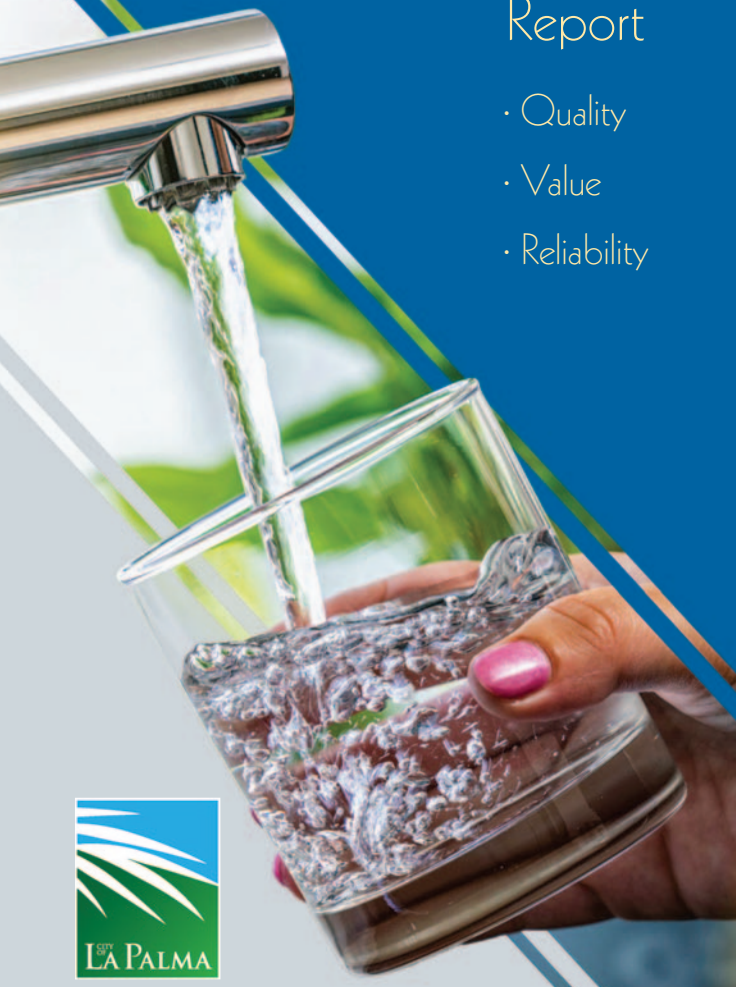
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

- Quality
- Value
- Reliability



City of LA PALMA

Public Works/ Community Services Department

This report contains important information about your drinking water.
If you need more information, please contact a
Customer Service Representative at (714) 690-3310.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Para mas información ó traducción, favor de contactar a nuestro
Representante de Servicio al Cliente a (714) 690-3310.

이 보고에는 귀하의 식수에 대한 중요한 정보가 들어있습니다.
번역이나 또는 이해하는 분에게 물어보십시오.

Your 2023 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 2022 drinking water quality testing and reporting.** Your City of La Palma Public Works/Community Services Department (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, and the 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 Orange County Water District (OCWD), which manages the ground water basin, tests 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 drinking water quality testing programs carried out by OCWD for groundwater, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC) for treated surface water, and the City for the water distribution system, your drinking water is constantly monitored from source to tap for regulated and unregulated contaminants.

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

Constant Monitoring Ensures Continued Excellence

Sources of Supply


Englebright Dam on the Yuba River

The City's water supply is groundwater managed by the OCWD, and MWDSC treated surface water from Northern California and the Colorado River. OCWD's groundwater comes from a natural underground aquifer that is replenished with water from the Santa Ana River, local rainfall, and imported water. The groundwater basin is 350 square miles and lies beneath north and central Orange County from Irvine to the Los Angeles County border and from Yorba Linda to the Pacific Ocean. More than 20 cities and retail water districts draw from the basin to provide water to homes and businesses.

Orange County's Water Future

For years, Orange County has enjoyed an abundant and seemingly endless supply of high-quality water. However, as water demand continues to increase statewide, we must be even more conscientious about our water supply and maximize the efficient use of this precious natural resource.

OCWD and the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) work cooperatively to evaluate new and innovative water management and supply development programs, including water reuse and recycling, wetlands expansion, recharge facility construction, ocean and brackish water desalination, surface storage, and water use efficiency programs. These efforts are helping to enhance long-term countywide water reliability and water quality.

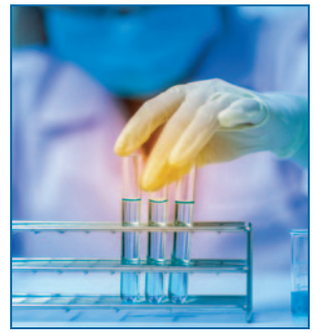
A healthy water future for Orange County rests on finding and developing new water supplies, as well as protecting and improving the quality of the water that we have today. Your local and regional water agencies are committed to making the necessary investments today in new water management projects to ensure an abundant and high-quality water supply for our future.

