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# High Valleys Water District

## ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Consumer Confidence Report for the 2024 reporting period

The water quality report in this packet describes the High Valleys Water District's drinking water sources and quality. This publication conforms to federal and state regulations requiring water utilities to provide detailed information about the water delivered to your home and business. Every effort is taken to present this detailed information in an understandable manner.

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

The High Valleys Water District is located in the San Jacinto Mountains overlooking the Banning/Pass Area. Developed to serve the residents of the Mt. Edna, Twin Pines, and Poppet Flats community, the High Valleys Water District is a Special Government Water District that receives its funding from customers, as well as, County Assessments. Having no natural water resource, High Valleys Water District pumps the water purchased from the City of Banning, 8 miles up the mountain through 3 separate booster stations into 3 storage tanks and 40 miles of pipe to deliver this resource to its approximately 225 customers.

The High Valleys Water District does not treat its water as it is delivered already treated from its source; however, the Water District performs monthly water sampling and system testing through an outside laboratory and System analyst to ensure the safety and quality of the water that is being delivered to its customers.

The City of Banning's water is extracted from twenty-one groundwater wells throughout the city. The wells are located over the Beaumont, Banning, Banning Water Canyon, Banning Bench, and Cabazon storage units. Additionally, the City may receive water supplies from three wells within the Beaumont storage unit operated jointly by the Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District and the City of Banning.

The City of Banning tests the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. Regulations require analysis for approximately 150 regulated and unregulated contaminants. Only contaminants detected in the water supply are listed, and all data is from the most recent monitoring completed in compliance with regulations. The State allows for monitoring of certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year of sample results.

This report shows the results of monitoring for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2024, and may include earlier monitoring.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) 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 establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

We are pleased to report that the High Valleys Water District has met the requirements set by the USEPA and the State Board during the 2024 calendar year. The High Valleys Water District prides itself on delivering the highest quality of water possible. Certified technicians regularly monitor and collect weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual samples in the system to assure that the water quality in the High Valleys Water District's water system meets all regulations. The results of the High Valleys Water District's water analysis, as listed herein, demonstrates the District's efforts in providing excellent water quality.

### **Your tap water was analyzed for Federal and State Drinking Water Health Standards.**

#### **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 & metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil & gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic & volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes & petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban water storm runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil & gas production & mining activities.

**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 constituents.**

The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The High Valleys Water District is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the High Valleys Water District at 951-849-2612. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Summary Information for Contaminants Exceeding or Violation of Monitoring**

The High Valleys Water District is pleased to report that in 2024, no contaminants exceeding the MCL were found. Additionally, the High Valleys Water District met all monitoring regulations in 2024, and no violations were received.

However, a violation was received for not issuing an approved 2023 CCR to its consumers by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. A wholesale system must provide the consecutive system with the previous calendar year's monitoring data and other information by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to give the consecutive system enough time to prepare their CCR before the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The High Valleys Water District did not receive the City of Banning's monitoring data until July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, causing a late submission and approval of their CCR, which was distributed on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The Source 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 a 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA							
Microbiological Contaminants (complete if bacteria detected)	Highest % of Positive Samples in a Month	Number of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria		
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	5% of monthly samples are positive	0	Naturally present in this environment		
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive	0	Human and animal fecal waste		
TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD & COPPER							
Lead & Copper	Sample Date	Number of samples collected	90th percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	2022	10	ND	0	0.015	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2022	10	ND	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household water 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	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	2022-2024	21	6.5 - 50	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	2022-2024	94	2.8 - 200	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring
TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	2022-2024	0.33	ND-3.8	10.0	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Total Chromium (ppb)	2022-2024	5.5	ND-17	50	(100)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L)	2022-2024	0.43	0.20 - 1.3	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as N) (ppm)	2024	1.5	0.9-2.7	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2022-2024	1.04	0.0 - 2.56	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium (pCi/L)	2022-2024	0.59	0.0 - 4.75	20	0.43	Erosion of natural deposits
TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A <u>SECONDARY</u> DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Chemical or Constituent	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Alkalinity, Bicarbonate (mg/L)	2022-2024	157.7	120 - 190	None	N/A	
Calcium (mg/L)	2022-2024	36.5	16-45	None	N/A	

TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A <b>SECONDARY</b> DRINKING WATER STANDARD - CONTINUED						
Chemical or Constituent	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (mg/L)	2022-2024	8.3	1.6-16	500		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	2022-2024	7.78	0.0-140	300		Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2022-2024	340	290-470	1600		Substances that from ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	2022-2024	20.9	4.1-47	500		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial influence
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	2022-2024	191.6	140-260	1000		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2022-2024	0.09	0.0-0.53	5		Soil runoff
Magnesium (ppm)	2022-2024	10.6	2.4-18	None		N/A
TABLE 6 - DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINENTS						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Hexavalent Chromium (ug/L)	2016-2017	7.5	0.34-16	N/A	N/A	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating
TABLE 7 - DISTRIBUTION SAMPLES						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2024	9.85	9.7-10	80	None	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	<6	<6	60	None	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	2024	0.45	0.33-0.59	4.0 as Cl <sub>2</sub> (MRDL)	4.0 as Cl <sub>2</sub> (MRDLG)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

## KEY TERMS USED IN CHART

**Level Detected** = average of the City's producing wells (which the District purchases water from)

**<** = less than

**n/a** = not applicable

**uS/cm** = microsiemens per centimeter

**NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

### The following are definitions of some of the 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 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 health risk. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** *The highest level of 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 health risk. 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 health risk. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.*

**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 MCL levels.*

**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.*

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

**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)*

**ND:** *Not detectable at testing limit*

### **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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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 healthcare providers. USEPA/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).

