

The background of the entire page is a vibrant blue image featuring a close-up of a chrome water tap. Water is flowing from the tap, creating a spray of water droplets and bubbles. The tap handle is visible at the top left. The overall aesthetic is clean and fresh, emphasizing water quality.

Ventura County
Waterworks
District No. 17

ANNUAL WATER
QUALITY REPORT

The logo for Ventura County Waterworks Districts is a circular emblem. It features a central yin-yang symbol in shades of blue and white. The words "VENTURA COUNTY" are written in a semi-circle above the yin-yang, and "WATERWORKS DISTRICTS" is written in a semi-circle below it. The entire logo is set against a dark blue background that is part of the larger water-themed graphic.

VENTURA COUNTY
WATERWORKS DISTRICTS

Water testing performed in 2004

PWS ID#: #: CA5610003

Continuing Our Commitment

Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17 (District) was created in 1977. The Water and Sanitation Department of the County of Ventura, Public Works Agency is responsible for the administration, operation, and maintenance of the water system. The Ventura County Board of Supervisors is the governing body of the District, and a Citizens' Advisory Committee provides input on policy and rate adjustment matters.



Once again we proudly present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2004. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Al Sexton, Laboratory Manager, at (805) 378-1168.

Important Health Information

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. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Here are a few suggestions:

Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets and toilets; replace old fixtures with water-saving devices.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Turn water off while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing; run dishwasher only when full.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

- Water lawn and garden early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.

Source Water Assessment

In December 2002, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) completed its source water assessment of its State Water Project supplies. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater. A copy of the Assessment can be obtained by contacting MWD by phone at (213) 217-6850.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhome) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. Also, the California Department of Health Services Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management has a Web site (www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem) that provides complete and current information on water issues in our own state.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The Citizens' Advisory Committee meets bimonthly at the Bell Canyon Property Owners' Association Office located at 30 Hackamore Lane, Bell Canyon. If you wish to participate, please call (805) 584-4830 for the specific date and time.

Where does the District's Water come from?

Our water supply, which is imported from the State Water Project, originates in northern California. Water is captured in reservoirs north of Sacramento and released through natural rivers and streams into the delta of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. The water is then transported to the Southland in the 444-mile California Aqueduct to State Water Project contractors, such as Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). The water the District eventually receives is filtered and disinfected by MWD at its Jensen Filtration Facility in Granada Hills. The water is then delivered by MWD to its 26 member public agencies, including Calleguas Municipal Water District (CMWD), Ventura County's regional wholesale purveyor.

CMWD delivers water to the Bell Canyon community with the help of Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8, operated by the City of Simi Valley. CMWD brings the water into Ventura County through its mile-long tunnel in the Santa Susana Mountains. The water then travels through Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8 to Bell Canyon.

The District provides water service through approximately 700 service connections to over 2,045 people in the Bell Canyon area. In 2004, the District supplied approximately 1,520 acre-feet of water for residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, and fire protection needs. The District's distribution system consists of two reservoirs, one booster pump station, and approximately 15 miles of waterlines.

Substances that might be in Drinking Water

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDHS 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.

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, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

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 gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. Although all of the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD (Regulated in order to protect against possible adverse health effects)

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	District		MWD (Jensen)		CMWD (LBWFP)		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW HIGH		
Aluminum (ppm)	2004	1	0.6	NA	NA	ND	ND-0.055	ND	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Chloramines (ppm)	2004	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	NA	NA	2.4	1.7-3.0	2.0	1.9-2.1	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fluoride (ppm)	2004	2	1	NA	NA	0.11	0.10-0.12	0.2	n/a	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2004	50	n/a	NA	NA	4.9 ¹	ND-6.2	ND	ND	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2004	60	n/a	8	4-13	27	10-63	14	6-24	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (as nitrate, NO ₃) (ppm)	2004	45	45	NA	NA	2.70	2.30-3.19	ND	ND	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2004	80	n/a	49.1	43.2-56.2	60	30-87	52	32-65	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity ² (NTU)	2004	TT	n/a	NA	NA	0.07	n/a	0.03	n/a	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from 11 homes throughout the service area.

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	ACTION LEVEL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	HOMES ABOVE ACTION LEVEL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2003	1.3	0.17	0.22	0	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2003	15	2	2.6	0	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

FOOTNOTES

¹ Sampled in 2002 & 2003

² Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. MWD and CMWD monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of their filtration systems. During the reporting year, 100% of all samples taken to measure turbidity met water quality standards.

³ One grain per gallon is equal to 17.1 ppm.

SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD (Regulated in order to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water)

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	MWD Jensen		CMWD (LBWFP)		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW HIGH		
Aluminum (ppb)	2004	200	600	ND	ND-55	ND	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2004	500	NS	71	65-77	96	n/a	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Corrosivity (Units)	2004	Non-corrosive	NS	0.1	n/a	0.2	n/a	No	Natural or industrially-corrosive influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in the water; affected by temperature and other factors
Odor--Threshold (Units)	2004	3	NS	3	n/a	ND	ND	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmhos/cm)	2004	1,600	NS	500	479-512	623	622-624	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2004	500	NS	46	39-56	54	n/a	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2004	1,000	NS	275	266-286	365	350-380	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2004	5	NS	0.05	0.05-0.06	0.02	n/a	No	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MWD Jensen		CMWD (LBWFP)	
		AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Alkalinity (ppm)	2004	81	79-84	100	n/a
Boron (ppb)	2004	160	150-180	200	n/a
Calcium (ppm)	2004	23	22-24	29	n/a
Hardness ³ (ppm)	2004	110	106-116	138	n/a
Magnesium (ppm)	2004	13	n/a	16	n/a
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (ppt)	2004	2.6	ND-5.9	NA	NA
pH (Units)	2004	8.3	8.3-8.4	8.2	n/a
Potassium (ppm)	2004	3	n/a	3	n/a
Sodium (ppm)	2004	54	52-56	71	n/a
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2004	2.2	2.0-2.6	2.5	2.3-2.7
Vanadium (ppb)	2004	ND	ND-3.4	NA	NA

Table Definitions

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

CMWD (LBWFP): Calleguas Municipal Water District (Lake Bard Water Filtration Plant)

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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 (SMCL) are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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. EPA.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.

MWD (Jensen): Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Jensen Filtration Facility)

n/a: not applicable

NA: Not Analyzed

ND: Not Detected

NS: No Standard

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their



monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

PHG (Public Health Goal): 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 EPA.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

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

µmhos/cm (micromhos per centimeter): A measure of electrical conductance.