

LINCOLN AVENUE WATER COMPANY  
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT  
2020

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564 W HARRIET STREET  
ALTADENA, CA 91001-4537

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## 2020 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

Lincoln Avenue Water Company (Lincoln Avenue) is committed to keeping you informed about 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. We are proud to report that during 2020, the drinking water provided by Lincoln Avenue met or surpassed all Federal and State drinking water standards. We remain dedicated to providing you with a reliable supply of high-quality drinking water.

Lincoln Avenue, a mutual water company, serves approximately 16,000 people in the northwest region of Altadena, an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. As a mutual water company, the shareholders are its customers that are served by its distribution system. The General Manager oversees the company's operations and reports to a five person Board of Directors that meets monthly at the company offices located at 564 West Harriet Street, Altadena, California 91001. For more information, you may contact Ms. Jennifer Betancourt Torres, General Manager, at 626-798-9101, extension 213.

### WHERE DOES MY DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

In 2020, Lincoln Avenue distributed approximately 2,308 acre-feet of water to its customers. This amounts to about 752 million gallons. One acre-foot is enough water to cover one acre of land, one foot deep with water, or approximately 325,900 gallons. Ninety percent of the water came from two wells pumping from the Raymond groundwater basin. Five percent of the total was purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), a regional wholesaler of imported surface water. This water is a blend of Colorado River water delivered through MWD's Colorado River Aqueduct and surface water from Northern California delivered through the State of California Water Project Aqueduct. MWD's water is filtered and disinfected at the Weymouth Filtration Plant in La Verne. The remaining five percent of Lincoln Avenue's water came from local surface water in Millard Canyon. Just like MWD, Lincoln Avenue must filter and disinfect its local surface water source in Millard Canyon. The Millard Canyon treatment facility meets the same stringent water quality standards as MWD's treatment plant. Chlorine disinfectant is added to all water served by Lincoln Avenue to kill microorganisms and prevent re-growth of bacteria in storage reservoirs and distribution pipelines.

### DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the groundwater sources for Lincoln Avenue was completed in May 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 Lincoln Avenue's groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: gasoline stations, dry cleaners, automobile repair shops, high density housing and parking lots. In addition, the groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activity or facility not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: recreational area-surface water source. Furthermore, an assessment of Lincoln Avenue's surface water source was completed in October 2000, with the latest update in December 2020. The assessment concluded that Lincoln Avenue's surface water source is considered vulnerable to the following activity or facility associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: recreation and low density septic system use. In addition, the surface water source is considered vulnerable to historic mining operations, for which no associated contaminant has been detected. A copy of the complete assessment is available at Lincoln Avenue Water Company at 564 West Harriet Street, Altadena, California 91001. You may request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting our office at (626) 798-9101.

Every five years, MWD is required by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) to examine possible sources of drinking water contamination in its State Water Project and Colorado River source waters. The most recent watershed sanitary surveys of MWD's source water supplies from the Colorado River was updated in 2015 and the State Water Project was updated in 2016. Water from the Colorado River is considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. Water supplies from Northern California's State Water Project are most vulnerable to contamination from urban/stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) also requires MWD to complete one Source Water Assessment (SWA) that utilizes information collected in the watershed sanitary surveys. MWD completed its SWA in December 2002. The SWA is used to evaluate the vulnerability of water sources to contamination and helps determine whether more protective measures are needed. A copy of the most recent summary of either Watershed Sanitary Survey or the SWA can be obtained by calling MWD at (800) CALL-MWD.

### WHAT ARE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and DDW 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.

Drinking water standards established by USEPA and DDW set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **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 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.
- **Secondary MCLs** are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

## WHAT IS A WATER QUALITY GOAL?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and DDW have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes the following water quality goals:

- **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 USEPA.
- **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.
- **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.

## WHAT CONTAMINANTS MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCES OF 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.

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 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 applications, and septic systems.

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).

