



# SCV WATER



## 2019 Water Quality Report

This 2019 Annual Water Quality Report is a snapshot of the quality of local water supplies in the Santa Clarita Valley during 2018. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to strict Federal and State standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.



[WWW.YOURSCVWATER.COM](http://WWW.YOURSCVWATER.COM)

# Sources of Water

SCV Water provides drinking water from multiple sources.

## State Water Project

water is imported from Northern California, is treated through one of our two treatment plants and then enters the distribution system. **Groundwater** is pumped from two natural underground aquifers, the Alluvial and the Saugus Formation. **Recycled**

**water** is also provided for some irrigation uses. These sources are served in various proportions to service areas within the Newhall Water Division (NWD), Santa Clarita Water Division (SCWD), and Valencia Water Division (VWD.) In addition, SCVWA provides treated water to Los Angeles County Waterworks District #36.



**Los Angeles County Waterworks District #36** serves customers located in Hasley Canyon and Val Verde. Customers received 0% imported water and 100% local groundwater in 2018.

**SCV Water - Newhall Water Division** serves customers located in the Castaic, Newhall, Pinetree and Tesoro del Valle areas. In 2018, Castaic customers received 58% imported water and 42% local groundwater, Newhall customers received 56% imported water and 44% local groundwater, Pinetree customers received 99.7% imported water and 0.3% local groundwater, and Tesoro del Valle customers received 100% imported water.

**SCV Water - Santa Clarita Water Division** provides water to a portion of the City of Santa Clarita and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County including Saugus, Canyon Country and Newhall. Customers received approximately 88% imported water and 12% local groundwater in 2018.

**SCV Water - Valencia Water Division** supplies water to customers in Valencia, Stevenson Ranch, and parts of Castaic, Saugus, and Newhall. In 2018, customers received 51% imported water, 48% local groundwater and 1% recycled water (delivered to large landscape customers).

For more information about our water sources, please visit [www.yourscvwater.com](http://www.yourscvwater.com).

## Message from The General Manager

Dear Customer:

SCV Water and Los Angeles Waterworks District #36 take great pride in reporting that, in 2018, your tap water again met or surpassed all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and California State drinking water health standards. State-certified operators working in our water treatment and distribution systems make certain that your tap water is pleasant tasting and safe to drink through constant monitoring, sampling, testing and maintenance.

Last year, our water quality staff performed over 20,000 tests and analyzed samples from 64 drinking water sources for more than 285 drinking water contaminants. Many of these tests are conducted in our own state-of-the-art and state-certified Water Quality Laboratory.

Water quality is only one component of the total value of water. As a regional water agency, SCV Water is better positioned to take a holistic approach to major initiatives and mandates in the coming years, such as groundwater sustainability and watershed management. On behalf of all of our employees, thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely,

