

STERLING MUTUAL WATER COMPANY YEAR 2020 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Sterling Mutual Water Company 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 year 2020, the drinking water provided by Sterling Mutual Water Company 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.

Regularly scheduled meetings of the Sterling Mutual Water Company Board of Directors are held the second week of February, April, June, August, October and December at 11824 Basye Street, El Monte, California 91734. The meetings provide an opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of your water. Please contact Ms. Beverly Dominguez at (626) 350-9314 for more information.

WHERE DOES MY DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

Sterling Mutual Water Company's water supply comes from two production wells in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin.

WHAT ARE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking (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.
- **Secondary MCLs** are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other

requirements that a water system must follow.

- **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).

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 goal:

- **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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, agricultural application 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).

ARE THERE ANY PRECAUTIONS THE PUBLIC SHOULD CONSIDER?

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).

WHAT IS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

The table in this report lists all the constituents **detected** in your drinking water that have Federal and State drinking water standards. 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. Detected unregulated constituents

and other constituents of interest are also included.

LEAD IN TAP WATER

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious 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. Sterling Mutual 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 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/lead>.

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 microbes (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 SOURCE ASSESSMENT

Pursuant to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for Sterling Mutual Water Company was completed in September 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 Sterling Mutual Water Company's wells are not vulnerable to any activity associated with contaminants detected in the water supply. However, the sources are considered vulnerable to gasoline stations and underground storage tanks. A copy of the complete assessment is available at Sterling Mutual Water Company at 11824 Bayse Street, El Monte, California. You may request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting Ms. Beverly Dominguez at (626) 350-9314.

QUESTIONS?

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact Mr. Ignatius Kelley at (626) 391-6157.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información ó traducción, favor de contactar a Mr. Ignatius Kelley (626) 391-6157.

此份有關你的食水報告,內有重要資料和訊息,請找他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。