2010 Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Hemet Water Department
3777 Industrial Avenue
Hemet, California 92545

Contents

What is in this report?

The purpose of this report is to inform City of Hemet water customers about the sources and quality of our drinking water. The report includes details about where the City of Hemet's water originates, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. All water suppliers are required by federal and state law to prepare and provide a brief annual water quality report to their customers.

In 2010, your drinking water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and State drinking water health standards. The City of Hemet drinking water system did not violate any of the maximum contaminant levels or any other water quality standards.

Need more information?

If you have questions about this report, contact **Armando Torres**, Water Quality /Conservation Specialist at **(951) 765-3711** or by email **atorres@cityofhemet.org**.

Espanol

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua de beber. Favor de leerlo a hablar con alguien que lo entienda bien. Para asestencia en espanol llame 765-3710.

Our water sources

The City of Hemet has two water supply sources. Local groundwater is pumped from both the Hemet and San Jacinto Groundwater Basins by eleven deep wells. Nine wells are in the Hemet Groundwater Basin and two wells are in the San Jacinto Groudwater Basin. Stormwater collected in basins infiltrates into the soil to eventually replenish our groundwater supply. In addition, the City of Hemet has one connection with Eastern Municipal Water District. This connection is used only as needed to supplement our water supply.

Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Hemet was completed in June 2002. City of Hemet wells are not considered vulnerable to any potential activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply. The wells are considered most vulnerable to the following activities: sewer collection systems, a fire station, high density housing, and transportation corridors or road right of ways. To review a copy of this report, contact Ron Proze, City of Hemet Water Superintendent at (951) 765-3710.

Public Participation Opportunity

The Hemet City Council meets twice each month on the second and fourth Tuesday at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers located at 450 E. Latham Avenue.

Public comment is accepted during "Communications from the Public" on the agenda.

Why is there anything in 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 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).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the California 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.

Special precautions to those vulnerable to contaminants

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. 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 Water Drinking Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

How do drinking water sources become polluted?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil /gas production and mining activities.

Important health information

Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L [milligrams per liter—equivalent to parts per million (ppm)] 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 45 ppm 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.

Lead in Drinking 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 of Hemet Water Department 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/safewater/lead.

2010 WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

AL	Action Level
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
Micro ohms	A measure of conductivity (electric current in water)
N/A	Not Applicable
ND	Non-Detected
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (a measure of water cloudiness)
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
PHG	Public Health Goal
ppb	Parts per billion
ppm	Parts per million

IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER 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 Proectection 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.

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 for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

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.

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

CONTAMINANT	UNIT	STANDARDS		CITY OF HEMET WELL WATER		VIOLATION	YEAR SAMPLED	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
		STATE MCL/AL	PHG (MCLG)	AVERAGE	RANGE			
PRIMARY STANDARDS - Mandatory Health Related Standards by California Department of Health Services								
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Alpha	p/Ci/L	15	0	1.8	0.49-3.56	NO	2008-2010	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	p/Ci/L	20	0.43	2.74	2.74-2.74	NO	2010	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants								
Aluminum	ppb	1000	600	62	50-110	NO	2008-2010	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic	ppb	10	4	2.3	2-3.4	NO	2008-2010	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass/electronics production wastes
Copper	ppb	1000	300	56	50-100	NO	2008-2010	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	0.6	0.2-2.2	NO	2008-2010	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (N03)	ppm	45	45	22	1-37	NO	2010	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits. HEALTH EFFECTS: 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 capactiy 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.
Perchlorate	ppb	6	6	<4	ND-<4	NO	2010	Perchlorate is an inorganic chemical used in solid rocket propellant, fireworks, explosives, flares, matches, and a variety of industries. It usually gets into drinking water as a result of environmental contamination from historic aerospace or other iindustrial operations that used or use, store, or dispose of perchlorate and its salts.
Selenium	ppb	50	50	6	5-13	NO	2008-2010	Discharge from petroleum, glass, metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
Disfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors								
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	ppb	80	N/A	2.2	N/A	NO	2010	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	ND	N/A	NO	2010	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
SECONDARY STANDARDS - Aesthectic Standards Established by California Department of Health Services								
Chloride	ppm	500	N/A	173	45-500	NO	2008-2010	Runoff/leaching from natural sources; seawater influence
Iron	ppb	300	N/A	137	100-240	NO	2008-2010	Leaching from natural sources; industrial wastes.
Specific Conductance	micro ohms	1600	N/S	1111	740-1900	NO	2008-2010	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence.
Sulfate	ppm	500	N/A	167	81-300	NO	2008-2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	N/A	698	470-1200	NO	2008-2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
METALS - As a by-product of corrosion of consumer's plumbing								
Copper	ppb	AL = 1300	300	90th percentile of 30 samples: 150 ppb		NO	2010	Lead and copper are regulated in a Treatment Technique under the Lead and Copper Rule. It requires systems to take water samples at the consumer's tap every three years. The federal action level (AL), which triggers water systems into taking treatment steps if exceeded in more than 10% of the tap water samples, is 1300 ppb for copper and 15 ppb for lead.
Lead	ppb	AL = 15	2	90th percentile of 30 samples: ND		NO	2010	
ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENTS ANALYZED								**WATER QUALITY MEASUREMENTS** **Trace chemicals in water are measured in parts per million (ppm)or parts per billion (ppb).** **Parts per million = 1 drop in 10 gallons** **Parts per billion = 1 drop in 10,000 gallons**
Hardness	ppm	N/A	N/A	254	77-330	N/A	2008-2010	
pH	pH units	N/A	N/A	7.8	7.4-8.4	N/A	2008-2010	
Potassium	ppm	N/A	N/A	6	3.3-10	N/A	2008-2010	

Preventing pollution is much easier and less costly than cleaning up after the fact. Here are some simple pollution prevention activities that can easily be incorporated into daily activities:

Lawn Care—Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.

- Avoid overwatering your lawn.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly; use only recommended amounts; use organic mulch and safer pest control methods whenever possible.
- Don't sweep or blow yard waste into the street or storm drains.

Auto Care—Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm drain system. Dumping auto fluids into storm drains is like dumping the materials directly into a waterbody.

- Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground.
- Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.

Pet Waste—Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.

- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground allows harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.

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