**Matthew G. Stone** | General Manager | SCV Water  
Website: [www.yourscvwater.com](http://www.yourscvwater.com)

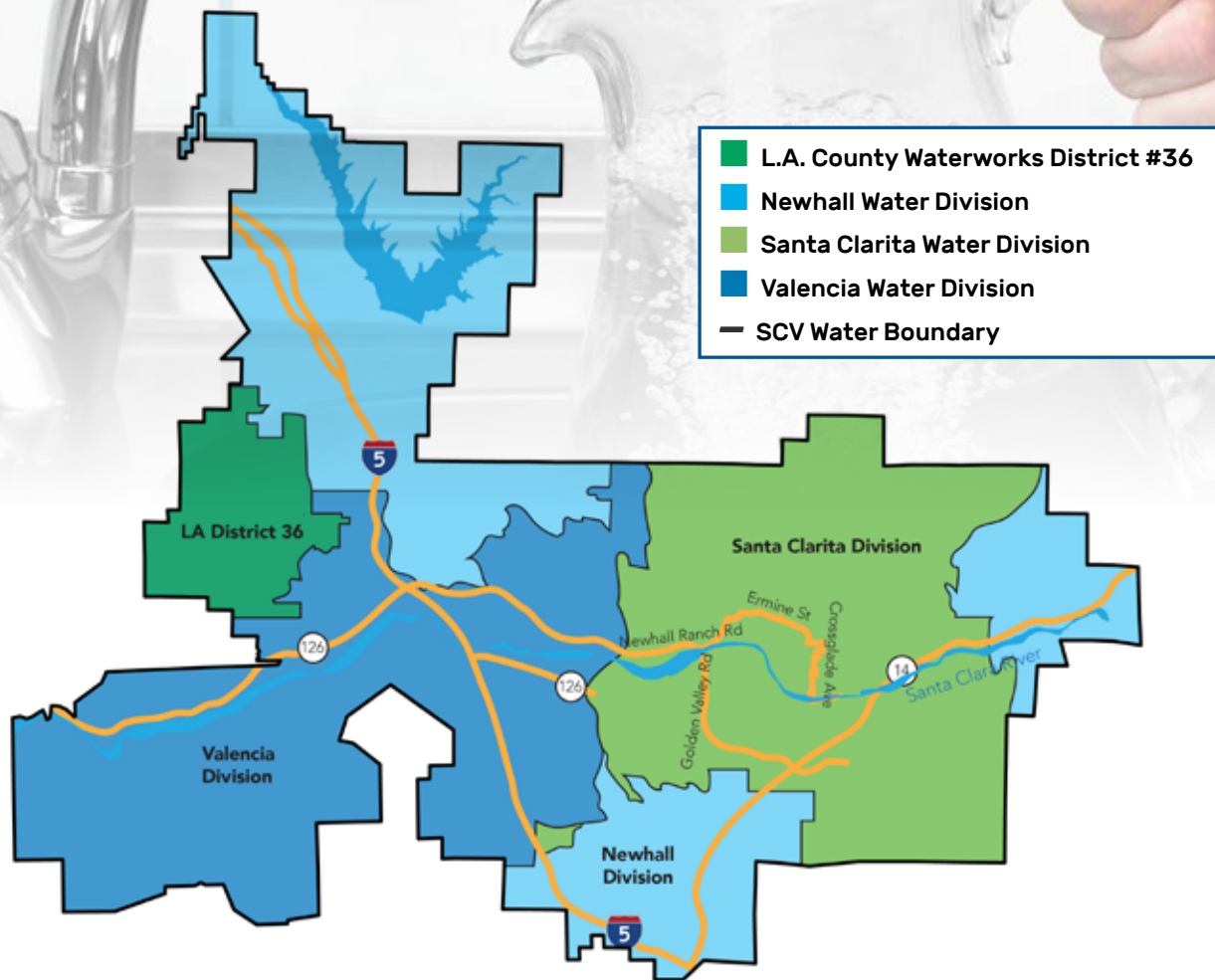
**Adam Ariki** | District Engineer | LACWD #36  
Website: [www.lacwaterworks.org](http://www.lacwaterworks.org)



*The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) requires community water systems to publish and make available an annual Consumer Confidence Report to provide background on the quality of your water and to show compliance with federal and state drinking water standards.*

# SCV Water

## By the numbers



**273,000**  
POPULATION SERVED



**141,000** ACRE-FEET  
BANKED IN KERN COUNTY



**44** ACTIVE WELLS  
GROUNDWATER



**195** SQUARE MILES  
SERVICE AREA



**95** LOCAL  
STORAGE RESERVOIRS/  
145 MILLION GALLON CAPACITY



**887** MILES PIPELINE  
INFRASTRUCTURE



# SCV'S Groundwater Sustainability Agency Aims to Protect Resources



SCV Water is helping lead development of a management plan to protect and improve local groundwater resources, which are vital during times of drought.

As part of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), governments and water agencies of high- and medium- priority basins are required to halt overdraft and bring the basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. Under SGMA, the basins should reach sustainability within 20 years of implementing their plans.

