



CITY OF WHITTIER 2020 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Dear Customer,

The City of Whittier is committed to keeping you informed on 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. During 2020, the drinking water provided by the City of Whittier to its service area complied with all Federal and State drinking water quality standards. We remain dedicated to providing you with a safe and reliable supply of high quality drinking water.

The information that follows represents only a fraction of the activity in which the City of Whittier engages to provide you, the consumer, a high level of confidence in the water that you drink. We, along with our State-certified laboratories, routinely scrutinize our water supplies for the entire range of elements that have the potential to degrade the quality of your 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800- 426-4791).

Some people, however, may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants and people with infections are among those that may be more vulnerable. 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 USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800 426-4791). Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. As noted below, the City of Whittier's source water does not include surface water; therefore, monitoring for cryptosporidium is not applicable to the City of Whittier.



What kind of contaminants might be found in 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 surfaces 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 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally- occurring or be the result of oil and gas productions and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (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 must provide the same protection for public health.

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. The City of Whittier 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at: <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

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.

Disinfectants and disinfection byproducts

According to USEPA, disinfection of drinking water is one of the major public health advances in the 20th century. However, the disinfectants themselves can react with naturally-occurring materials in the water to form byproducts, which may pose health risks. Amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act in 1996 require USEPA to develop rules to balance the risks between microbial pathogens and disinfection byproducts (DBPs). The City of Whittier is required to monitor for DBPs (total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids) in your drinking water. During 2020, the drinking water provided by the City of Whittier to its service area complied with the Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

Where does your water come from?

During 2020, the City of Whittier pumped 100 percent of our source water from six (6) active deep wells located in the Whittier Narrows area. These wells draw water from the Main San Gabriel groundwater basin and the Central groundwater basin. This water is then treated and delivered to the City of Whittier's eleven reservoirs for your use. In addition, the City of Whittier assists in the operation of a groundwater treatment facility located in the Central Basin and receives treated water from the Central Basin Plant as a drinking water supply. The treatment facility removed Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs) to non-detectable levels. This treatment facility was bypassed and not in operation in 2020 due to non-detectable or low levels of VOC's.

Water conservation should remain a priority in Southern California. Conservation as a way of life will help ensure the continued availability of our water supply. For a list of current water restrictions in the City of Whittier service area, please visit our website at www.cityofwhittier.org or call our Customer Service Desk at (562) 567-9530.

Water Conservation Tips

Water Conservation has become a new way of life. Water Conservation habits that are developed when there is ample snowpack will help sustain the water supply through growth and dry years. We suggest the continuation of the following water conservation habits:

Water between
6 p.m. and 10 a.m.



Adjust watering frequency according to the weather and season. Try to set sprinkler systems for multiples short cycles for each station and allow 30 to 60 minutes for the water to soak into the soil between cycles

Check and repair
leaking pipes, hoses,
sprinklers, and
toilets



Install water-saving shower
heads and toilets

Use a broom to
clean driveways and
sidewalks



What is in your drinking water?

The chart in this report shows the average and range of concentrations of the constituents tested in your drinking water during year 2020 or from the most recent tests. The State allows the City of Whittier to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants in groundwater do not change frequently. Some of our data, although representative, are more than one year old. The chart lists all the contaminants detected in your drinking water that have Federal and State drinking water standards. Detected unregulated contaminants of interest are also included.

Drinking Water Source Assessment

In accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Whittier was completed in December 2002. The assessment concluded that the City of Whittier's sources are considered vulnerable to the following activities or facilities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: research laboratory, known VOC contamination plumes, and parking lots/mall. In addition, the sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: research laboratories and parks. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the City of Whittier Public Works counter at 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California 90602. You may request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting Customer Service at (562) 567-9530.

This report is intended to provide information for all water users. If received by an absentee landlord, a business or school, please share the information with tenants, employees or students. We will be happy to make additional copies of this report available for review by the public upon request.

If you would like additional information regarding water quality, please call Mr. Raymond Cordero, at (562) 567-9566.

Our City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located in City Hall at 13230 Penn Street. Please feel free to participate in these meetings

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。

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información ó traducción, favor de contactar a Mr. Raymond Cordero. Telefono: (562) 567-9566.

