City of Hemet
Drinking Water Quality Report

2012

City of Hemet Water Department
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951-765-3712 • www.cityofhemet.org

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 2012, 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.

Non-Compliance with Standards for Fluoride in 2011

In 2011, a City well violated the fluoride standard after four consecutive quarters of operation. The four-quarter average fluoride level was 2.2 mg/L [milligrams per liter], which is above the fluoride standard of 2.0 mg/L. The City failed to notify the California Department of Public Health of this violation within 30 days of the occurrence and to conduct public notification as required under California Code of Regulations, Title 22, § 64463.4. The City removed the well from service on June 14, 2011. The well was returned to service in March 2012 during which the 2012 year individual fluoride levels reached up to 2.4 mg/L, but did not exceed the four-quarter annual average fluoride standard. Due to the well's upward trend levels of fluoride, as of March 2013, the well was removed from service and will remain offline until reliable treatment is provided.

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.

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.

Inside This Issue

Espanol

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

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 nine deep wells. Seven wells are in the Hemet Groundwater Basin and two wells are in the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin. Stormwater collected in basins infiltrates into the soil to eventually replenish our groundwater supply. The City of Hemet also has one connection with Eastern Municipal Water District, which 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.

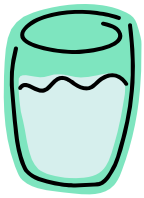
Need More Information?

If you have questions about this report, contact **Armando Torres**, Water Quality /Conservation Specialist at **(951) 765-3712** or **atorres@cityofhemet.org**.

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).

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.

How Do Drinking Water Sources Become Polluted?

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 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 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 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.

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

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.

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

2012 WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

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

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	2	0.49-4.7	NO	2010-2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	p/Ci/L	20	0.43	1.5	0.34-2.64	NO	2010-2012	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants								
Aluminum	ppb	1000	600	55	<50-110	NO	2010-2012	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic	ppb	10	4	2.2	<2-3.4	NO	2010-2012	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass/electronics production wastes
Barium	ppb	1000	2000	91	1-100	NO	2010-2012	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	0.6	0.2-2.4	NO	2010-2012	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (N03) ✱	ppm	45	45	27	1-56	NO	2012	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	3.9	0-4.8	NO	2010-2012	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 a a result of environmental contamination from historic aerospace or other industrial operations that used or use, store, or dispose of perchlorate and its salts.
Selenium	ppb	50	50	9	<5-18	NO	2010-2012	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	2.9	N/A	NO	2012	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	ND	N/A	NO	2012	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
SECONDARY STANDARDS - Aesthectic Standards Established by California Department of Health Services								
Chloride	ppm	500	N/A	165	45-500	NO	2010-2012	Runoff/leaching from natural sources; seawater influence
Iron	ppb	300	N/A	121	100-240	NO	2010-2012	Leaching from natural sources; industrial wastes.
Specific Conductance	micro ohms	1600	N/S	1091	740-2000	NO	2010-2012	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence.
Sulfate	ppm	500	N/A	220	110-280	NO	2010-2012	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	N/A	714	470-1300	NO	2010-2012	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								
Hardness	ppm	N/A	N/A	270	77-380	N/A	2010-2012	
pH	pH units	N/A	N/A	7.8	7.5-8.4	N/A	2010-2012	
Potassium	ppm	N/A	N/A	6	3-9	N/A	2010-2012	
Sodium	ppm	N/A	N/A	119	81-270	N/A	2010-2012	

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

✱ When well water contains high levels of contaminants it is blended with water from other wells to assure the water delivered to customers meets all health requirements.

5 Ways You Can Help STOP 'Urban Drool' (overwatering, leaky pipes, washing in driveway)

#1 The average homeowner uses twice the amount of water needed to keep plants healthy. Use the watering calculator and index at www.bewaterwise.com to know exactly how much water your plants need. Adjust your timer! Don't allow water to runoff your yard!

#2 Check your sprinkler system for leaks, overspray and broken sprinkler heads. Make adjustments and repairs. Consider replacing with more water-efficient sprinklers.

#3 Reduce the amount of grass in your yard. Replace with less-thirsty plants or permeable paving. Browse the plant database at www.bewaterwise.com to find the right plants.

#4 Use a broom instead of the hose for cleaning driveways, sidewalks and patios.

#5 Clean your car at a car wash instead of in the driveway. This also prevents soaps, polishes, waxes and other chemicals from entering the storm drain system.

3 Ways to Prevent Yard & Garden Chemicals from Becoming Pollutants

#1 Avoid over-applying pesticides or fertilizers. Read product labels and use only as directed.

#2 Pesticides and fertilizers should be stored in a dry covered area to prevent deterioration of packaging and leaking.

#3 Take unwanted pesticides, fertilizers and other lawn and garden chemicals to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site. For HHW Site locations and dates, go to http://www.rivcowm.org/opencms/hhw/index.html.

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