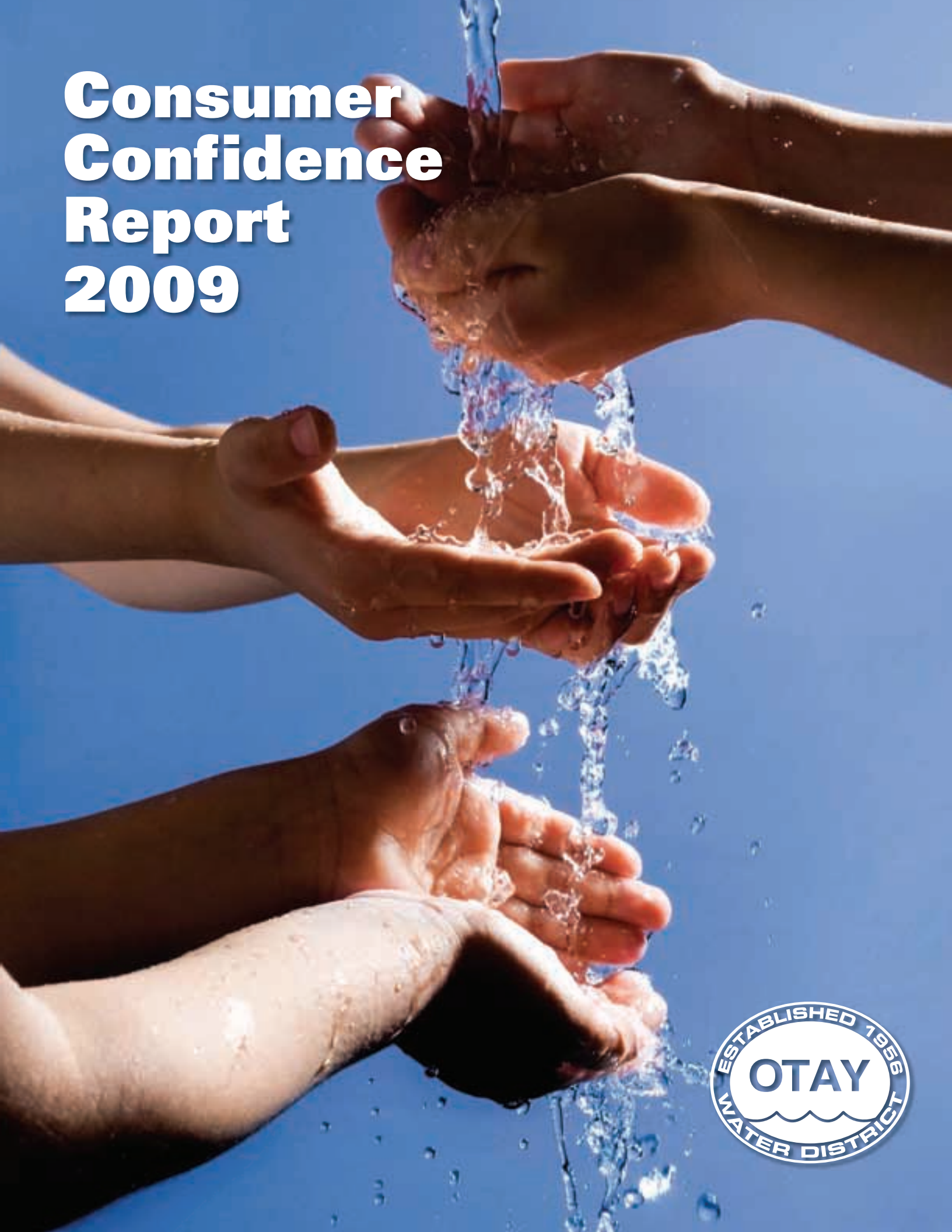


Consumer Confidence Report 2009





The Otay Water District is pleased to provide you with your annual consumer confidence report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to state standards.

The information included in this water quality report represents only a small fraction of what we do to ensure high quality drinking water. Using one or more state certified laboratories, we routinely scrutinize the water supply for an entire range of elements that have the potential to degrade the quality of your water. Only compounds detected in water sources are included in this report.

As in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and State of California drinking water health standards. The Otay Water District vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Your Consumer Confidence Report

Sources

The Otay Water District imports an average of 85 percent of its water. Imported water is a blend of Colorado River water and State Water Project water. This imported water is treated by the San Diego County Water Authority and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The Otay Water District purchases treated water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's R.A. Skinner Treatment Plant (Skinner Plant), the County Water Authority's Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant (Twin Oaks Plant), and from the Helix Water District's R.M. Levy Treatment Plant (Levy Plant).