## WHAT IS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

As in past years, the Water Quality Charts compare the quality of your tap water to State and Federal drinking water standards. The water quality charts list all the regulated drinking water contaminants and other contaminants of interest, including unregulated contaminants requiring monitoring, that were **detected** during the 2020 calendar year or from the results of the most recent testing done in accordance with the monitoring regulations. 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. More than 100 regulated contaminants have been tested that **were not detected** in drinking water delivered by Lincoln Avenue; the list of non-detected contaminants is not included in the chart.

**Most contaminants detected in our groundwater and surface water sources** occur in your drinking water from erosion of natural deposits in soils. However, several detected contaminants are present in tap water as the result of the treatment process itself, corrosion of plumbing fixtures, or from industrial discharges:

- **Aluminum in the MWD treated surface water** comes from a treatment chemical used to assist in the removal of soil particles and microorganisms.
- **Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids** are organic chemicals that form when chlorine is added to disinfect the water. These chemicals are monitored in the distribution system.
- **Nitrate in groundwater** could come from fertilizers or leakage from old septic tanks. Nitrate in your drinking water may have exceeded one-half the MCL in 2020, but it was never greater than the MCL. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

- **Perchlorate is an inorganic chemical** that is used in solid rocket propellants, fireworks, explosives and flares, which originated from past discharges at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), the known perchlorate plume site. Levels of perchlorate detected in our wells in May 2004 exceeded the then DDW Notification Level of 6 micrograms per liter (µg/L). In June of 2004, Lincoln Avenue's customers were notified that water from these wells would not be delivered to them and the wells would remain off-line. In July of 2004, Lincoln Avenue completed the installation of an Ion Exchange treatment system to remove perchlorate from our well water to a non-detectable level. The system is now working in tandem with our existing Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) System to remove volatile organic contaminants in our well water. With this arrangement, Lincoln Avenue provides safe drinking water to its customers.
- **The groundwater pumped by our two wells contains several volatile organic chemicals (VOCs)**, including Carbon Tetrachloride (CTC), Tetrachloroethylene (PCE), and Trichloroethylene (TCE). The untreated groundwater exceeds the MCL for CTC. In order to use this important component of our total water supply, in 1992, we constructed a GAC treatment plant for the removal of the VOCs. A condition of our permit to operate this plant states that the treatment process must remove all the VOCs to non-detectable levels. PCE, CTC and TCE in the treated water of the GAC treatment plant were monitored on a weekly basis and no VOCs were detected in the fully-treated water during 2020.

**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. Lincoln Avenue 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 Hot Line or at <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

**Groundwater is protected from many infectious organisms**, such as the parasite *Cryptosporidium*, by the natural filtration action of water percolating through soils. Current conventional surface water treatment methods remove most *Cryptosporidium* organisms when they are present, but 100 percent elimination cannot be guaranteed. MWD has detected *Cryptosporidium* in some areas of their watershed but has never detected the organism in their treated water. There is no evidence that *Cryptosporidium* has entered the Lincoln Avenue water supply. However, **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 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).

## COLIFORM BACTERIA

This Consumer Confidence Report reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements during 2016. All water systems are required to comply with the state Total Coliform Rule. Effective April 1, 2016, all water systems are also required to comply with the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule. The new federal rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbials (i.e., total coliform and E. coli bacteria). The USEPA anticipates greater public health protection as the new 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.

## DRINKING WATER FLUORIDATION

*"Community water fluoridation helps us meet [health] goals; as it is one of the most cost-effective, equitable, and safe measures communities can take to prevent tooth decay and improve oral health."* **U.S. Surgeon General**

In November 2007, MWD joined a majority of the nation's public water suppliers by adding fluoride to drinking water in order to prevent tooth decay. In line with recommendations from DDW, as well as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MWD began adjusting the natural fluoride level in imported water, which ranges from 0.2 part per million (ppm) to 0.4 ppm. MWD was in compliance with all provisions of the State's fluoridation system requirements. Fluoride levels in drinking water are limited under California state regulations at a maximum dosage of 2 ppm.

Lincoln Avenue does not add additional fluoride to the local water delivered to you because fluoride occurs naturally in groundwater. As shown on the water quality table, the average fluoride concentration in Lincoln Avenue's groundwater is 0.68 ppm.