Sincerely,
Kyle Cason, PE, Director of Public Works



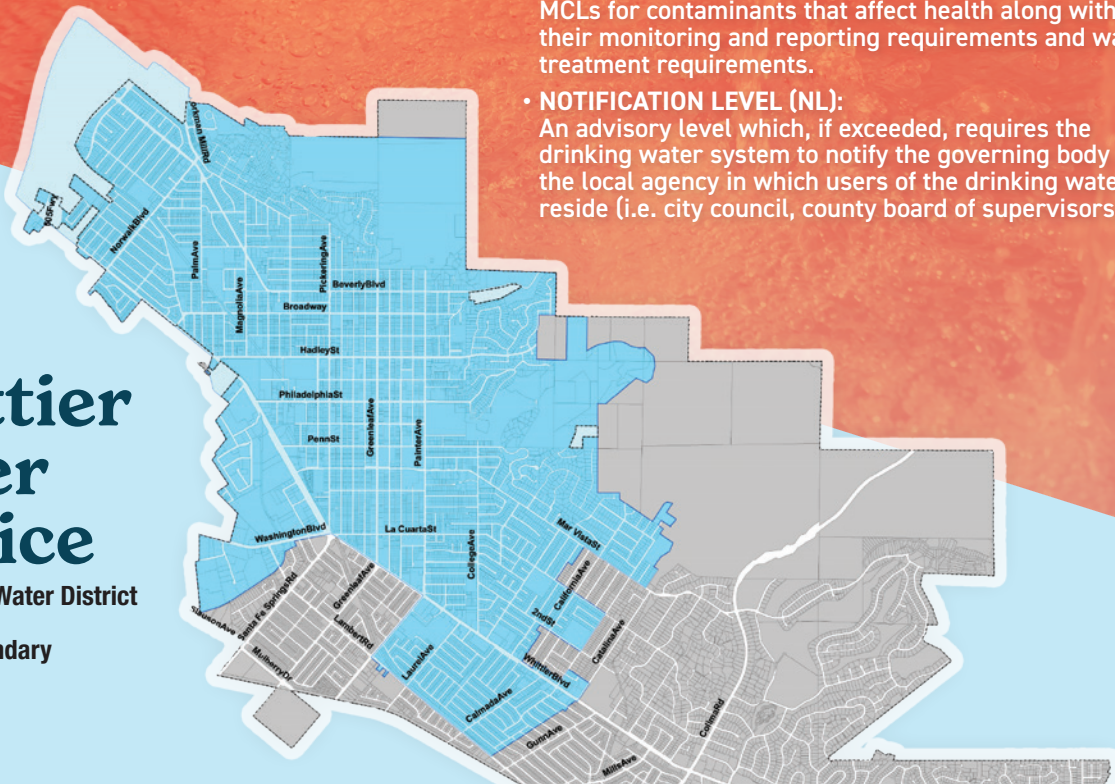
Defintions

- **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 USEPA.
- **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 California Environmental Protection Agency.
- **MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL):**
The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible.

- **REGULATORY ACTION LEVEL (AL):**
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **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 STANDARD:**
MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **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).

Whittier Water Service

Whittier Water District
City Boundary



CITY OF WHITTIER 2020 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY TABLE