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.





Safety

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State Department of Public Health (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations 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 1-800-426-4791 or online at www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html.

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

Conservation *It's Easy to Conserve!*

San Diego County has a semi-arid climate that receives only about 10 inches of rainfall per year. This does not provide enough water to meet local needs and the region must import as much as 82 percent of its water from the Colorado River and Northern California. To maintain our quality of life and ensure adequate water supplies now and for future generations, San Diego County residents are encouraged to make a conscious effort to use our limited supply of water as efficiently as possible.

The Otay Water District offers a number of programs to save water both indoors and outdoors. For water wise landscaping tips, visit the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College or go to www.thegarden.org. For useful ways to conserve water around the house visit our website at www.otaywater.gov and click on conservation.

The Truth about Tap

BELIEFS — Surveys have found that most consumers who drink bottled water do so because they enjoy its taste or its portable convenience. Others drink bottled water because they believe it to be more pure or safer than their tap water.



THE TRUTH — Did you know that the average bottle of water can cost up to 1,000 times more than tap water? Despite what its higher cost would lead us to believe, estimates are that 25-40% of the bottled water on the market is simply repackaged tap water.

Tap water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Safe Drinking Water Act, while bottled water is considered a food and is thus regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Though some bottlers may voluntarily exceed FDA standards, those standards are less stringent than the EPA standards for tap water. For more information, visit www.DrinkTap.org.

YOUR OPTIONS — During these economically sensitive times, it's important to know that you have other, more affordable, options to bottled water.

Chill a pitcher of tap water in your refrigerator

- To enhance the taste of tap water, one simple suggestion is to leave an open pitcher in the refrigerator overnight. The exposure to the air allows the small amount of chlorine, which is added to all tap water to ensure adequate disinfection and maintain high quality, to evaporate. Using the chilled water pitcher with refillable water bottles or thermoses allows for an inexpensive way to achieve portability and a refreshing taste.

Water Filtration Systems

- Another possibility is to install a home water filter system. These systems are convenient, easy to use, and enhance the taste of water. These systems achieve the same desired results, while still costing a fraction of the price of bottled water.

For more information on California state certified water filtration systems, click on the Devices and Machines link under the Certificates and Licenses section of the California Department of Public Health website, www.cdph.ca.gov.



2009 Otay Water District Consumer Confidence Report

PARAMETER	UNITS	STATE OR FEDERAL MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	STATE DLR	RANGE AVERAGE	SKINNER PLANT	HELIX PLANT	TWIN OAKS PLANT	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Percent State Project Water	%	NA	NA	NA	Range	20-42	0-54	20-42	
					Average	31	29	31	
PRIMARY STANDARDS--Mandatory Health-Related Standards									
CLARITY									
Combined Filter Effluent Turbidity	NTU %	0.3 95 (a)	NA	NA	Highest	0.08	0.08	0.08	Soil runoff
					% < 0.3	100	100	100	
MICROBIOLOGICAL									
Total Coliform Bacteria (b)	Distribution System-wide:		(0)	NA	Otay Distribution System = 0.1%			Naturally present in the environment	
	%	5.0							
E. coli	Distribution System-wide:		(0)	NA	Otay Distribution System = 0%			Human and animal fecal waste	
	(c)	(c)							
INORGANIC CHEMICALS									
Aluminum (d)	ppb	1000	600	50	Range	ND	120 - 300	ND - 28	Residue from water treatment process; natural deposits erosion
					Average	ND	188	ND	
Arsenic	ppb	10	0.004	2	Range	ND	ND-2.1	ND	Natural deposits erosion, glass and electronics production wastes
					Average	ND	ND	ND	
Barium	ppb	1000	2000	100	Range	ND-115	ND-110	100	Oil and metal refineries discharge; natural deposits erosion
					Average	107	103	100	
Fluoride Treatment-related	ppm	2.0	1	0.1	Control Range	0.7 - 1.3	0.7 - 1.3	0.7 - 1.3	Water additive
					Optimal Level	0.8	0.8	0.8	
					Range	0.7 - 1.0	0.4 - 1.0	0.8 - 0.9	
					Average	0.8	0.9	0.8	
Nitrate (as N)	ppm	10	10	0.4	Range	ND - 0.5	ND	ND	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; septic tank and sewage; natural deposits erosion
					Average	ND	ND	ND	
RADIOLOGICALS									
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	pCi/L	15	(0)	3	Range	3.3 - 4.3	3.2-5.4	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
					Average	3.6	4.6	ND	
Gross Beta Particle Activity (e)	pCi/L	50	(0)	4	Range	ND - 8.8	NA	ND	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
					Average	ND	NA	ND	
Radium 228	pCi/L	NA	0.019	1	Range	ND	ND	1.12	Erosion of natural deposits
					Average	ND	ND	1.12	
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	1	Range	2.3 - 2.7	1.6-4.6	1.9	Erosion of natural deposits
					Average	2.5	3.1	1.9	
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS, AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS PRECURSORS									
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	Distribution System-wide:		1	Otay Distribution System Range = 33 - 51			By-product of drinking water chlorination	
		80	NA		Otay Distribution System Highest RAA Average = 50				
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5)	ppb	Distribution System-wide:		1	Otay Distribution System Range = 7 - 19			By-product of drinking water chlorination	
		60	NA		Otay Distribution System Highest RAA Average = 18				
Total Chlorine Residual	ppm	Distribution System-wide:		NA	Otay Distribution System Range = 0.2 - 4.0			Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment	
		[4.0]	[4.0]		Otay Distribution System Highest RAA Average = 2.5				
DBP Precursors Control (TOC) (h)	ppm	TT	NA	0.30	Range	1.9 - 2.5	2.0 - 2.9	1.9 - 2.7	Various natural and man-made sources
					Average	2.2	2.1	2.3	
PRIMARY STANDARDS — LEAD AND COPPER RULE — SAMPLED AT HOME TAP IN 2008									
Copper (f)	ppm	NL=1.3	0.17	0.05	0 sites above NL out of 54 sampled			Internal corrosion of household pipes; erosion of natural deposits	
					90th percentile=0.33				
Lead (f)	ppb	NL=15	2	5	0 sites above NL out of 54 sampled			Internal corrosion of household pipes; erosion of natural deposits	
					90th percentile=2				

ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Aggressiveness Index	N	Nitrogen	ppm	parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
AL	Action Level	NA	Not Applicable	ppt	parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
CFU	Colony-Forming Units	ND	Not Detected	RAA	Running Annual Average
DBP	Disinfection By-Products	NL	Notification Level	TOC	Total Organic Carbon
DLR	Detection Limits for purposes of Reporting	NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	TON	Threshold Odor Number
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level	P or ND	Positive or Not Detected	TT	Treatment Technique
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	pCi/L	picoCuries per Liter	µS/cm	microSiemen per centimeter
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	PHG	Public Health Goal		
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	ppb	parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)		

PARAMETER	UNITS	STATE OR FEDERAL MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG) (MRDLG)	STATE DLR	RANGE AVERAGE	SKINNER PLANT	HELIX PLANT	TWIN OAKS PLANT	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
SECONDARY STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards									
Aluminum (d)	ppb	200	600	50	Range	ND	120 - 300	ND - 28	Residue from water treatment process; natural deposits erosion
					Average	ND	188	ND	
Chloride	ppm	500	NA	NA	Range	92 - 99	87 - 92	95	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
					Average	96	89	95	
Color	Units	15	NA	NA	Range	2	1 - 2	ND - 2	Naturally occurring organic materials
					Average	2	1	ND	
Odor Threshold	TON	3	NA	1	Range	7 - 29 (g)	NA	1	Naturally-occurring organic materials
					Average	17 (g)	NA	1	
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	NA	NA	Range	857 - 971	842 - 940	920	Substances that form ions in water; seawater influence
					Average	913	895	920	
Sulfate	ppm	500	NA	0.5	Range	173 - 221	170 - 190	200	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
					Average	195	180	200	
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	ppm	1000	NA	NA	Range	502 - 590	506 - 580	530	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
					Average	542	545	530	
Turbidity (a)	NTU	5	NA	NA	Range	0.04 - 0.05	0.04 - 0.08	0.05 - 0.08	Soil runoff
					Average	0.05	0.05	0.06	
FEDERAL UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS MONITORING RULE (UCMR2)									
List 1 - Assessment Monitoring						ND	ND	ND	
List 2 - Screening Survey						ND	ND	ND	
OTHER PARAMETERS - Chemical									
Alkalinity	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range	94 - 113	108 - 130	120	
					Average	105	122	120	
Boron	ppb	NA	NL=1000	100	Range	120 - 150	120 - 140	150	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
					Average	140	125	150	
Calcium	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range	52 - 67	57 - 61	60	
					Average	59	59	60	
Chlorate	ppb	NA	NL=800	20	Range	24 - 58	NA	308 - 350	By-product of drinking water chlorination; industrial processes
					Average	25	NA	329	
Chromium VI	ppb	NA	NA	0.03	Range	0.09 - 0.30	ND	ND	Industrial waste discharge; could be naturally present as well
					Average	.021	ND	ND	
Corrosivity (h) (as Aggressiveness Index)	AI	NA	NA	NA	Range	12.1 - 12.4	NA	12.0	Elemental balance in water; affected by temperature, other factors
					Average	12.3	NA	12.0	
Hardness	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range	222 - 273	250-260	250	Municipal and industrial waste discharges
					Average	247	249	250	
Magnesium	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range	21 - 27	23 - 26	24	
					Average	24	24	24	
pH	pH Units	NA	NA	NA	Range	8.0 - 8.2	8.0 - 8.1	8.1	
					Average	8.1	8.1	8.1	
Potassium	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range	4.1 - 4.7	4.5 - 4.8	4.5	
					Average	4.5	4.6	4.5	
Sodium	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range	83 - 94	78 - 92	94	
					Average	89	87	94	
Vanadium	ppb	NA	NL=50	3	Range	ND	3.7 - 5.2	ND	Naturally-occurring, industrial waste discharge
					Average	ND	4.5	ND	
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA)	ppt	Distribution System-wide:		2	Range	ND	3.0	ND	By-product of drinking water chloramination; industrial processes
		NA	3		Average	ND - 10	ND - 3.3	ND	