As a result, SCV Water's Board of Directors has joined with the City of Santa Clarita, County of Los Angeles Planning Department and Los Angeles County Waterworks District 36 to form the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SCV-GSA). By January 2022, the SCV-GSA will develop a Groundwater Sustainability

Plan tailored to the resources and needs of the community to maintain and improve resource management where necessary.

We depend on groundwater to augment our supply of imported water, so it is very important to maintain a healthy aquifer. As the process moves along, we will be working to educate and inform our customers about this vital resource and encourage their participation in forming a plan.

SCV-GSA will include public outreach as it develops a basin management strategy and will seek input from customers.

In the Santa Clarita Valley, about half of the water supply is produced by local groundwater. The SCV-GSA is responsible for water in the Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin, which is located between the Los Angeles-Ventura County Line and Highway 14. It includes the neighborhoods of Castaic, Stevenson Ranch, Valencia, Newhall, Saugus and Canyon Country.

For more information, visit [www.scvgsa.org](http://www.scvgsa.org).

## Conservation: A California Way of Life

Years of drought made Californians more aware than ever of the need to use water as efficiently as possible.

SCV Water is committed to continuing to help customers conserve – both inside and outside the home. In 2018, SCV Water customers saved about 6.8 billion gallons of water – enough to fill almost 10,000 Olympic-sized pools!

SCV Water offers a free water survey to help residents identify ways they can save water. The survey takes place at home, where a consultant will check for leaks, install water-saving devices and share conservation tips and information.

Customers can also receive a free Water Efficiency Kit for their homes. The Water Efficiency Kit includes:

- ◆ **1 WaterSense® labeled shower head**
- ◆ **2 WaterSense® labeled bathroom faucet aerators**
- ◆ **2 hose nozzles, 1 replacement toilet flapper**
- ◆ **2 leak detector dye tablet packs**

Water conservation is vital to maintaining a sustainable water supply for the Santa Clarita Valley and all of California. Educating local residents on how to conserve water is one of the many ways SCV Water ensures a reliable supply of high-quality water. **Learn more at [conserve.yourSCVwater.com](http://conserve.yourSCVwater.com).**

### Rebates. Save Water AND Money!

Becoming water efficient saves money over time, but it can cost money to get started. SCV Water offers rebates for devices like pool covers, smart irrigation controllers, and other irrigation components to help support customers in their water-saving efforts.



**LAWN REPLACEMENT** >> \$2.00 per square foot for living grass removed; projects must be between 250 and 2,500 square feet of living grass to be removed



**SMART CONTROLLER** >> \$150 rebate on qualified controllers



**POOL COVERS** >> Up to \$200 rebate



**SOIL MOISTURE SENSORS** >> Up to \$150 rebate per residential account for equipment on eligible sensors

Get more rebate details at **[conserve.yourSCVwater.com](http://conserve.yourSCVwater.com)**.

### Did you know?

*In 2018, the agency helped replace **192,000 square feet** of turf, and rebated **205 smart irrigation controllers** and **30 pool covers**. In addition, SCV Water provided **301 free in-home water conservation check-ups**, where specialists walk residents through ways to save water at their houses. And, more than **600 people** took advantage of landscape classes to learn how to have a yard that looks good, is easy to maintain, and doesn't use a lot of water.*



# State, National Awards

# Acknowledge Fiscal Responsibility

SCV Water was recognized at the state and national levels for meeting the highest principles in municipal budgeting.

The California Society of Municipal Finance Officers and the Government Finance Officers Association issued awards for sound financial management for the agency's FY 2018-2019 budget. That budget captured the reorganization and monetary savings that took place after SCV Water was created in January 2018.

As a regional water provider, SCV Water strives to be financially responsible by reducing the cost of water management, streamlining resources and increasing efficiencies to better serve customers in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Our goal is to deliver a budget that provides clear information to the public we serve. These awards for outstanding financial management confirm we are on the right track.

## WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

### SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER SUPPLY PORTFOLIO

#### IMPORTED WATER (STATE WATER PROJECT)

About half of our water comes from the Sierra Nevada range. It flows off the mountains then through the delicate Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta before reaching the Santa Clarita Valley via the State Water Project aqueduct.

