

## ABOUT NITRATE

Although nitrate in your drinking water never exceeds the MCL of 45 milligrams per liter (mg/l), nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/l is a health risk for infants younger 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 mg/l 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 for advice from your health care provider.

## ABOUT 1,4-DIOXANE

1,4-Dioxane is a chemical primarily used as an industrial stabilizer to enhance performance of solvents in many manufacturing processes. It is found in food (shrimp, chicken, tomatoes, etc.), food additives, and ordinary household products (cosmetics, deodorants, and shampoos). The USEPA has classified 1,4-dioxane as a probable human carcinogen. There is no federal or state MCL for 1,4-dioxane in drinking water; however, CDPH established a Notification Level (NL) and a reporting limit in 1998 of 3 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ). A Notification Level is a health-based advisory level established by CDPH for chemicals in drinking water that lack MCLs. The City has been required to test several of its wells and treated water for 1,4-Dioxane since 2004 and has never exceeded the initial NL of 3  $\mu\text{g/l}$ . In 2010, CDPH revised the 1,4-dioxane NL and reporting limit lower to 1  $\mu\text{g/l}$  resulting in detections in some City wells that exceeded the new 1  $\mu\text{g/l}$  NL. In 2013, 1,4-dioxane levels in City wells ranged from non-detect to 1.6  $\mu\text{g/l}$ . We believe the 1,4-dioxane found in these wells originated from discharge from industrial sources. The City's 1,4-dioxane level are below the CDPH's response level, the level at which removal of the source from service, is now 35  $\mu\text{g/l}$ .

## CONTINUING EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency and directed all necessary actions to prepare for the drought conditions. All urban water users should continue to increase their water conservation activities in an effort to reduce their individual water use. The City is committed to encouraging efficient water use. Programs, incentives, and informational assistance are offered to customers to help you implement water conserving measures at your home or place of business. Water conservation is a vital component of everyday life in southern California. People can look to themselves and make behavioral changes that may seem small, but in the long run make more efficient use of our valuable resource- water.



City of Monterey Park  
Public Works Water Division  
320 W. Newmark Ave.  
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### WANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

There's a wealth of information on the internet about Drinking Water Quality and water issues in general. Some good sites – both local and national – to begin your own research are:

**City of Monterey Park:** [www.montereypark.ca.gov](http://www.montereypark.ca.gov)

**San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority:** [www.wqa.com](http://www.wqa.com)

**Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster:** [www.watermaster.org](http://www.watermaster.org)

**Water Education Foundation:** [www.watereducation.org](http://www.watereducation.org)

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California:**  
[www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com)

**California Department of Public Health:**  
[www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater)

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:**  
[www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)

**California Department of Water Resources:**  
[www.water.ca.gov](http://www.water.ca.gov)

**Water Conservation Tips:** [www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com)



## PUBLIC WORKS WATER DIVISION

# 2013 WATER QUALITY REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

**WE WANT YOU TO KNOW** that water quality continues to be a main priority with the City of Monterey Park (City). This report provides important information about your water quality, and we encourage you to read it and to contact us with any questions you may have.

The state and federal government require that this annual water quality report be made available to every customer to ensure you are kept informed regarding the quality of your water. The City continues to meet, and in many cases, exceed all drinking water requirements. In 2013, we conducted thousands of water quality tests to ensure that your water is clean and safe to drink.

In 2013, the City tested for additional contaminants that have known health risks but are not yet regulated in drinking water by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) or the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA and CDPH determine where certain contaminants occur and whether new regulations need to be established for those contaminants. Also, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster tests the City's wells annually as an early warning system for several industrial contaminants that have already contaminated other parts of the Main San Gabriel Basin. The City will continue to maintain a high-quality, reliable water supply. We would appreciate your support in using this valuable and precious resource wisely.

For more information or questions about this report, please contact the Water Utility Manager at 626-307-1295.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para más información ó traducción, favor de contactar El Gerente de Servicio de Agua (626-307-1295).

此份有關你的食水報告,內有重要資料和訊息,請找他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

Chris Arriola,  
Interim Water Utility Manager

## HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN WATER DECISIONS?



Regularly scheduled meetings of the City Council are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at 320 West Newmark Avenue, Monterey Park. These meetings provide an opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of your water.

## WHERE DOES MY DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

The City's water supply comes from production wells located in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin (Main Basin). As a result of historical industrial discharge, groundwater in some areas of the Main Basin is contaminated. The City has worked with San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority to clean up groundwater contamination. Several water treatment facilities, which include an air stripper, an ion exchange unit and three separate granular activated carbon units were constructed by the City to remove contaminants in the groundwater.