Fluoride has been added to U.S. drinking water supplies since 1945. Of the 50 largest cities in the U.S., 43 fluoridate their drinking water. There are many places to go for additional information about the fluoridation of drinking water. They include:

**U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/index.html>

**American Water Works Association:** [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)

**State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water:**  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html)

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información ó traducción, favor de contactar a Maria Autran. Telefono: 626-798-9101, extensión 218.**

## METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TREATED SURFACE WATER

## LINCOLN AVENUE WATER COMPANY TREATED SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER QUALITY

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring	MCL	PHG or (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Tests
Bromide (ppb) *	n/a	n/a	13	ND - 50	2018
Manganese (ppb) **	SMCL = 50	n/a	<0.4	ND - 0.45	2018
Total Organic Carbon (ppb) *	n/a	n/a	1,700	1,400 - 2,000	2018

**MCL** = Maximum Contaminant Level; **MCLG** = Federal MCL Goal; **PHG** = California Public Health Goal; **ppb** = parts-per-billion; **SMCL** = Secondary MCL

\* Monitoring required for only Millard Canyon raw water

\*\* Manganese is regulated with a secondary standard of 50 ppb but was not detected, based on the detection limit for purposes of reporting of 20 ppb. Manganese was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.

## LINCOLN AVENUE WATER COMPANY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY

Chemical	MCL or (MRDL)	PHG or (MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Most Recent Tests	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) <sup>1</sup>	80	n/a	30	ND - 70	No	Quarterly	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb) <sup>1</sup>	60	n/a	30	ND - 98	No	Quarterly	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Total Chlorine Residual (ppm) <sup>1</sup>	(4)	(4)	1.2	0.51 - 2.2	No	Weekly	Drinking water disinfectant
Odor (threshold odor number) <sup>1</sup>	3	n/a	1	1	No	Monthly	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Turbidity (NTU) <sup>1</sup>	5	n/a	<0.1	ND - 0.3	No	Monthly	Soil run-off

\* Regulated with a primary MCL; \*\* Regulated with a secondary MCL; NTU = nephelometric turbidity units; ppb = parts-per-billion; ppm = parts-per-million;

**MCL** = Maximum Contaminant Level; **MRDL** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; **MRDLG** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal; **ND** = not detected;

**NTU** = nephelometric turbidity units; **PHG** = California Public Health Goal; **n/a** = not applicable; **<** = average is below the detection limit for purposes of reporting (DLR)

Four locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids; thirteen locations are tested monthly for color, odor, and turbidity. Color was not detected in 2020. In addition, thirteen locations are tested weekly for coliform bacteria and chlorine residual.

Bacterial Quality	MCL	MCLG	Highest Monthly Percent Positives	MCL Violation?	Most Recent Sampling	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	5.0%	0	1.8%	No	2020	Naturally present in the environment

No more than 5.0% of the monthly samples may be positive for total coliform bacteria. One sample collected in May 2020 and one sample collected in August 2020 were detected positive for total coliform. However, fecal coliform/E.coli was not detected. Total coliform was also not detected in the repeat samples. Therefore there was no violation on bacterial quality.

Lead / Copper	Action Level (AL)	PHG	90th Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding AL/ Number of Sites Tested	AL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	ND	1/45	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.26	0/45	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Every three years, at least 30 residences are tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of samples was collected in 2019. Lead was detected in two samples; one result exceeded the AL, but the result did not exceed the AL in a subsequent resampling. Copper was detected in thirty-one samples; however, none of the results exceeded the AL. A regulatory action level is the concentration of a chemical which, if exceeded in more than 10 percent of the samples, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

In 2020, no school sites submitted requests to be sampled for lead.

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring	MCL	PHG or (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Tests
Haloacetic acids (HAA5) (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.3	1.3	2019
Haloacetic acids (HAA6Br) (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.87	1.87	2019
Haloacetic acids (HAA9) (ppb)	n/a	n/a	2.5	2.5	2019

**MCL** = Maximum Contaminant Level; **MCLG** = Federal MCL Goal; **PHG** = California Public Health Goal; **ppb** = parts-per-billion