#### GROUNDWATER

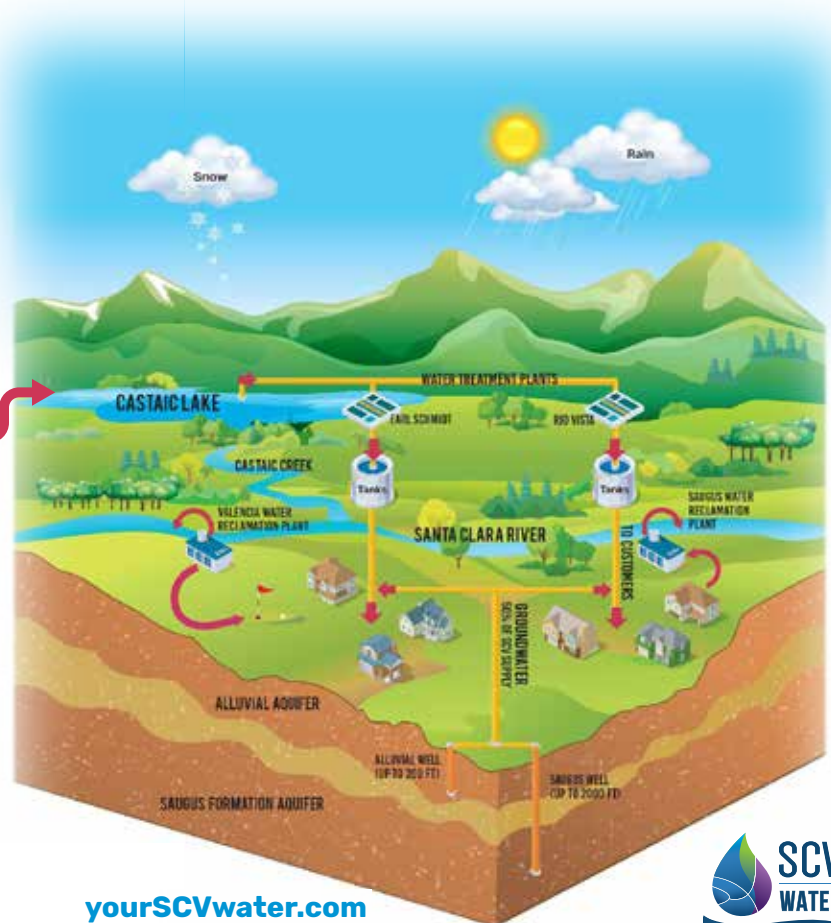
Groundwater is local, sustainable and cost-effective. It represents about half of our supply in an average year. A series of wells pump the groundwater into our system.

#### RECYCLED WATER

SCV Water has the opportunity to significantly expand its recycled water production in the coming years. The longterm goal is to serve more than 10,000 acre-feet of recycled water – roughly 45 times what is served today.

#### WATER BANKING

SCV Water stores ("banks") about 141,000 acre-feet of water in Kern County. We can call for this water in times of need.



[yourSCVwater.com](http://yourSCVwater.com)

# 2019 Water Quality Report

Your water demands are in  
**GOOD HANDS!**

# Important Information

from the EPA about  
drinking water



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. The U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants and are available from the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).



## DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT & PROTECTION

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.



**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 production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide protection for public health. Additional information on bottled water is available on the California Department of Public Health website (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CEH/DFDCS/Pages/fdbprograms/foodsafetyprogram/water.aspx>).

Every water division completed the Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) program for existing groundwater sources in 2002. DWSAPs are also completed for each new groundwater well placed into service by water systems. Each DWSAP looks at vulnerability to contamination and assesses potential sources of contamination from sources such as: dry cleaners, auto repair shops, gas stations, medical facilities, schools and other facilities located in the vicinity of each groundwater source. For more information regarding DWSAPs, contact your local water system whose contact information is included in this report or visit the following website: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/DWSAP.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/DWSAP.html). You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting the SWRCB, DDW district engineer at (818) 551-2004.