Basic Information About Drinking Water Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses.
- **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.



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.

Immunocompromised People

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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.

We Invite You to Learn More About Your Community's Water's Quality

For information about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact the Community Services Department at (714) 690-3310.

The City Council meets only on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, CA 90623. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

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

To Safeguard Against Issues that May Affect Your Health

We Comply with All State & Federal Water Quality Regulations

Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts

Disinfection of drinking water was one of the major public health advances in the 20th century. Disinfection was a major factor in reducing waterborne disease epidemics caused by pathogenic bacteria and viruses, and it remains an essential part of drinking water treatment today.

Chlorine disinfection has almost completely eliminated from our lives the risks of microbial waterborne diseases. Chlorine is added to your drinking water at the source of supply. Enough chlorine is added so that it does not completely dissipate through the distribution system pipes. This "residual" chlorine helps to prevent the growth of bacteria in the pipes that carry drinking water from the source into your home.

Chlorine can react with naturally-occurring materials in the water to form unintended chemical byproducts, called disinfection byproducts (DBPs), which may pose health risks. A major challenge is how to balance the risks from microbial pathogens and DBPs. It is important to provide protection from these microbial pathogens while simultaneously ensuring decreasing health risks from disinfection byproducts. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the USEPA to develop rules to achieve these goals.

Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) are the most common and most studied DBPs found in drinking water treated with chlorine. In 1979, the USEPA set the maximum amount of total THMs allowed in drinking water at 100 parts per billion as an annual running average. Effective in January

Chart Legend

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 charts in this report show 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.

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 charts in this report include 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.

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)

2022 City of La Palma Drinking Water Quality
Local Groundwater and Metropolitan Water District Treated Surface Water

Chemical	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Local Groundwater	Average MWD Surface Water	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Radiologicals – Tested in 2019, 2020, and 2022							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	(0)	3.9	ND	ND – 4.05	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	50	(0)	NR	6	ND – 9	No	Decay of Natural and Man-made Deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	ND	2	ND – 3	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Inorganic Chemicals – Tested in 2020 and 2022							
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	ND	0.14	ND – 0.21	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	9.5	ND	ND – 14	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	<0.1	0.107	ND – 0.107	No	Oil Drilling Waste and Metal Refinery Discharge; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm) – naturally-ocurring	2	1	0.44	NR	0.42 – 0.46	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm) – treatment-related	2	1	NR	0.7	0.7- 0.8	No	Water Additive for Dental Health
Secondary Standards* – Tested in 2020 and 2022							
Aluminum (ppb)	200*	600	ND	140	ND – 210	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	15.9	101	13.9 – 104	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Color (color units)	15*	n/a	ND	1	ND – 1	No	Naturally-occurring Organic Materials
Manganese (ppb)	50*	n/a	50	ND	ND – 64	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	n/a	1	3	ND – 3	No	Naturally-occurring Organic Materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	476	988	459 – 1,010	No	Substances that Form Ions in Water
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	48.4	221	42.4 – 229	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	307	628	290 – 648	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	n/a	0.2	ND	ND – 0.2	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Unregulated Chemicals – Tested in 2020 and 2022							
Alkalinity, total as $CaCO_3$ (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	178	126	125 – 179	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	40.6	68	40.2 – 70	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	141	278	138 – 281	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (grains/gallon)	Not Regulated	n/a	8.2	16	8.1 – 16	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	8.9	25	8.4 – 26	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	8.1	8.1	8.1	n/a	Hydrogen Ion Concentration
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	2.1	4.6	2 – 4.8	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppb)	Not Regulated	n/a	50.2	98	47 – 102	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT	n/a	NR	2.5	2.3 – 2.6	n/a	Various Natural and Man-made Sources

ppb = parts-per-billion; **ppm** = parts-per-million; **pCi/L** = picoCuries per liter; **NTU** = nephelometric turbidity units; **µmho/cm** = micromhos per centimeter;
< = average is less than the detection limit for reporting purposes; **MCL** = Maximum Contaminant Level; **(MCLG)** = federal MCL Goal; **PHG** = California Public Health Goal;
ND = not detected; **NR** = not required; **n/a** = not applicable; **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 (NTU)	0.3	0.03	No	Soil run-off
2) Percentage of samples less than or equal to 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	No	Soil run-off

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, an indication of particulate matter, some of which might include harmful microorganisms. **NTU** = nephelometric turbidity units
Low turbidity in Metropolitan's treated water is a good indicator of effective filtration. Filtration is called a "treatment technique."
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.