## WHAT ARE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the CDPH prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water standards established by USEPA and CDPH set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **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 as is economically and technologically feasible.
- **Secondary MCLs** are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial pathogens.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Notification Level (NL):** An advisory level which, if exceeded, requires the drinking water system to notify the governing body of the local agency in which users of the drinking water reside (i.e. city council, county board of supervisors).

## WHAT IS A WATER QUALITY GOAL?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and CDPH have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

- **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 USEPA.
- **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 Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment 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.

## WHAT CONTAMINANTS MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCES OF 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. 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.
- **Radioactive contaminants** that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.

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).

## ARE THERE ANY PRECAUTIONS THE PUBLIC SHOULD CONSIDER?

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, the 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).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious 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 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://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>.

## WHAT IS IN MY DRINKING WATER

Your drinking water is tested by certified professional water system operators and certified laboratories to ensure its safety. The City of Monterey Park Public Works Department routinely tests drinking water from its wells, treatment facilities, and distribution system pipes for bacterial and chemical contaminants. The chart in this report shows the average and range of concentrations of the constituents tested in your drinking water during 2013 or from the most recent tests. The State allows the City to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants in groundwater do not change frequently. Some of our data, although representative, are more than one year old. The chart lists all the contaminants detected in your drinking water that have federal and state drinking water standards. Detected unregulated contaminants of interest are also included. We are proud to report that during 2013, the drinking water provided by the City to your home met or surpassed all federal and state drinking water standards. We remain dedicated to providing you with a reliable supply of high-quality drinking water.

## DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for the City was completed in December 2002. The assessment concluded that the City's sources are considered vulnerable to the following activities or facilities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: fleet/truck/bus terminals, utility stations maintenance areas, gasoline stations, dry cleaners, known contaminant plumes, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, plastics/synthetics producers, chemical/petroleum processing/storage. The sources are also considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: leaking underground storage tanks and transportation corridors. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the City of Monterey Park Water Department at 320 West Newmark Avenue, Monterey Park, California 91754. You may request a summary of the assessment by contacting the Water Utility Manager at 626-307-1295.



## WATER CONSERVATION FACTS

It is easy to forget that Southern California is mainly desert. For years, we have depended on imported water. While water conservation tools have advanced over the past several years, it's still up to each one of us to save water when we can. Here are some easy things you can do around the house to help save water:

**SAVES  
0-25  
GALLONS/DAY**

- Take Shorter Showers
- Install Flow Restrictors and fix leaks in indoor & outdoor plumbing sprinkler systems
- Turn off the water when washing dishes, brushing teeth or shaving
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, driveways and sidewalks



**SAVES  
25-50  
GALLONS/DAY**



- Use a shut-off nozzle & water bucket to wash your car
- Water lawn and gardens in cooler morning or evening hours
- Install low volume toilets and water-saving clothes and dish washers
- Cover pools & spas



- Install "smart" sprinkler controllers, drip irrigation systems, and rotating sprinkler nozzles
- Landscape with drought-tolerant plants
- Support efforts to expand water recycling and use of reclaimed water
- Run only full loads in dish and clothes washers