### **Terms to Know About Your Drinking Water and Water System**

**Hardness:** hardness is mostly calcium and magnesium that cause a mineral deposit on fixtures and dishes. It also causes curdling of soap and increased consumption of soap.

Hardness can leave a chalky residue in ice cubes. In the High Valleys Water District's drinking water, hardness average 123 parts per million parts of water or 8.8 grains of hardness.

**Total Dissolved Solids:** the total amount of solids in solution (mainly mineral salts) in parts per million parts of water.

**Milky Water:** air in the water can cause a milky appearance. Water which contains dissolved air is delivered to customers' homes under pressure.

Turning on the faucet releases the pressure, causing air bubbles to appear. Like a carbon dioxide in soft drinks, the tiny air bubbles rise to the surface. Cleaning begins at the bottom of the container, and within a couple of minutes, the water is clear.

**Particles in Water:** The natural hardness of water served by the High Valleys Water District can cause scale deposits in pipes and water heaters that sometimes break loose due to plumbing activities or repair to the transmission and distribution systems. These may appear as particles in your drinking water.

In addition, a natural chemical reaction will cause pipes to corrode, and particles may break away into the water. Such particles and scale are not harmful.

**Tastes & Odor:** Taste and odor problems can affect both hot and cold water. When it comes to taste, some people may dislike the naturally-occurring minerals in water. Newcomers may favor a taste similar to that which they enjoyed before moving to the area.

Other taste problems arise from salty water drawn into the home through older type water softeners.

Taste problems are also caused by in home water filters that are outdated or placed in the sun where algae growth is induced.

Odor usually when water sits undisturbed for an extended period, especially in hot water heaters. Odors are most often noticed by part-time residents or customers who have been away for a weekend or longer.

Upon opening a faucet they detect a slight smell of rotten eggs. It is not a problem of health; but it is unpleasant. When returning home from being away, it is best to run cold water for a few minutes to flush the idle water and with it, the unpleasant odor.

It is also a good idea to flush your hot water heater, especially if you notice a rotten egg odor from the hot water. In fact, the High Valleys Water District recommends a periodic flushing of your hot water heater.

Another case of odor in water is the idle water trapped inside a garden hose. Garden hoses should be drained completely as possible while they are being rolled up and then stored in a shady location.

### **CHROMIUM-6 REGULATORY TIMELINE – CITY OF BANNING**

**July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014:** The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) approves new Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) regulation for Chromium-6, lowering the MCL from 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb. The City of Banning is mandated to begin quarterly water sampling to monitor Cr6 concentrations. Initial testing identified nine wells within the City's 21 well system (including co-owned wells with the Beaumont Cherry Valley water District) as being impacted by naturally occurring Cr6 levels at or near the new MCL.

**2015-2019:** In response to the regulation, the City contracts Hazen and Sawyer to develop a Chromium-6 treatment and compliance study. The study provides six treatment scenarios to reduce Cr6 levels in affected wells and evaluates cost effective treatment strategies. It is determined that over 40% of the City's water supply is affected by the new standard. The most cost-effective scenario for treatment is estimated to cost between \$20-\$40 million for construction and implementation. The California State Water Resources Control Board grants the City of Banning a variance through 2020 to continue using affected wells while planning compliance.

**2020:** Deadline set by the State of California for the water districts to comply with the new Cr6 MCL. Despite the deadline, statewide enforcement is halted due to legal and procedural delays.

surrounding the validity and economic feasibility of the 10 ppb standard. The City continues to monitor Cr6 levels but it is not required to implement treatment during this pause.

**2021-2024:** Chromium 6 regulation remains in limbo as the state reevaluates its standard and cost benefit analysis. Banning continues periodic monitoring of impacted wells and maintains internal tracking of Cr6 levels. No enforcement action is required during this period, but the city remains under observation for future compliance.

**2025:** Based on current sampling trends and communication with the California State Water Resource Control Board, the City expects enforcement of the 10 ppb Cr6 standard to be reinstated. If Cr6 levels remain above the MCL in affected wells by that time, the City will be required to issue a Tier II Public Notice informing residents, including the High Valleys Water District and their customers, of the exceedance. The City will also need to revisit and potentially implement one of the previously proposed treatment solutions, likely funded through rate adjustments, grants, or loans.

## **CONSERVATION**

At the regularly scheduled Board meeting held on July 20th, 2022, the Board of Directors voted to adopt Resolution #2002-0018: Stage II Water Restrictions, which increased current water conservation efforts, enforced by the State of California. The Board has requested a decrease of water usage from each customer and to avoid overwatering in all areas. This resolution can be found on the High Valleys Water District's website at <https://highvalleyswater.com/water-conservationcommunity-information.html>.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES**

The High Valleys Water District is a non-profit public agency with a five-member Board elected by the public. At the regularly scheduled Board of Director's meetings, time is provided for the public to present its concerns and questions. Board meetings start promptly at 3:00 p.m. and are held every third Wednesday of the month at the District's Office, located at 47781 Twin Pines Road, Banning, California, 92220. Customers may also communicate with the District through email at [hvwd@msn.com](mailto:hvwd@msn.com).

**For more information:** If you have any questions about this report, please contact the General Manager, Curtis "Stan" Houghton, by phone at (951) 849-2612 or by email at [shoughton@highvalleyswater.com](mailto:shoughton@highvalleyswater.com).

***Por Favor: este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traducirlo o hablar con alguien que lo entienda bien. Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame al Gerente General, Curtis "Stan" Houghton 951-849-2612 o envíele un correo electrónico a [shoughton@highvalleyswater.com](mailto:shoughton@highvalleyswater.com)***