

# 2020 Water Quality Report



City of  
**La Habra**  
Water Services

# Your 2020 Water Quality Report

Since 1990, California public water utilities have been providing an annual Water Quality Report to their customers. **This year's report covers calendar year 2019 drinking water quality testing and reporting.** Your City of La Habra

Water Division (City) vigilantly safeguards its water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets the quality standards required by federal and state regulatory agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) are the agencies responsible for establishing and enforcing drinking water quality standards.

In some cases, the City goes beyond what is required by testing for unregulated chemicals that may have known health risks but do not have drinking water standards. For example, the California Domestic Water Company (Cal Domestic), which supplies the City with treated groundwater, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC), which supplies treated imported surface water to the City, test weekly for unregulated chemicals in our water supply. Unregulated chemical monitoring helps USEPA and DDW determine where certain chemicals occur and whether new standards need to be established for those chemicals to protect public health.



Through the drinking water quality testing programs carried out by the City and Cal Domestic for our groundwater, MWDSC for imported surface water and the City for our water distribution system, your drinking water is constantly monitored from source to tap for regulated and unregulated constituents.

The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

# The Quality of Your Water Is Our Primary Concern

## Sources of Supply

Your drinking water is a blend of surface water imported by MWDSC, and groundwater imported from Cal Domestic and three wells within the City. Cal Domestic water originates from the Main San Gabriel groundwater basin. MWDSC's imported water sources are the Colorado River and the State Water Project, which draws water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. City wells draw water from the La Habra Groundwater Basin.

## Basic Information About Drinking Water Contaminants

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 land or through the layers of the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal and human activity.



Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ◆ **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- ◆ **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- ◆ **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
- ◆ **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.
- ◆ **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the DDW 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. 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791, on the web at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

## Drinking Water Fluoridation

Fluoride has been added to U.S. drinking water supplies since 1945. Of the 50 largest cities in the U.S., 43 fluoridate their drinking water. In December 2007, the MWDSC joined a majority of the nation's public water suppliers in adding fluoride to drinking water in order to prevent tooth decay. MWDSC was in compliance with all provisions of the State's fluoridation system requirements. Our local water is not supplemented with fluoride. Fluoride levels in drinking water are limited under California state regulations at a maximum dosage of 2 parts per million.

Additional information about the fluoridation of drinking water is available on these websites:

### State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html)

### U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

[www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/](http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/)

For more information about MWDSC's fluoridation program, please contact Edgar G. Dymally at (213) 217-5709 or at [edymally@mwdh2o.com](mailto:edymally@mwdh2o.com).



## Water Conservation: A Little Effort Can Save a Lot

The La Habra Water Division promotes the conservation of water to its residents so the City can save this scarce resource and save the residents money in the process.

Water is brought to Southern California via large aqueduct systems that feed off of rivers from the Central Valley and the Colorado River. There are large costs involved in maintaining these systems and transporting the water over miles of deserts, valleys and mountain ranges. The MWDSC is the main supplier of this water and controls the vast network of aqueducts, pumping stations and filtration plants.

Local municipal water suppliers do have the ability to tap into underground aquifers, but this local supply of water is not enough to meet the demands of the residents; the more expensive "aqueduct" water must be used to meet the demand. For these reasons, it is recommended that you conserve water by reducing water waste. This will save you money as well. MWDSC has its own water conservation website. To find out more information on water saving plants and other useful tips, visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com).



## Questions about your water? Contact us for answers.

For information about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact Brian Jones, Water and Sewer Manager, at (562) 383-4170.

The La Habra City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month in the Council Chambers at 110 East La Habra Boulevard. Public attendance and participation is encouraged and welcomed.

For more information about the health effects of the listed constituents in the following tables, call the USEPA hotline at (800) 426-4791.



# Federal and State Water Quality Regulations

## — Water Quality Issues that Could Affect Your Health —



### About Lead in Tap Water

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 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, (800) 426-4791, or on the web at: [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

### Nitrate Advisory

At times, nitrate in your tap water may have exceeded one-half the MCL, but it was never greater than the MCL. The following advisory is issued because in 2019 we recorded nitrate measurements in the

### What are Water Quality Standards?

Drinking water standards established by USEPA and DDW set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **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.
- **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.
- **Secondary MCLs:** Set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

### How are Contaminants Measured?

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year.

Contaminants are measured in:

- parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

### What is a Water Quality Goal?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and DDW have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

#### • 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 USEPA.

#### • 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.

- **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.