**SAVES  
50+  
GALLONS/DAY**



## CITY OF MONTEREY PARK 2013 DRINKING WATER QUALITY TABLE

CONSTITUENT AND (UNITS)	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG or (MCLG) [MRDLG]	DLR	DRINKING WATER QUALITY			TYPICAL ORIGINS
				Results (a)	Range (Min-Max)	Most Recent Sampling	
<b>PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Health-Related Standards</b>							
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria (b)		(0)	n/a	During March 2013, 1 of 75 samples (about 1% of total samples collected) was Total Coliform-positive.			Naturally present in the environment
<b>DISINFECTANT AND DISINFECTION PRODUCTS (c)</b>							
Chlorine Residual (mg/l)	[4]	[4]	n/a	.6	0.28 - 1.32	Weekly	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (µg/l)	60	n/a	1-2	1	ND 2.4	Quarterly	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (µg/l)	80	n/a	1	7	ND 8.1	Quarterly	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>							
Arsenic (µg/l) (d)	10	0.004	2	<2	ND - 4.8	Weekly	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (mg/l) (e)	AL=1.3	0.3	0.05	0.29	--	2012	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system
Fluoride (mg/l)	2	1	0.1	0.67	0.45 - 0.85	2013	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (µg/l) (e)	AL=15	0.2	5	ND	--	2012	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system
Nitrate as NO3 (mg/l) (f)	45	45	2	18	12 - 27	Weekly	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use
<b>RADIOACTIVITY</b>							
Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/l)	15	(0)	3	3.6	ND - 8.8	2013	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/l)	20	0.43	1	4	ND - 9.5	2013	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards, Not Health-Related (e)</b>							
Chloride (mg/l)	500	n/a	n/a	22	13 - 36	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Copper (mg/l)	1	0.3	0.05	<0.05	ND - 0.053	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Manganese (µg/l)	50	n/a	20	<20	ND - 41	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3	n/a	1	1	1	2013	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Sulfate (mg/l) (g)	500	n/a	0.5	79	45 - 160	Weekly	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600	n/a	n/a	580	310 - 860	2013	Substances that form ions in water
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)	1,000	n/a	n/a	370	170 - 560	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5	n/a	0.1	0.26	ND - 0.5	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
<b>OTHER CONSTITUENTS OF INTEREST/UNREGULATED</b>							
Alkalinity, total (mg/l as CaCO3)	n/a	n/a	n/a	180	110 - 240	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Boron (mg/l)	NL=1	n/a	0.1	<0.1	ND - 0.14	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Calcium (mg/l)	n/a	n/a	n/a	59	14 - 100	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Chromium, hexavalent (µg/l)	n/a	0.02	1	3.5	ND - 6.2	2013	Natural deposits or discharge from industrial activities
1,4-Dioxane (µg/l)	NL=1	n/a	1	<1	ND - 1.6	2013	Discharge from industrial sources
Hardness as CaCO3 (mg/l)	n/a	n/a	n/a	220	46 - 400	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Hardness as grains per gallon	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	2.7 - 23	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Magnesium (mg/l)	n/a	n/a	n/a	18	1.6 - 34	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) (ng/l)	NL=10	3	n/a	<2	ND - 2.5	2013	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
pH (pH units)	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.6	7.3 - 8.2	2013	Hydrogen ion concentration
Sodium (mg/l)	n/a	n/a	n/a	39	25 - 57	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Vanadium (µg/l)	NL=50	n/a	3	8.2	ND - 34	2013	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

## NOTES

<b>AL</b>	Action Level
<b>DLR</b>	Detection Limit for the Purposes of Reporting
<b>MCL</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level
<b>MCLG</b>	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
<b>µg/l</b>	parts per billion or micrograms per liter
<b>mg/l</b>	parts per million or milligrams per liter
<b>ng/l</b>	parts per trillion or nanograms per liter
<b>µmho/cm</b>	micromhos per centimeter
<b>MRDL</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
<b>MRDLG</b>	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
<b>n/a</b>	No Applicable Limit
<b>ND</b>	Not Detected at DLR
<b>NL</b>	Notification Level
<b>NTU</b>	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
<b>pCi/l</b>	picoCuries per liter
<b>PHG</b>	Public Health Goal
<b>"&lt;"</b>	Detected but the average is less than the indicated DLR

(a) The results reported in the table are average concentrations of the constituents detected in your drinking water during 2013 or from the most recent tests, except for Total Coliforms, TTHMs, HAA5, Chlorine Residual, Lead, and Copper which are described below.

(b) During March 2013 and May 2013, 75 total samples were collected each month for total coliform analysis. Only one sample in March 2013 and one sample in May 2013 tested positive for total coliform, which was about 1% of the total samples collected during each month. However, all follow-up confirmation samples were negative for Total Coliforms and Fecal/E. coli bacteria.

(c) Samples were collected in the distribution system. The running annual average is reported as "Results" while the maximum and minimum of the individual results are reported as "Range."

(d) The City of Monterey Park tests the Delta Plant drinking water weekly to comply with the CDPH-approved blending plan for Arsenic.

(e) Concentrations are measured at the tap. The 90th percentile concentration is reported in the table. Out of 41 distribution system locations sampled, copper was detected in 29 samples, none of which exceeded the AL for copper; out of 41 distribution system locations sampled, lead was detected in two samples, none of which exceed the AL for lead. The samples were collected in 2012.

(f) The City of Monterey Park tests nitrate weekly at all three treatment plants.

(g) The City of Monterey Park tests sulfate weekly at the Well 5 Treatment Plant and the Wells 9, 12, and 15 Treatment Plant.