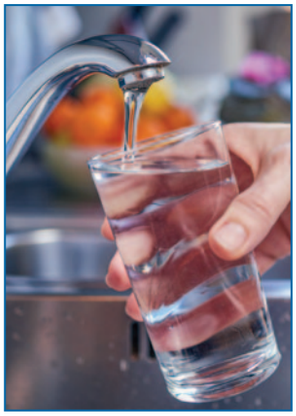
Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG (MCLG)	Average Local Groundwater	Average MWD Surface Water	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Bromide (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	0.05	NR	0.042 – 0.056	2019
Germanium (ppb)	Not Regulated	n/a	ND	0.1	ND – 0.4	2019
Manganese (ppb)**	SMCL = 50	n/a	30	1.7	ND – 57.8	2019
Total Organic Carbon (Unfiltered) (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	0.24	NR	0.14 – 0.4	2019

SMCL = Secondary MCL **Manganese was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.

2002, the Stage 1 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule lowered the total THM maximum annual average level to 80 parts per billion and added HAAs to the list of regulated chemicals in drinking water. Your drinking water complies with the Stage 1 Disinfectants/ Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

Stage 2 of the regulation was finalized by USEPA in 2006, which further controls allowable levels of DBPs in drinking water without compromising disinfection itself. A required distribution system evaluation was completed in 2008 and a Stage 2 monitoring plan has been approved by DDW. Full Stage 2 compliance began in 2012.



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 or on the internet at: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Arsenic Advisory

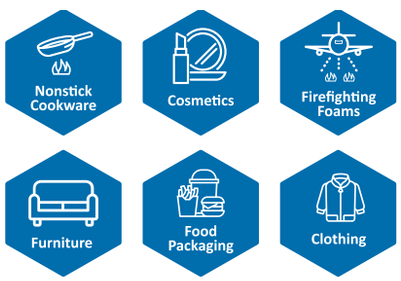
While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic of 10 micrograms per liter, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The USEPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Additional information on arsenic is available from the EPA website, www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic.

PFAS

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that may pose a hazard to health. They have been widely used in a variety of products and are resistant to heat, water, oils and stains.

The City monitors PFAS levels in our supply wells per the latest State guidelines. Currently, the City does not have any wells affected by PFAS. However, the City is aware of the possibility of PFAS infiltrating several areas in Orange County. The City is committed to addressing this in the coming future should it affect residents.

Additional information regarding PFAS is available on the California Water Board's Division of Drinking Water website at www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/.



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 surveys for MWDSC's source waters are the Colorado River Watershed Sanitary Survey – 2020 Update, and the State Water Project Watershed Sanitary Survey – 2021 Update.

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 2002. The groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with detected contaminants: body shops, chemical/petroleum processing/storage, electrical/electronic manufacturing, gas stations, historic gas stations, known contaminant plumes, machine shops, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, photo processing/ printing, repair shops, sewer collection systems, wastewater treatment and disposal facilities.

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, CA 92707. You may request a summary of the assessment by contacting the City at (714) 690-3313.

Further information and a summary of the assessments, is available by contacting the City of La Palma at (714) 690-3310.

2022 City of La Palma Distribution System Water Quality

Disinfection Byproducts	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	18	7.3 – 26	No	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	7	ND – 11	No	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4 / 4)	0.53	0.13 – 0.88	No	Disinfectant added for treatment
Aesthetic Quality					
Color (color units)	15*	5	ND – 9	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	1	1 – 2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	0.2	ND – 1.12	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Eight locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids; five locations are tested weekly 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 (taste, odor, color).

Lead and Copper Action Levels at Residential Taps

	Action Level (AL)	Public Health Goal	90th 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	0.15	0 / 30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Thirty residences were tested for lead and copper at-the-tap during 2021.
Lead was detected in 1 home; none exceeded the regulatory Action Level. Copper was detected in 19 homes; none exceeded the AL.
A regulatory AL is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring in the Distribution System

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Bromochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.7	0.5 – 1.2	2020
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.3	ND – 0.6	2020
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.5 – 0.8	2020
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.9	0.6 – 1.6	2020
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	MCLG = 0	0.4	0.3 – 0.7	2020

Every Drop is Golden…

"And it never failed that during the dry years the people forgot about the rich years, and during the wet years they lost all memory of the dry years. It was always that way."

~ John Steinbeck, 1952

Torrential rains. A Sierra snowpack over 200% of normal. Blizzards in Southern California! For those of us weary of drought, this Winter's storms were a welcome relief. But gratifying as the season proved, it does not spell the end of drought. For even with full reservoirs and slowly replenishing aquifers, the cyclical nature of California's water fortunes, coupled with our arid climate, guarantees a return to drought in years to come.

Much has changed since Steinbeck's day. Water conservation has become a way of life. No longer seen as a temporary patch for times of drought, conservation's role as protector of our shared waters is engrained in our behavior. We recognize it doesn't mean we must use less water, only that we not waste the water we have. By saving water today, we ensure we'll have it tomorrow – for every drop is golden!

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Public Works/
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7821 Walker Street
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POSTAL CUSTOMER