

2023 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: Lower Rock Creek Mutual Water Company

Report Date: July 1, 2024

Type of Water Source(s) in Use: Deep vertical wells

Name and General Location of Source(s): Wells 1 and 2 are located within the Rock Creek Canyon at 245 Upper Canyon Road

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: Conducted by Mono County Health Department

Time and Place of Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings for Public Participation: The Board typically meets one Monday each month, 6:30pm, at 124 Summit Rd. Bishop, CA (in person or video conference)

For More Information, Contact: Clifford Beshers Phone: (406) 318-9673

We test the drinking water quality as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023 and may include earlier monitoring data.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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): 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 (U.S. EPA).

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): 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): 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 Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Public Health Goal (PHG): 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.

Regulatory Action Level (AL): Concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

Treatment Technique (TT): Required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Variations and Exemptions: Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

ND: Not detectable at testing limit.

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

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ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

ppq: parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

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 byproducts 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 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.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of Detections	No. of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
E. coli	(In the year) 12	12	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is E. coli-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for E. coli	0	Human and animal fecal waste (There was NO detection of any coliforms in the distribution system and NO fecal coliforms detected in either well.)

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90 th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ug/L)	5/20/20	5	0	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ug/L)	5/20/20	5	0	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

TABLE 3 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	7/5/23	8.5	7.6 - 12.0	none	none	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	7/5/23	17	15.0 - 19.0	none	none	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring
Calcium (ppm)	7/5/23	5.7	5.5 - 6.4	none	none	

TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Asbestos (MFL)	2/26/08	0.2	N/A	7.0	7.0	Internal corrosion of asbestos cement water mains, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L)	7/5/23	0.14	N/A	2.0	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/L)	7/5/23	1.01	N/A	15	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	7/5/23	1.3	0 - 1.3	[MRDL = 4.0 (as Cl ₂)	[MRDLG = 4.0 (as Cl ₂)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment. Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Iron (ug/L)	7/5/23	390	320 - 440	300	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ug/L)	7/5/23	30	0.0 - 45.0	50	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (mg/L)	7/5/23	3.4	3.7 - 4.3	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Zinc (ug/L)	7/5/23	110	95.0 - 120.0	5000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	7/5/23	63	78.0 - 86.0	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Aluminum (ug/L)	7/5/23	ND*	51.0 - 330.0	1000	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes

*ND - Not Detected

Additional General Information on 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 the 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).

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. U.S. EPA/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).

Summary Information for Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

Our wells and distribution system are monitored monthly, and samples of each are submitted to the Inyo County Lab for analysis. Coliforms are bacteria naturally present in the environment and used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Fecal coliforms and *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicate the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes that may pose a special health risks for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems. **There was NO detection of any coliforms in the distribution system and NO fecal coliforms detected in either well.** However, in the interest of public health and safety, our county and state officials have directed the water company to maintain a minimum of a 0.3 parts per million chlorine residual in the distribution system until further notice.

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Lab results dated 2022 represent Well 2 and results dated 2023 represent Well 1.

Effective December 14, 2017, all community public water systems were required to monitor their active sources for 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (1,2,3,-TCP), and report all sampling results to the Mono County Environmental Health Department beginning January 1, 2018. Some people who drink water containing 1,2,3-TCP in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level (0.000005 parts per million) over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Samples were submitted 9/21/22 for Well 2 and no 1,2,3-TCP was detected. (Well 2 due 2025). No water was used from Well 1 for distribution in 2023 (samples were submitted 7/5/23 for 1,2,3-TCP testing and none was detected).

General Physical, Mineral and Inorganics due every 3 years (Well 1 due 2026, Well 2 due 2025).

Organics Analysis due every 3 years (Well 1 due September 2026, Well 2 October 2025).

Nitrates Analysis due annually, Nitrites 3 years - none detected (Well 1: Nitrates 6/24, Nitrites 5/26; Well 2: Nitrates 10/24, Nitrites 9/25).

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level) & MRDLG (Max Residual Disinfectant Level Goal)

Well 1 and 2 Gross Alpha Activity: Well 1 completed 7/23, due 7/25; Well 2 completed 9/22, due 9/25.

Lead/Copper completed June 2020, due July 2023 - every 3 years.

Monthly Coliform analysis - samples collected by LRCMWC and tested at Inyo County Lab.