### 2019 City of La Habra Drinking Water Quality Local Groundwater and Imported Metropolitan Water District Treated Surface Water

Chemical	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Groundwater Amount	Average MWD Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Organic Chemicals – Tested in 2019</b>							
Tetrachloroethylene, PCE (ppb)	5	0.06	< 0.5	ND	ND – 0.6	No	Industrial Waste Discharge
Trichloroethylene, TCE (ppb)	5	1.7	< 0.5	ND	ND – 2.1	No	Industrial Waste Discharge
<b>Radiologicals – Tested in 2012 – 2019</b>							
Alpha Radiation (pCi/L)	15	(0)	2.1	ND	ND – 4.6	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	2.2	ND	ND – 3.2	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
<b>Inorganic Chemicals – Tested in 2019</b>							
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	ND	0.124	ND – 0.065	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	1.2	ND	ND – 2.9	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	<0.1	ND	ND – 0.13	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Bromate (ppb)	10	0.1	NR	2	ND – 5.9	No	Byproduct of Drinking Water Ozonation
Fluoride (ppm) naturally-occurring	2	1	0.33	NR	0.25 – 0.5	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm) treatment-related	2	1	NR	0.7	0.1 – 0.9	No	Water Additive for Dental Health
Nitrate as N (ppm)	10	10	2	0.5	ND – 5.3	No	Agriculture Runoff and Sewage
Nitrate + Nitrite as N (ppm)	10	10	2	0.5	ND – 5.3	No	Agriculture Runoff and Sewage
<b>Secondary Standards* – Tested in 2019</b>							
Aluminum (ppb)	200*	600	ND	124	ND – 65	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	75	56	20 – 160	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Color (color units)	15*	n/a	2.9	ND	ND – 7.5	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Manganese (ppb)	50*	n/a	13	ND	ND – 29	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	n/a	1.3	ND	ND – 2	No	Naturally-occurring Organic Materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	978	514	490 – 2,000 "	No	Substances that Form Ions in Water
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	189	91	40 – 590	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	486	304	296 – 670	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	n/a	0.14	ND	ND – 0.5	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
<b>Unregulated Chemicals – Tested in 2019</b>							
Alkalinity, total as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	247	72	69 – 330	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Boron (ppm)	NL = 1	n/a	0.28	0.12	ND – 0.65	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	74	30	29 – 120	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	272	127	124 – 330	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (grains/gal)	Not Regulated	n/a	16	7.4	7.2 – 19	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)	Not Regulated	0.02	1.4	ND	ND – 2.8	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	30	14	12 – 78	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (ppt)	Not Regulated	n/a	NR	2.3	2.2 – 2.3	n/a	Industrial Discharge
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	8	8.4	7.6 – 8.5	n/a	Hydrogen Ion Concentration
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	4.3	2.8	2.6 – 5.6	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	114	56	17 – 260	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT	n/a	NR	2.4	1.8 – 2.6	n/a	Various Natural and Man-made Sources

ppb = parts-per-billion; ppm = parts-per-million; ppt = parts-per-trillion; pCi/L = picoCuries per liter; NTU = nephelometric turbidity units; µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter; NR = not required to be tested; ND = not detected; < = average is less than the detection limit for reporting purposes; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; (MCLG) = federal MCL Goal; PHG = California Public Health Goal; n/a = not applicable; NL = Notification Level; TT = treatment technique

\*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard.

Turbidity – combined filter effluent Metropolitan Water District Diemer Filtration Plant	Treatment Technique	Turbidity Measurements	TT Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
1) Highest single turbidity measurement	0.3 NTU	0.05	No	Soil Runoff
2) Percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	No	Soil Runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, an indication of particulate matter, some of which might include harmful microorganisms.

Low turbidity in Metropolitan's treated water is a good indicator of effective filtration. Filtration is called a "treatment technique" (TT).

A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water that are difficult and sometimes impossible to measure directly.

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring						
Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Groundwater Amount	Average MWD Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Germanium (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.51	ND	ND – 0.57	2019
Manganese (ppb)	SMCL = 50	n/a	18	ND	ND – 34	2019

SMCL = Secondary MCL

Manganese was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.

drinking water supply which exceeded one-half the nitrate MCL. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 milligrams per liter (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 a 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 certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.



### Total Coliform Rule

This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements instituted 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 protects public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system by monitoring for the presence of microbials (i.e., total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria). The USEPA anticipates greater public health protection as the new rule requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and resolve potential issues. 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.

2019 City of La Habra Distribution System Water Quality					
Disinfection Byproducts	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	55	ND – 126	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	5	ND – 15	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4 / 4)	0.8	1 – 1.93	No	Disinfectant Added for Treatment
Aesthetic Quality					
Color (color units)	15*	1.3	ND – 25	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	1.1	1 – 2	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	0.11	ND – 2.1	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits

Eight locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids, and 46 monthly for color, odor and turbidity.  
**MRDL** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; **MRDLG** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal  
\*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities.