FOOTNOTES

- (a) The turbidity level of the filtered water shall be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of the measurements taken each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is an indicator of treatment performance. The averages and ranges of turbidity shown in the Secondary Standards were based on the treatment plant effluent.
- (b) Total coliform MCLs: No more than 5.0% of the monthly samples may be total coliform-positive.
- (c) E. coli MCL: The occurrence of two consecutive total coliform-positive samples, one of which contains E. coli, constitutes an acute MCL violation. The MCL was not violated.
- (d) Aluminum has both primary and secondary standards.
- (e) The gross beta particle activity MCL is 4 millirem/year annual dose equivalent to the total body or any internal organ. The screening level is 50 pCi/L.
- (f) Lead and copper are regulated as a Treatment Technique under the Lead and Copper Rule. It requires systems to take water samples at the consumers' tap. The action levels, which trigger water systems into taking treatment steps if exceeded in more than 10% of the tap water samples, are 1.3 ppm for copper and 15 ppb for lead.
- (g) Metropolitan utilizes a flavor-profile analysis method that can detect odor occurrences more accurately, but has a different numbering scale.
- (h) AI <10.0 = Highly aggressive and very corrosive water
AI > 12.0 = Non-aggressive water
AI (10.0 - 11.9) = Moderately aggressive water



Otay Water District (OWD) está orgulloso de proporcionarle su reporte de confianza al consumidor. Este folleto es una fotografía de la calidad del agua del año pasado. Vienen incluidos los detalles de donde proviene el agua, que contiene y como se compara con los estándares del estado.

La información incluida en este reporte de calidad del agua representa una pequeña fracción de lo que hacemos para asegurar agua potable de alta calidad. Usando laboratorios certificados por el estado, rutinariamente escudriñamos el suministro de agua por un completo rango de elementos que tienen el potencial de degradar la calidad de su agua.

Así como en años pasados, su agua potable reunió todos los estándares de salud del USEPA y el estado para agua potable. OWD de una manera vigilante salvaguarda los suministros de agua y una vez más estamos orgullosos de reportar que nuestro sistema nunca ha violado un nivel contaminante máximo o ningún otro estándar de calidad del agua.

Su Reporte de Confianza al Consumidor

Una Plática Directa Sobre Agua

Todos tienen interés en la calidad de su agua y algunos a veces preguntan, "¿Puedo sentirme seguro bebiendo agua de la llave?" En el Condado de San Diego, la respuesta es que sí. Sistemas Públicos de Agua, tales como los operados por Otay Water District, deben cumplir con estándares para agua potable muy altos impuestos por la United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

El agua de la llave es regulada de una manera más rigurosa que el agua embotellada y debe cumplir con todos los estándares de calidad de agua tanto federales como estatales. Estas regulaciones son típicamente límites numéricos en las concentraciones, o cantidades de ciertos contaminantes en el agua. Para poder cumplir con estas regulaciones, los suministros de agua deben proporcionar un tratamiento específico, como desinfección y filtración, para asegurar que el agua sea potable.

