

# City of Porterville CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

For period 1/1/11 to 12/31/11

**Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable de beber. Traduzca esta informacion o si tiene preguntas, pueden hablar con Bert Yarbrough a 782-7518.**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the State Department of Health Services (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 provide the same protection for public health. The City of Porterville tests its water at each well site and at numerous locations throughout the distribution system on a regular basis to guarantee compliance with all state and federal standards.

City of Porterville water comes from 34 municipal water wells located throughout the city. Before being pumped into the distribution system, a disinfectant is added to the water to protect you from potential microbial contaminants.

An assessment of all the drinking water sources for the City of Porterville was completed in November of 2011. Of the 34 wells, six have been determined to be vulnerable to PCE contamination, and seven have been determined to be vulnerable to nitrate contamination, and one vulnerable to DBCP contamination; however, none of these constituents have been detected at concentrations over the drinking water standards. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the City Corporation yard, 555 N. Prospect Street.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. For additional water quality data, please contact Jeff Friedman at 782-7518. Your concerns can also be addressed to the Porterville City Council. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at City Hall, 291 N. Main Street. Council sessions are open to the public. Property owners, with any type of tenants, please make copies and distribute them to your tenants and/or post on your community board if available.



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; inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals; pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and radioactive contaminants that can be naturally occurring.

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 (800) 426-4791.



## IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR AQUARIUM OWNERS AND HOME DIALYSIS PATIENTS

To meet USEPA regulations the water supply will contain chlorine. Residents with aquariums or fish ponds should remove the chlorine with water conditioning chemicals or granular activated carbon. Contact your local tropical fish store to determine the best water treatment for your fish. If you are receiving kidney dialysis treatment, please contact your doctor or dialysis technician to be sure that the equipment is adequately removing the chlorine.

## OTHER PRECAUTIONS THE PUBLIC SHOULD CONSIDER

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Definitions:

**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.

**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 (USEPA).

**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.

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

**Primary Drinking Water Standard** - Primary MCLs, specific treatment techniques adopted in lieu of primary MCLs, and monitoring and reporting requirements for MCLs that are specific in regulations.

For more Definitions see bottom of page 2.

Table 1: Primary Standards and Unregulated Contaminants						
Constituent	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detections	Average	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
1,1-Dichloroethylene (DCE) (ppb)	6	10	0-0.8	0.04	2011	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (ppb)	5	.06	0-3.4	0.7	2011	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides, Insecticides, and Herbicides</b>						
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppt)	200	1.7	0-30	2.4	2011	Runoff/leaching from former use of nematocide on soybeans, cotton, vineyards, tomatoes, and tree fruit.
Heptachlor (ppb)	10	8	0-10	1	2011	Residue of banned insecticide.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	0-0.440	0.013	2011	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	0-.005	0.0002	2011	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	0-0.240	0.124	2011	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2.0	1.0	0-0.1	.0054	2011	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	45	45	0-36.8	17.6	2011	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
NITRATE: 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.						
<b>Radionuclides</b>						
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	3.1-11	6.5	2010 & 2011	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	0-9.25	4.7	2010 & 2011	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Unregulated Contaminants NL</b>						
Boron (ppb)	n/a	1000	70-140	92	2011	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection Precursors</b>						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	80	n/a	2.8-6.9	4.85	2011	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (ppm)	4.0	4	0.28 - 0.42	0.36	2011	Disinfectant added for treatment
<b>Table 2: Micro Biological Contaminants</b>						
Constituent	MCL	MCLG or PHG	Sampling Frequency	Amount Detected	Possible Source	
Total Coliform Bacteria	Presence in less than 5% of monthly samples	0	15 samples per week	0.33% of samples taken in 2011.	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 bacteria may be present. If a representative system sample tests present for Coliforms, the sample is then retested. The sample is retaken up-stream, down-stream and at the original sample location to confirm and/or identify initial result. If the result remains present, a notification process is implemented and the effected area will be flushed and resampled until Bacteria Coliform sample results are absent.						
<b>Table 3: Lead and Copper (2010)</b>						
Constituent	# of samples collected	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile level detected	# of sites exceeding AL	Action Level	MCLG	Possible Source
Lead (ppb)	38	0	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	38	0.17	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
LEAD: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant woman and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Porterville 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 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 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead</a> .						
<b>Table 4: Secondary Standards - Aesthetic Standards</b>						
Constituent	MCL	Range of detections	Average	Year Sampled		
Chloride (Cl) (ppm)	500	7.9 -27	14.2	2011		
Color (units)	15	1 - 5	1.2	2011		
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	14 - 32	24	2011		
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	1600	251 - 521	384	2011		
Sulfate (SO4) (ppm)	500	6.5 - 22	12.5	2011		
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	1000	120 - 305	214	2011		
Total Hardness as (CaCO3) (ppm)	n/a	100 - 210	150	2011		
Turbidity (Lab) (units)	5	0.1 - 4.1	0.37	2011		

0 - indicates a value less than the detection reporting level MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal pCi/l - pico Curies per liter  
 PHG - Public Health Goal ppm - parts per million (a ppm is equivalent to 1 second in 11.5 days) MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level  
 ppb - parts per billion ppt - parts per trillion AL - Action Level NL - Notification Level nd - not detectable at testing limits