



## CITY OF WHITTIER 2021 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

### June 2022 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. Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. EPA and State drinking water health standards. The City of Whittier vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again, we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

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, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from 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 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 gas 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 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.

For example, 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 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 or at: <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

#### 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 2021, 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 2021, the City of Whittier pumped 100 percent of our source water from six (6) active 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 2021 due to non-detectable or low levels of VOC's.



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## Water Conservation Tips

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. The City of Whittier suggests 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



For additional information on Conservation, visit the City's website at [www.cityofwhittier.org](http://www.cityofwhittier.org)

## 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 2021 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. Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

## 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: 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.

**This report contains important information about your drinking water. For more information, please contact Mr. Raymond Cordero at (562) 567-9566.**

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Para más información, favor de comunicarse con Mr. Raymond Cordero al (562) 567-9566 para asistirlo en español.**

这份报告含有关于您的饮用水的重要讯息。请用以下地址和电话联系 City of Whittier 以获得中文的帮助: (562) 567-9500

**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.**

Sincerely,

Kyle Cason, PE  
Director of Public Works



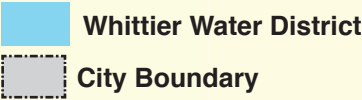


## Defintions

- 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.
- 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- 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.

- PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD (PDWS):**  
MCLs, MRDLs and treatment techniques (TTs) for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.
- 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.
- REGULATORY ACTION LEVEL (AL):**  
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a 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)

## Whittier Water Service



### 2021 WATER QUALITY

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)			
GROUNDWATER DATA SOURCE								
PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Health-Related Standards								
ORGANIC CHEMICALS								
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (µg/l)	5	0.06	0.5	<0.5	ND - 1.2	No	Monthly	Discharge from industrial activities
INORGANIC CHEMICALS								
Arsenic (µg/l)	10	0.004	2	<2	ND - 2.2	No	2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (mg/l)	1	2	0.1	<0.1	ND - 0.59	No	2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/l)	2	1	0.1	0.22	0.16 - 0.28	No	2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate as N (mg/l)	10	10	0.4	2.8	1.6 - 4.3	No	2021	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use
RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS								
Uranium (pCi/l)	20	0.43	1	1.2	ND - 2.3	No	2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards, Not Health-Related								
Chloride (mg/l)	500	NA	NA	96	75 - 110	No	2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
Iron (µg/l)	300	NA	100	152	ND - 440	No	2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
Odor (TON)	3	NA	1	<1	ND - 1.0	No	2020 and 2021	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600	NA	NA	848	750 - 940	No	2020 and 2021	Substances that form ions in water
Sulfate (mg/l)	500	NA	0.5	113	88 - 140	No	2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)	1,000	NA	NA	520	470 - 550	No	2021	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5	NA	0.1	0.70	ND - 2.2	No	2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
ADDITIONAL CHEMICALS OF INTEREST/UNREGULATED								
Alkalinity, total as CaCO3 (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	165	130 - 180	NA	2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
Calcium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	79	62 - 94	NA	2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness, total as CaCO3 (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	256	206 - 304	NA	2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	15	12 - 17	NA	2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (ng/l) - PFBS	NL = 500	NA	NA	5.5	3.3 - 9.0	NA	2021	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (ng/l) - PFHxA	NA	NA	NA	4.9	2.0 - 9.0	NA	2021	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (ng/l) - PFOS	NL = 6.5	NA	NA	16.9	12 - 26	NA	2021	Discharge from industrial activities
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (ng/l) - PFOA	NL = 5.1	NA	NA	9.2	6.9 - 11.0	NA	2021	Discharge from industrial activities
pH (pH units)	NA	NA	NA	7.4	7.1 - 7.6	NA	2020 and 2021	Hydrogen ion concentration
Sodium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	71	67 - 77	NA	2020 and 2021	Erosion of natural deposits
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM								
DISINFECTANT AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (b)								
Total Triholomethanes (TTHM) (µg/l)	80	NA	1	37	10.0 - 50.0	No	2021	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids (five) (HAA5) (µg/l)	60	NA	1 - 2	6.13	ND - 6.8	No	2021	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine Residual (mg/l)	[4.0]	[4]	NA	0.76	0.2 - 1.65	No	Weekly	Drinking water disinfectant
BACTERIOLOGICAL								
Total Coliform Bacteria (d)	5.0%	(0)	NA	1.59%	--	No	Weekly	Naturally present in the environment
LEAD AND COPPER AT RESIDENTIAL TAPS								
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
Lead (µg/l) (c)	AL = 15	0.2	5	<5	0 / 30 Samples Exceeded the AL	No	2019	Corrosion of household plumbing system

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	189	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 and 2021
IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM				
Haloacetic acids (HAA5) (µg/l)	NA	5.4	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) The result in the chart is the highest percentage of total 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. For a water system collecting at least 40 samples per month, no more than 5.0% of the monthly samples may be total coliform positive; therefore, the MCL was not violated in 2021.
- (e) Manganese was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.