## MICROBIOLOGICAL

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Drinking water is tested throughout the distribution systems weekly for Total Coliform (TC) bacteria. TC are naturally occurring in the environment and are indicators for finding possible pathogenic contamination of a drinking water system. The MCL for TC is 5% of all monthly tests showing positive results for larger systems and two positive samples per month in smaller systems. If TC is positively identified through routine testing, the water is further analyzed for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) which indicates the potential of fecal contamination. No *E. coli* was detected in any drinking water system in the Santa Clarita Valley (SCV) last year and no water system was out of compliance with the Total Coliform Rule. Additional tests did not detect the water-borne parasites *Cryptosporidium parvum* or *Giardia lamblia* in any sample of treated imported surface water.

This 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., TC and *E. coli* bacteria). The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protections 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.

## METALS & SALTS

Metals and salts are required to be tested in groundwater once every three years and in surface water every month. A number of naturally occurring salts are found in both surface and

groundwater. These include chloride, fluoride, nitrate, nitrite, calcium, magnesium, potassium and sodium. Collectively, these are referred to as Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). Calcium and magnesium make up what is known as water hardness which can cause scaling as a result of calcium and magnesium precipitates. Fluoride is not added to your drinking water. Any fluoride detection is naturally occurring in the groundwater.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L (as nitrogen) is a health risk for infants 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 (as nitrogen) 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. Nitrate was not detected above the MCL in any sample.

## DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

SCV Water - Regional uses ozone and chloramines to disinfect its water while the water divisions use various forms of chlorine and chloramines to disinfect their groundwater sources. Disinfection By-Products (DBPs), which include Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), are generated by the interaction between naturally occurring organic matter and disinfectants such as chlorine. TTHMs and HAA5 are measured at multiple locations throughout the distribution system. Each location is averaged once per quarter and reported as a running average by location. The DBP bromate is formed when the primary disinfectant ozone is applied converting bromide to bromate. Bromate is measured weekly in the surface water treatment plant and compliance is based on a running annual average.

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE

The U.S. EPA requires utilities to sample for emerging contaminants as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). Every five (5) years the U.S. EPA prepares a list of unregulated contaminants for drinking water suppliers to analyze. UCMR results are then used to assist in the development of future drinking water regulations. We are currently in the fourth round of UCMR sampling (UCMR 4) and monitoring is required by all water systems between 2018-2020. For more information please contact your local water system or visit the U.S. EPA website [www.epa.gov/dwucmr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule](http://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule).




LEAD & COPPER

Every three years, each water system is required to sample for lead and copper at specific customer taps as part of the Lead and Copper Rule. Lead and copper are also tested in source water supplies (i.e., groundwater and surface water). If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems especially for pregnant women and young children. No traces of lead were detected in any source waters in the Santa Clarita Valley by any of the local water systems. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing systems. Your water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in customer 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 home’s water, you can have your water tested by a private laboratory. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the U.S. EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested and/or flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

California Assembly Bill 746 published on October 12, 2017, effective January 1, 2018, requires community water systems to test lead levels, by July 1, 2019, in drinking water at all California public, K-12 school sites that were constructed before January 1, 2010. The number of schools that completed lead testing in their drinking water is shown in the following table:

				
	NWD	SCWD	VWD	LACWD #36
Number of schools that completed lead testing	5	32	16	1

ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic compounds (VOC) are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. Treated imported surface water and local groundwater wells are tested at least annually for VOCs. Trichloroethylene (TCE) and Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) were found in trace amounts (below the MCL) at a few locations. Consumption of water containing TCE or PCE in excess of the MCL over many years may lead to liver problems and an increased risk of cancer.

TURBIDITY

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Furthermore, at the treatment plants, turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration systems.

