

2020 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: Little Bear Water Company (2710016) Report Date: January 14, 2022

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 - December 31, 2021 and may include earlier monitoring data.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Type of water source(s) in use: Ground Water

Name & general location of source(s): Well #3 – Ground water extracted from the Salinas River South/East of the district boundaries

Drinking Water Source Assessment information: The assessment of the drinking water sources was completed 12/2002. Wells 1-3 are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: Crops, irrigated; and Fertilizer, Pesticides/Herbicide Application. A copy of this assessment can be found at the following locations:

•Division of Drinking Water – Monterey District
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: N/A

For more information, contact: David Morisoli, General Manager Phone: (831)385-3524

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

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).

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.

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.

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.

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

Variances and Exemptions: State Board permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

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 *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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)

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 (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 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 2 - DISINFECTION

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Distribution Average	MRDL	MRDLG
Total Chlorine (ppm)	2021	0.80	4.0 as Cl ₂	4.0 as Cl ₂

TABLE 1 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants (complete if bacteria detected)	Highest No. of Detections	No. of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria (state Total Coliform Rule)	(In a mo.) 0	0	1 positive monthly sample	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i> (state Total Coliform Rule)	(In the year) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive		Human and animal fecal waste
<i>E. coli</i> (federal Revised Total Coliform Rule)	(In the year) 0	0	(a)	0	Human and animal fecal waste

(a) 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*.

TABLE 3 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (complete if lead or copper detected in the last sample set)	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90 th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	No. of Schools Requesting Lead Sampling	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	7/2020	10	3.7	1	15	0.2	Not applicable	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	7/2020	10	0.20	0	1.3	0.3	Not applicable	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

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). TABLE 4 – 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
Barium (ppm)	1/2021	34.5	N/A	1000	1	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium (ppb)	1/2021	0.2	N/A	5	0.04	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
Chromium, Total (ppb)	1/2021	2.4	N/A	50	100	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	1/2021	32	N/A	none	none	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	1/2021	2.29 ± 1.27	N/A	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppb)	1/2021	1.8	N/A	100	12	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories
Selenium (ppb)	1/2021	7.1	N/A	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)
Hardness (ppm)	1/2021	182	N/A	none	none	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

TABLE 5 – 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
Arsenic (ppb)	1/2021	2.7	N/A	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	1/2021	0.2	N/A	2	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as_N) (ppm)	2021 (QTRLY)	1.83	1.7 – 1.9	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (µg/L)	7/2021	4	2 - 4	60		By Product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMS) (µg/L)	7/2021	12.5	8 - 17	80		By Product of drinking water disinfection

TABLE 6 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1/2021	199	N/A	1000	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Copper (ug/L)	1/2021	9	N/A	1000	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Odor-Threshold (Units)	1/2021	4	N/A	3	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1/2021	507	N/A	1600	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride (mg/L)	7/2021	19.85	19.3 – 20.4	500	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	7/2021	79.5	79 - 80	500	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Zinc (ppb)	1/2021	30	N/A	5000	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits;

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. Little Bear WC 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. **[OPTIONAL:** 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>.

Nitrate-Specific Language: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of 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 serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

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

VIOLATION OF A MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, OR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT				
Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct the Violation	Health Effects Language
None	None	N/A	None	N/A

For Water Systems Providing Groundwater as a Source of Drinking Water

TABLE 7 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING
FECAL INDICATOR-POSITIVE GROUNDWATER SOURCE SAMPLES

Microbiological Contaminants (complete if fecal-indicator detected)	Total No. of Detections	Sample Dates	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
<i>E. coli</i>	0	Taken Monthly	0	(0)	Human and animal fecal waste
Enterococci	0	Taken Monthly	TT	N/A	Human and animal fecal waste
Coliphage	0	-	TT	N/A	Human and animal fecal waste