Bacterial Quality	MCL	MCLG	Highest Monthly Percent Positives	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	5.0%	0	12%	Yes**	Naturally Present in the Environment

No more than 5.0% of the monthly samples may be positive for total coliform bacteria.  
The occurrence of 2 consecutive total coliform positive samples, one of which contains fecal coliform/*E. coli*, constitutes an acute MCL violation.

\*\* (Note: Public Notification of this violation was completed via mail and internet website in March 2019.)  
We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 113 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during February 2019. 12 percent of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 5% of the total number of samples collected per month may test positive for coliform bacteria. Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect a coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as *E. coli*, are present. We did not

find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing after February 8, 2019, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved. In instances like this, federal law requires that we conduct a Level 1 Assessment of our water system immediately after learning of the violation to determine the source of contamination. We are required to report to the State Water Board within 30 days of triggering the assessment, the actions we took to correct the deficiencies found, and a schedule for correcting other deficiencies not corrected within 30 days. The assessment was completed on March 5, 2019. All deficiencies identified in the assessment were corrected.

Lead and Copper Action Levels at Residential Taps					
	Action Level (AL)	Public Health Goal	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding AL / Number of Sites	AL Violation? Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	ND	0 / 30	No Corrosion of Household Plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.18	0 / 30	No Corrosion of Household Plumbing

Every three years 30 residences are tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of samples was collected in 2018. Lead was not detected in any of the homes. Copper was detected in 25 homes; none exceeded the copper AL. A regulatory action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. In 2019, 12 schools submitted a request to be sampled for lead.

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring					
Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Haloacetic acids (HAA5) (ppb)	n/a	n/a	5.8	1.5 – 16	2019
Haloacetic acids (HAA6Br) (ppb)	n/a	n/a	13	0.99 – 31	2019
Haloacetic acids (HAA9) (ppb)	n/a	n/a	14	2.2 – 33	2019

### Immuno-Compromised People

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have had organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons and infants can be particularly at risk to infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.



The USEPA and the federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791, or on the web at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

### Source Water Assessments

#### Imported (MWDSC) Water Assessment

Every five years, MWDSC is required by DDW to examine possible sources of drinking water contamination in its State Water Project and Colorado River source waters.

The most recent watershed sanitary surveys of its source water supplies from the Colorado River was updated in 2015 and the State Water Project was updated in 2016.

Water from the Colorado River is considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. Water supplies from Northern California's State Water Project are most vulnerable to contamination from urban/stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater.

USEPA also requires MWDSC to complete one Source Water Assessment (SWA) that utilizes information collected in the watershed sanitary surveys. MWDSC completed its SWA in December 2002. The SWA is used to evaluate the vulnerability of water sources to contamination and helps determine whether more protective measures are needed.

A copy of the most recent summary of either Watershed Sanitary Survey or the SWA can be obtained by calling MWDSC at (800) CALL-MWD (225-5693).

#### Groundwater Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the City was completed in December 2010 by City Staff. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants not detected in the water supply: body shops, gas stations, machine shops, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, repair shops, and sewer collection systems.

A copy of the complete assessment is available at State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, 2 MacArthur Place, Suite 150, Santa Ana, California 92707. You may request a summary of the assessment by contacting the City at (562) 383-4170.

An assessment of the drinking water sources for Cal Domestic was completed in October 2010. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: drinking water treatment plants; known contaminant plumes; underground storage tanks - confirmed leaking tanks; housing - high density; wells - water supply; and schools. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: transportation corridors - freeways/state highways; and transportation corridors - railroads. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at: Cal Domestic, 15505 Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90603. You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting: Ernesto Che Venegas, Operations Manager at (562) 947-3811.

# Your Water: Always Available, Always Assured

THE DIEMER WATER TREATMENT PLANT, located in the hills above Yorba Linda, processes up to 520 million gallons of clean water per day — enough to fill the Rose Bowl every 4 hours. The water is a blend from both the Colorado River Aqueduct and the State Water Project. At 212-acres, it's one of the largest water treatment plants in the U.S. It provides nearly half of Orange County's total water supply.



Water flowing from Diemer meets — or exceeds — all state and federal regulations. And it is kept safe from the treatment plant to your tap by constant testing throughout the distribution network. The City of La Habra Water Division monitors the water quality at all sources, reservoirs, and various points on the distribution system. This constant surveillance ensures your drinking water stays within the requirements mandated by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

This report contains  
important information about  
your drinking water.

Translate it, or speak with  
someone who understands it.

*Este informe contiene información muy importante  
sobre su agua potable. Para mas información  
ó traducción, favor de contactar a  
Customer Service Representative.  
Telefono: (562) 383-4170.*



## City of La Habra

Water Division

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