

# 2020 Consumer Confidence Report

## Washington School Water System

### June 29, 2021

*We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020 and may include earlier monitoring data.*

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse MCSI Water Systems Management a (831) 659-5360 para asistirlo en español.**

Type of Water Source(s) in Use, Name, and General Location: The Washington School Water System consists of one groundwater well. The well is located on Corral de Tierra Road off Hwy 68 which draws water from a combination of sand and shale bedrock.

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: The Drinking Water Source Assessment was conducted in May 2001. The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: septic systems-low density.

Time and Place of Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings for Public Participation: Monthly meetings are at 42 San Benancio Rd. Call for an updated schedule.

For More Information, Contact: MCSI Water Systems Management, (831) 659-5360

#### Terms Used in This Report

Term	Definition
Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an <i>E. coli</i> MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
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 (U.S. EPA).
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 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)	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.
Regulatory Action Level (AL)	The 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)	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
ND	Not detectable at testing limit.
ppm	parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

## Sources of Drinking Water and Contaminants that May Be Present in Source 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 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.

## Regulation of Drinking Water and Bottled Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State 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.

### About Your Drinking Water Quality

#### Drinking Water Contaminants Detected

Tables 1, 2, 2B, and 3 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 Lead and Copper**

Lead and Copper	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	No. of Schools Requesting Lead Sampling	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	6/2020 12/2020	5 5	1.1 1.0	0 0	15	0.2	Not applicable	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	6/2020 12/2020	5 5	<b>1.92*</b> 1.285	<b>3</b> <b>1</b>	1.3	0.3	Not applicable	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

**Table 2. Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected (AVG)	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb) - Source	2020	(22.9*)	16.6* – 28*	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Arsenic (ppb) - Treated	2020	(0.73)	0.5 – 1.1			
Cadmium (ppm) - Source	2020	(9.25*)	6.5* - 12.0*	5	0.4	Internal corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from electroplating and industrial chemical factories, and metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Cadmium (ppm) - Treated	2020	ND	--			
Fluoride (ppm)	6/2020	0.2	--	2	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel (ppb)	6/2020	16.5	--	100	12	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories
Nitrate - (as nitrogen, N) (ppm)	6/2020	0.3	--	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite (as nitrogen, N) (ppm)	6/2020	0.4	--	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	6/2020	14.7	--	50	30	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)

**Table 2B. Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard - Distribution**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected (AVG)	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2020	(91*)	73 – 131*	80	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [Sum of Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	2020	(46.5)	25 – 67*	60	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppb)	2020	(0.65)	0.09 – 2.35	[MRDL=4 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	[MRDL=4 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

**Table 3. 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
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	9/2017	2,300*	--	1,600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence

## 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).

**Lead-Specific Language:** 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. Washington School WS 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 do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. 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 <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

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

- *\*Arsenic - Violation #2019-1600065 and #2019-1600066.* Arsenic is over the MCL of 10 ppb. Health effects: Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The water system is in the process of installing reverse osmosis units and monitors arsenic as directed by Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau.
- *\*Cadmium – Violation #2019-1600061 and #2019-160066.* Cadmium is over the MCL of 5 ppb. Health effects: Some people who drink water containing cadmium in excess of the MCL over many years may experience kidney damage. The water system is in the process of installing reverse osmosis units and monitors arsenic as directed by Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau.
- *\*Copper -* Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time may experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years may suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. The school instituted a flushing program to decrease lead and copper within the system with positive results.
- *\*Specific Conductivity,* a Secondary Drinking Water Standard Contaminant, is set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects such as color, taste, odor, and the staining of plumbing fixtures, and clothing while washing.
- *\*TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) -* Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. TTHMs are monitored quarterly.
- *\*HAA5 (Sum of Haloacetic Acids) -* Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. One of the quarterly samples was over the allowable level.

## Summary Information for Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule Level 1 and Level 2 Assessment Requirements

**Level 1 or Level 2 Assessment Requirement not Due to an *E. coli* MCL Violation – None**

**Level 2 Assessment Requirement Due to an *E. coli* MCL Violation - None**