = maximum contaminant level; MCLG = maximum contaminant level goal; N/A = not applicable; ND = not detected; NR = not regulated; PHG = public health goal; NL = Notification Level; gpg = grains per gallon; ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter; ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter; NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units; SMCL = secondary MCL; µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter; < = average is less than the reporting limit; pCi/l = picoCuries per liter

CHEMICAL	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	AVERAGE AMOUNT	RANGE OF DETECTION	MCL VIOLATION	RECENT TEST YEAR	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
UNREGULATED CHEMICALS REQUIRING MONITORING							
Molybdenum, Total (ppb)	NR	N/A	1.8	1.3 - 2.6	N/A	2015	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Strontium, Total (ppb)	NR	N/A	470	440 - 510	N/A	2015	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	NR	N/A	0.17	ND - 0.64	N/A	2019	Various natural and man-made sources
Vanadium, Total (ppb)	NL = 50	N/A	2.2	1.6 - 3.3	N/A	2015	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

CHEMICAL	ACTION LEVEL (AL)	PHG	90TH PERCENTILE	SITE EXCEEDING AL/ NUMBER OF SITES	AL VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
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## LEAD AND COPPER CONCENTRATIONS AT RESIDENTIAL TAPS

Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.15	0/32	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	ND	1/32	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

At least thirty residences are tested every three years for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of samples (32 residences) was collected in 2017. Copper was detected in 26 samples; none exceeded the regulatory action level (AL). Lead was detected in 2 samples; 1 sample exceeded the regulatory AL. The AL is the concentration of lead or copper which if exceeded in more than ten percent of the samples tested, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. In 2019, one school submitted a request to be sampled for lead.

CHEMICAL	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	AVERAGE	RANGE OF DETECTION	MCL VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
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## DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY

Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)**	80	3.5	ND - 4.1	No	Byproduct of chlorine disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)**	60	0.28	ND	No	Byproduct of chlorine disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)**	(4 / 4)	0.67	0.23 - 0.99	No	Drinking water disinfectant

CHEMICAL	NL	PHG (MCLG)	AVERAGE	RANGE OF DETECTION	RECENT TEST YEAR	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
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## UNREGULATED CHEMICALS REQUIRING MONITORING IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Chlorate (ppb)	800	N/A	66	66	2015	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination; industrial processes
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)	N/A	0.02	0.31	0.31	2015	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial discharge
Chromium, Total (ppb)*	MCL = 50	(100)	0.3	0.3	2015	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; natural deposits erosion
Haloacetic acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	N/A	0.14	ND - 0.78	2019	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic acids (HAA6Br) (ppb)	N/A	N/A	0.16	ND - 1.1	2019	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic acids (HAA9) (ppb)	N/A	N/A	0.18	ND - 1.1	2019	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Molybdenum, Total (ppb)	N/A	N/A	1.6	1.6	2015	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Strontium, Total (ppb)	N/A	N/A	510	510	2015	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Vanadium, Total (ppb)	50	N/A	1.6	1.6	2015	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal; \* Total chromium is regulated with an MCL of 50 ppb but was not detected, based on the detection limit for purposes of reporting of 10 ppb. Total chromium was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring. \*\* Manganese is regulated with a secondary standard of 50 ppb but was not detected, based on the DLR of 20 ppb. Manganese was included as part of the unregulated constituents requiring monitoring. \*\*\*The table shows the highest running annual average for 2019, and the range of the individual results for samples collected in 2019.

# Valley County Water District

14521 Ramona Boulevard

Baldwin Park, CA 91706

*Valley County Water District Provides a Safe and Reliable Supply of Water to All of Our Customers at a Reasonable Cost, and In An Environmentally Sound Manner*



Formed in 1926 as Baldwin Park Water District, Valley County Water District (District) is an independent, special district that provides water services to a portion of the cities of Baldwin Park, Irwindale, West Covina, and Azusa. The District is positioned above a portion of the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin, which is its primary source of water.

Today the District serves a population of approximately 57,000 through 12,758 water delivery service connections with water that meets all State and Federal drinking water standards.

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## BOARD MEETINGS

2nd and 4th Monday at 5:30 PM

Valley County Water District Board of Directors Room

14521 Ramona Boulevard, Baldwin Park, California 91706