Si todavía estás preocupado o prefieres beber agua con un sabor diferente, puedes comprar agua embotellada, pero puede costar hasta 1,000 veces más que el agua de la llave. Además, existen otras opciones más económicas que comprar agua embotellada. Para mejorar el sabor o el olor del agua de la llave, la cual está tratada con cloro para asegurar una desinfección adecuada y mantener su alta calidad, la manera más fácil de hacer esto es dejar un recipiente abierto en el refrigerador toda la noche. Al exponer el agua al aire permite que cantidades pequeñas de cloro se evaporen. Además enfriar el agua la hace más refrescante.

Otras opciones incluyen sistemas de filtración para casas que son convenientes, mejoran el sabor, y solo cuestan una fracción del precio de agua embotellada. Los consumidores que deciden comprar una unidad de tratamiento de agua para casas deben leer cuidadosamente la información del producto para que comprendan lo que están comprando. También, deben seguir cuidadosamente las instrucciones de manufactura para la operación y mantenimiento del sistema, y recordar cambiarle el filtro de una manera regular.

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

Mahalaga ang impormasyong ito. Mangyaring ipasalin ito

Chi tiết này thật quan trọng. Xin nhờ người dịch cho quý vị.

"هذا التقرير يحتوي على معلومات مهمة تتعلق بمياه الشفة (أو الشرب) ترجم التقرير، أو تكلم مع شخص يستطيع أن يفهم التقرير."

Additional Fluoride Information Available

The Otay Water District purchases drinking water from multiple sources. Our water wholesalers each add fluoride to the water supply in compliance with the California Fluoridation Act of 1995. Due to the blending of waters, which varies by region and time of year, fluoride concentrations may vary slightly between test stations.

Otay Water District laboratory personnel will closely monitor fluoride levels throughout its service area and will post this information to our website on a monthly basis. Please visit our website for more information and to view test results.

Public Participation

The Otay Water District encourages public participation from the customers we serve. The board of directors generally meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at district headquarters, 2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd., Spring Valley, 91978. We encourage the public to attend these meetings.

For directions, agendas or for further information, call (619) 670-2222 or visit our website at www.otaywater.gov.

Otay Water District Board of Directors

Gary Croucher, President..... Division 3
Jose Lopez, Vice President..... Division 4
Jaime Bonilla, Treasurer Division 2
Larry Breitfelder, Director Division 1
Mark Robak, Director..... Division 5



For More Information

The Otay Water District appreciates your comments and active participation. If you have questions about the information contained in this report, or testing processes, please contact Gary Stalker, System Operations Manager, at (619) 670-2228 or visit our website at www.otaywater.gov. You can also find helpful information by contacting the following agencies:

California Department of Public Health

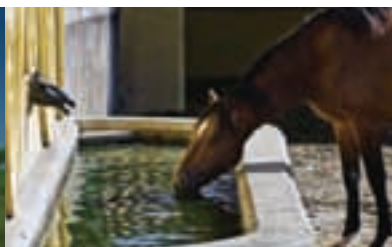
Division of Drinking Water and
Environmental Management
1350 Front Street, Room 2050
San Diego, CA 92115
[www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/
Pages/DWP.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/DWP.aspx)

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Water (4101 M)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791
www.epa.gov/safewater/

www.otaywater.gov

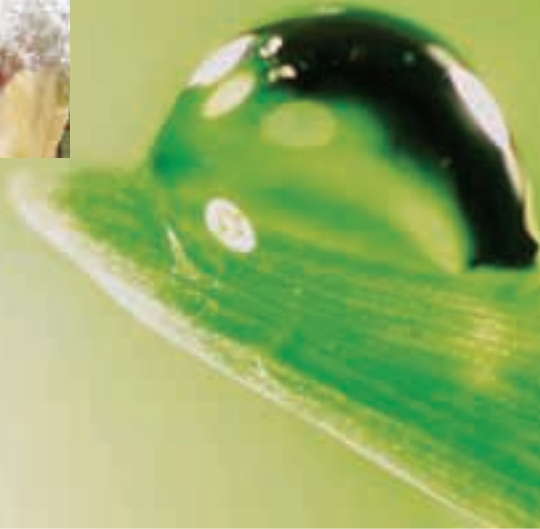
E-mail: opinion_form@otaywater.gov



Consumer Confidence Report 2009



www.otaywater.gov



Pr-Srt Std.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 700
San Diego CA

OTAY WATER DISTRICT
2254 Sweetwater Springs Blvd.
Spring Valley, CA 91978-2096
619-670-2222