CONSTITUENT AND (UNITS)	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	DLR	GROUNDWATER SOURCES		MCL Violations?	Most Recent Sampling Date	TYPICAL ORIGINS
				Results (a)	Range (Min-Max)			
PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Health-Related Standards								
ORGANIC CHEMICALS								
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (µg/l)	5	0.06	0.5	<0.5	ND - 1.8	No	Monthly	Discharge from industrial activities
DISINFECTANT AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS (b)								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (µg/l)	80	NA	1	37	2.5 - 42	No	Quarterly	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids (five) (HAA5) (µg/l)	60	NA	1 - 2	6	ND - 6.9	No	Quarterly	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine Residual (mg/l)	[4.0]	[4]	NA	0.68	0.2 - 1.5	No	Weekly	Drinking water disinfectant
INORGANIC CHEMICALS								
Aluminum (mg/l)	1	0.6	0.05	<0.05	ND - 0.6	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (µg/l)	10	0.004	2	<2	ND - 2.2	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (mg/l)	1	2	0.1	<0.1	ND - 0.59	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (mg/l) (c)	AL = 1.3	0.3	0.05	0.57	1 / 30 Samples Exceeded the AL	No	2019	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Fluoride (mg/l)	2	1	0.1	0.22	0.15 - 0.28	No	2018 and 2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (µg/l) (c)	AL = 15	0.2	5	<5	0 / 30 Samples Exceeded the AL	No	2019	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Nitrate as N (mg/l)	10	10	0.4	2.7	1.8 - 4.2	No	2020	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use
BACTERIOLOGICAL								
Coliform Bacteria (d)	5.0%	(0)	NA	0.0%	--	No	Weekly	Naturally present in the environment
RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS								
Uranium (pCi/l)	20	0.43	1	1.5	ND - 2.3	No	2017, 2019, and 2020	Erosion of natural deposits
SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards, Not Health-Related								
Aluminum (µg/l)	200	600	50	<50	ND - 600	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride (mg/l)	500	NA	NA	99	75 - 110	No	2018 and 2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Iron (µg/l)	300	NA	100	120	ND - 440	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese (µg/l)	50	NA	20	<20	ND - 50	No	2018 and 2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Odor (TON)	3	NA	1	<1	ND - 1	No	2018 and 2020	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600	NA	NA	850	730 - 940	No	2018 and 2020	Substances that form ions in water
Sulfate (mg/l)	500	NA	0.5	110	88 - 140	No	2018 and 2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)	1,000	NA	NA	530	430 - 620	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5	NA	0.1	0.53	ND - 1.9	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
ADDITIONAL CHEMICALS OF INTEREST/UNREGULATED								
Alkalinity, total as CaCO3 (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	160	130 - 170	NA	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Calcium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	79	62 - 91	NA	2018 and 2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness, total as CaCO3 (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	260	210 - 290	NA	2018 and 2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	14	11 - 16	NA	2018 and 2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (ng/l)	NL = 500	NA	NA	6.3	4.5 - 7.4	NA	2020	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (ng/l)	NA	NA	NA	<4	ND - 4.7	NA	2020	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (ng/l)	NA	NA	NA	6.2	ND - 9.2	NA	2020	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (ng/l)	NL = 6.5	NA	NA	17	15 - 16	NA	2020	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (ng/l)	NL = 5.1	NA	NA	11	9.8 - 12	NA	2020	Discharge from industrial activities
pH (pH units)	NA	NA	NA	7.5	7.2 - 7.7	NA	2018 and 2020	Hydrogen ion concentration
Sodium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	74	61 - 84	NA	2018 and 2020	Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED CHEMICALS REQUIRING MONITORING				
CONSTITUENT AND (UNITS)	NL	Results	Range (Min-Max)	Most Recent Sampling Date
AT ENTRY POINT TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM				
Bromide (µg/l)	NA	190	180 - 200	2019
Manganese (µg/l) (e)	SMCL=50	6.4	6.4	2019
Total Organic Carbon (mg/l)	NA	<1	ND - 1.1	2019
IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM				
Haloacetic acids (HAA5) (µg/l)	NA	5.5	3.1 - 7.7	2019
Haloacetic acids (HAA6Br) (µg/l)	NA	12	6.3 - 17	2019
Haloacetic acids (HAA9) (µg/l)	NA	13	7.5 - 19	2019

NOTES

AL = Action Level
DLR = Detection Limit for Purposes of Reporting
MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
SMCL= Secondary MCL
mg/l = parts per million or milligrams per liter
ng/l = parts per trillion or nanograms per liter
< = Average is less than the DLR
MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
NA = No Applicable Limit
ND = Not Detected at DLR
NL = Notification Level
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/l = picoCuries per liter
PHG = Public Health Goal
TON = Threshold Odor Number
µg/l = parts per billion or micrograms per liter
µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter

- (a) The results reported in the table are average concentrations of the constituents detected in your drinking water during year 2020 or from the most recent tests, except for Coliform Bacteria, Chlorine Residual, TTHM, HAA5, Lead, and Copper which are described below.
- (b) Samples were collected in the distribution system. For Chlorine Residual, TTHM, and HAA5, the running annual average is reported as "Results" while the maximum and minimum of the individual results are reported as "Range."
- (c) Concentrations were measured at the tap every 3 years. The 90th percentile concentration is reported in the table. None of the thirty sampling locations for Lead exceeded the Action Level; one of the thirty sampling locations for Copper exceeded the Action Level. The samples were collected in 2019. In 2020, no school submitted a request to be sampled for lead.
- (d) Over seven hundred (700) Coliform Bacteria samples were collected in the distribution system in 2020. The result in the chart is the highest percentage of Coliform-positive samples out of all samples collected in any month the detection was made. Coliform Bacteria are used as an indicator that if present, indicates other potentially harmful microorganisms may be present. No more than 5.0% of the monthly samples may be Coliform-positive; therefore, the MCL was not violated in 2020.
- (e) Manganese was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.