COACHELLA
WATER AUTHORITY &
SANITARY DISTRICT
SERVICE. VALUE. QUALITY.

Issued July 2021

YOUR 2020
WATER QUALITY
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Coachella Water Authority
& Sanitary District
www.conservecoachella.com

Dear Consumer,

On behalf of the City of Coachella, we are pleased to present the 2020 Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Although there were many challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, it also demonstrated the importance of delivering a safe and reliable water supply. Despite the obstacles they faced, we are proud to say that our dedicated, certified, and highly trained staff met the mission of the Water Authority which is to keep drinking water safe and readily available every single day. Your health is of the utmost importance, as such, Coachella believes today and always that water is essential.

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality and is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. During 2020, from January to December, the Coachella Water Authority collected and analyzed thousands of samples and water quality tests. These samples ensure the delivered water meets or exceeds all local, state, and federal drinking water standards. As in years past, we can report that the Coachella Water Authority had no violation of a contaminant level or of any other water quality standard. Your locally sourced tap water met all USEPA, state, and local drinking water health standards.

Our commitment to ensuring and sustaining the highest quality of service has never been greater. We look forward to continuing to serve you, our valuable customers.

Steven Hernandez
Mayor, City of Coachella

Pictured here, sunrise over crop fields, Coachella, CA.

An assessment of the drinking water sources for Coachella Water Authority and Sanitary District's water system was completed in June 2020.

This annual report communicates the results of Coachella Water Authority and Sanitary District's water quality monitoring. The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) require routine and comprehensive monitoring of Coachella Water Authority and Sanitary District's drinking water supply. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the City. You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting Jesus Chabolla, Water Superintendent, at (760) 501-8100.

ABBREVIATIONS & DEFINITIONS

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.

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.

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.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS): MCLs, MRDLs and treatment techniques (TTs) for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.

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

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

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units

N/A - not applicable

ND - None detected

pCi/L - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

µS/cm - microsiemens per centimeter (a unit of electric conductivity)

< - less than

Pictured here, sunrise on Ave. 52, Coachella, CA.

The following table lists 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.

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS						
CONTAMINANT, UNITS	MCL	PHG or (MCLG)	RANGE (AVERAGE)	VIOLATION?	MAJOR SOURCES IN WATER	HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE
MICROBIOLOGICAL						
Heterotrophic Plate Count (CFU/ml)	TT	N/A	4-5 (4.5)	No	Naturally present in the environment.	Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.
Total Coliform Bacteria (federal Revised Total Coliform Rule)	TT	N/A	4-5 (4.5)	No	Naturally present in the environment.	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.
RADIOACTIVE						
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	10	0.004	2.1-2.5 (2.3)	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes.	Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	2.86-3.63 (0.366)	No	Erosion of natural deposits.	Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have kidney problems or an increased risk of getting cancer.
INORGANIC CHEMICALS						
Arsenic (µg/L)	10	0.004	2.1-2.5 (2.3)	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes.	Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Barium (mg/L)	1	2	0.023-0.044 (0.0313)	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years may experience an increase in blood pressure.
Copper (mg/L)	AL = 1.3	0.03	<0.05	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.	Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time may experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years may suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.
Fluoride (mg/L)	2	1	0.52-1.1 (0.73)	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the federal MCL of 4 mg/L over many years may get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the state MCL of 2 mg/L may get mottled teeth.
Lead (µg/L)	AL = 15	0.2	<0.005	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.	Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level may experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children may show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years may develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
Nitrate (mg/L)	10 (as N)	10 (as N)	ND-0.85 (0.77)	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL may quickly become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die because high nitrate levels can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. High nitrate levels may also affect the oxygen-carrying ability of the blood of pregnant women.
Nitrite (mg/L)	1 (as N)	1 (as N)	0.4	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrite in excess of the MCL may quickly become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin.
Chromium [Total] (µg/L)	50	-100	13-23 (18.5)	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits.	Some people who use water containing chromium in excess of the MCL over many years may experience allergic dermatitis.
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS AND DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS						
HAA5 [Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids] (µg/L)	60	N/A	ND	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.	Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (µg/L)	80	N/A	ND-2.8 (1.67)	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.	Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Chlorine (mg/L)	4	4	0.1 - 0.38	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.	Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS***						
CONTAMINANT, UNITS	MCL	PHG or (MCLG)	RANGE (AVERAGE)	VIOLATION?	MAJOR SOURCES IN WATER	HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE
Chloride (mg\L)	500	N/A	8.3-20 (12.65)	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.	N/A
Color (color units)	15	N/A	ND-3 (3)	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials.	N/A
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1600	N/A	270-360 (313.33)	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence.	N/A
Sulfate (mg\L)	500	N/A	24-73 (46.83)	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.	N/A
Total Dissolved Solids (mg\L)	1000	N/A	160-220 (188.33)	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.	N/A
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	N/A	0.27-0.7 (0.37)	No	Soil runoff.	N/A
Hardness (ppm)	N/A	N/A	41-77 (57.17)	No	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring.	N/A
pH (units)	N/A	N/A	8.1-8.3 (8.22)	No	Physical characteristics.	N/A
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	N/A	32-59 (42.83)	No	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring.	N/A

****There are no PHGs, MCLGs, or mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents because secondary MCLs are set on the basis of aesthetic concerns.*

REGULATIONS & STANDARDS

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.

Pictured here, sunrise over crop fields, Coachella, CA.

WATER CONSERVATION TIP!

Avoid watering during the middle of the day when evaporation is at its highest.

ABOUT LEAD & NITRATE

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. Coachellea Water Authority and Sanitary District 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 at http://www.epa.gov/lead.

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 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.

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).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Water Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

WATER DIVISION IN ACTION!

Pictured here, water valve replacement, Coachella, CA.

Pictured here, Coachella Water Authority & Sanitary District Water Division.
From left Jesus Chabolla, Gustavo Gallegos, Raymundo Gamboa, & Michael Garcia.

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WATER AUTHORITY &
SANITARY DISTRICT
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This report contains very important information about your drinking water. For more information or translation, please contact customer service by phone at (760) 501-8100 or visit www.coachellaccr.com.

Join the Conversation! We encourage you to have an active role in issues concerning the City's water. Meetings of the Coachella City Council take place at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at City Hall, 1515 Sixth St., Coachella. Check the city's website at www.coachella.org or call City Hall at (760) 398-3502 for more information.