CHEMICALS IN THE NEWS - PERCHLORATE

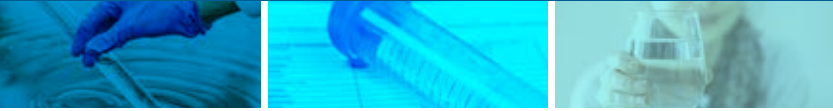
Perchlorate is an inorganic chemical used in solid rocket propellant, fireworks, explosives and a variety of industries. It usually gets into drinking water as a result of environmental contamination from historic industrial operations that used, stored, or disposed of perchlorate and its salts. Perchlorate has been shown to interfere with uptake of iodide by the thyroid gland, and thereby reduce the production of thyroid hormones leading to adverse effects associated with inadequate hormone levels.

A known perchlorate contaminant plume has been identified and several wells have tested positive for perchlorate. In October 2007, the DDW adopted an MCL of 6 ug/L for perchlorate. DDW issued an amendment to SCVWA - Regional Division’s Domestic Water Supply Permit on December 30, 2010, authorizing the use of the perchlorate-treatment facility and, on January 25, 2011, SCVWA - Regional introduced the treated water into the distribution system in full compliance with the requirements of its amended water-supply permit.

RADIOLOGICAL TESTS

Radioactive compounds can be found in both ground and surface waters, and can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. Testing is conducted for two types of radioactivity: alpha and beta. If none is detected at concentrations above five picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) no further testing is required. If it is detected above 5 pCi/L, the water must be checked for uranium and/or radium. Monitoring for radionuclides can be different for each groundwater well. Because of this, not all data may be from the 2018 calendar year.

# Definitions



## THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS ARE USED FOR DRINKING WATER COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING PURPOSES:

- **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) or 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 Cal/EPA. MCLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment 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.
- **Detection Limit for Purposes of Reporting (DLR):** The smallest concentration of a contaminant that can be measured and reported. DLRs are set by the DDW (same as MRL, Minimum Reporting Level, set by U.S. EPA).
- **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):** State guidelines developed by DDW that address the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers public notification.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Contaminants:** Contaminants associated with the protection of public health and that have enforceable standards.
- **Secondary Drinking Water Contaminants:** Contaminants associated with aesthetic considerations such as taste, color and odor, and that have non-enforceable guidelines.

# Protecting Your Drinking Water

U.S. EPA, DDW and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) set goals and legal standards for the quality of drinking water. These standards are intended to protect consumers from contaminants in drinking water. Most of the standards are based on the concentration of contaminants, but a few are based on a Treatment Technique (TT), a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).



## Additional Resources

### Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36

Bing Hua, P.E. | 626-300-3337

County of Los Angeles/ Waterworks Division

**E-mail:** [bhua@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:bhua@dpw.lacounty.gov) | **Website:** [www.lacwaterworks.org](http://www.lacwaterworks.org)

Waterworks District No. 36 is governed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors that meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Room 381B, Los Angeles, 90012. On Tuesdays following a Monday holiday, the meetings begin at 1:00 p.m.

### Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) – Regional

Jeff Koelewyn | 661-297-1600 x223

**E-mail:** [jkoelewyn@scvwa.org](mailto:jkoelewyn@scvwa.org) | **Website:** [www.yourscvwater.com](http://www.yourscvwater.com)

### Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) – Newhall Water Division, Santa Clarita Water Division, and Valencia Water Division

Ryan Bye | 661-388-4988

**E-mail:** [rbye@scvwa.org](mailto:rbye@scvwa.org) | **Website:** [www.yourscvwater.com](http://www.yourscvwater.com)

The Board of Directors meets at 6:30 pm, generally, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Rio Vista Administration Building at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, 91350. Dates may vary; please visit website at <http://yourscvwater.com/index.php/governance/#board-meetings> for the Board calendar.







**SCV**  

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**WATER**

**Newhall Water Division**

P. O. Box 220970  
Santa Clarita, CA 91322-0970

**Santa Clarita Water Division**

P.O. Box 903  
Santa Clarita, CA 91380-9003

**Valencia Water Division**

24631 Avenue Rockefeller  
Valencia, CA 91355

**Water Resources & Outreach**

26501 Summit Circle,  
Santa Clarita, CA 91350



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