



2015 Water Quality Report



Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con aluien que lo entienda bien. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.)



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West Kern Water System

West Kern Water District has provided high-quality water service to the incorporated cities of Taft and Maricopa, together with the Westside communities of South Taft, Taft Heights, Ford City, Valley Acres, Dustin Acres, Tupman, Fellows, Derby Acres, and McKittrick since 1959. To ensure a reliable and high quality water supply, the District continually maintains and upgrades facilities.

Water Source:

West Kern's water supply is obtained from 13 groundwater wells located in the northeast corner of the district in the underflow area of the Kern River Basin and from an area north and adjacent to the State of California's Tule Elk Reserve. This water travels from the well field through a 36" transmission pipeline to our Station A facility where it is treated with chlorine before being distributed to 306 miles of pipeline, 26 above ground storage tanks, and 15 booster pump stations.

Public Participation:

If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns, or require further information regarding this report please contact Wendy Adams-Rosenberger at (661) 763-3151 or through the District's webpage at www.wkwd.org.

In addition, West Kern Water District Board of Directors meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the District Board Room located at 800 Kern Street, Taft. Meeting agendas are posted at the District office as well as on the District's website and the public is encouraged to attend.



Drinking Water Source Assessment:

An assessment of the drinking water sources for West Kern Water District was completed in May 2001. The sources are considered the most vulnerable during artificial recharge activities in spreading basins, but these activities have not been associated with any detected contaminants. A copy of the completed assessment may be viewed at the District office at 800 Kern St., Taft, or you may also request a copy be mailed to you by contacting Wendy Adams-Rosenberger at (661) 763-3151 ext. 110.

Water Hardness

Water “hardness” is a measure of the amount of minerals (generally calcium, magnesium, and carbonate) it contains. Water is considered **soft** if its hardness is less than 75 parts per million (ppm), **moderately hard** at 75 to 150 ppm, **hard** at 150 to 300 ppm, and **very hard** at 300 ppm or higher.

The current water quality table for your water shows an average hardness of 106 ppm.

Hard water is generally not a health concern, but it can have an impact on how well soap lathers and is significant for some industrial and manufacturing processes. Hard water may also lead to mineral buildup in pipes, water heaters, and swamp coolers.

Some people with hard water choose to buy a water softener for aesthetic reasons. However, some water softeners add salt to the water, which can cause problems at wastewater treatment plants. Additionally, people on low-sodium diets are cautioned that water softeners may increase the sodium content of the water.

Turbidity

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Possible Contaminants

All 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791.)

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs & wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, 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 & bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts & metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, and those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders; some elderly people; and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at (800-426-4791.)

About Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. West Kern Water District delivers water to your meter that meets all water quality standards for lead, but your home plumbing can affect water quality. 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 the water for drinking or cooking. If you do so, be sure to capture the flushed water in a bucket and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested by a private lab. 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCL's protect public health and are set as close to the PHGs or MCLGs as are economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs relate to 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and allow a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL)

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other required action by the water provider.

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.

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.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS)

MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring, reporting, 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 EPA without regard to cost or available detection and treatment technologies.

Notification Level (NL)

A health-based advisory level for an unregulated contaminant in drinking water. It is used by the Department of Drinking Water (DDW) to provide guidance to drinking water systems.

Treatment Technique (TT)

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Water Table Information

West Kern Water tests your water for more contaminants than are shown in the table. This table lists only those contaminants that were detected.

In the table, water quality test results are divided into two major sections "Primary Drinking Water Standards" and "Secondary Drinking Water Standards and Unregulated Compounds." Primary standards protect public health by limiting the levels of certain constituents in drinking water. Secondary standards are set for substances that don't impact health but could affect the water's taste, odor, or appearance. Some unregulated substances (hardness and sodium, for example) are included for your information.

TABLE KEY

N/A	not applicable
ND	non detected
NTU	nephelometric turbidity unit
mg/l	milligrams per liter (ppm – parts per million)
ug/l	micrograms per liter (ppb – parts per billion)
µS/cm	measure of specific conductance

2015 Water Quality Table

Detection of Contaminants with Primary Drinking Water Standards

Radiological	Year Tested	Unit	MCL (SMCL)	PHG (MCLG)	Exceeded Standard?	Range	WKWD Average	Typical Source of Substance
Gross alpha	2014-2015	pCi/l	15	(0)	No	0 to 28.4	9.7	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	2014-2015	pCi/l	20	0.43	No	0.26 to 19.4	9.8	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Chemicals	Year Tested	Unit	MCL (SMCL)	PHG (MCLG)	Exceeded Standard?	Range	WKWD Average	Typical Source of Substance
Arsenic ¹	2015	ug/L	10	0.004	No	ND-9	2.84	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	2013-2015	ug/L	1	2	No	ND-60	16.7	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	2013	ug/L	4	(100)	No	ND-3	0.3	Erosion of natural deposits
Hexavalent chromium (Chrome 6)	2013	ug/L	10	0.02	No	ND-3.3	0.83	Discharge from electroplating factories, refractory production, chemical synthesis, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2013-2015	mg/L	2	1	No	ND-0.23	0.3	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as nitrate) ²	2015	mg/L	45	45	No	ND-34	1.9	Runoff and leaching fertilizer use
Disinfection Byproducts	Year Tested	Unit	MCL (SMCL)	PHG (MCLG)	Exceeded Standard?	Range	WKWD Average	Typical Source of Substance
Total haloacetic acids	2015	ug/L	60	NA	No	ND-44	4.15	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total trihalomethanes	2015	ug/L	80	NA	No	40-125	30	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Disinfectant Residual	2015	mg/L	4	4	No	0.14-0.23	0.17	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Microbiological	Year Tested	Unit	MCL (SMCL)	PHG (MCLG)	Exceeded Standard?	Highest Monthly		Typical Source of Substance
Total coliform (systems with >40 samples/month) (Total Coliform Rule)	2015	positive samples	5%	(0)	No	0.10%		Naturally present in the environment

Sampling Results Showing Lead & Copper Detection

Metals	Year Tested	Unit	AL	PHG (MCLG)	Exceeded Standard?	90th Percentile	Samples >AL	Typical Source of Substance
Copper	2015	mg/L	1.3	0.3	No	0.05	0	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2015	mg/L	0.015	0.2	No	0.00132	0	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

¹While your drinking water meets the federal and state standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standards balance the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects, such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

²While you drinking water meets the standard for nitrate, it does contain small levels of nitrate. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. If you are caring for an infant or you are pregnant and concerned about the current nitrate levels, you should seek advice from your health care provider.

2015 Water Quality Table (Continued)

Detection of Contaminants with Secondary Drinking Water Standards

Inorganic Chemicals	Year Tested	Unit	MCL (SMCL)	PHG (MCLG)	Exceeded Standard?	Range	WKWD Average	Typical Source of Substance
Chloride	2013-2015	mg/L	500	N/A	No	8-41	45.7	Erosion of natural deposits; seawater influence
Color	2013-2015	NTU	15	N/A	No	ND-5	0.1	Naturally occurring organic matter
Iron	2013-2015	ug/l	300	N/A	No	ND-210	0	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Odor	2013-2015	units	3	N/A	No	ND-210	0	Naturally organic material
Specific Conductance	2013-2015	µS/cm	1600	N/A	No	230-480	516	Substance that forms ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate	2013-2015	mg/L	500	N/A	No	15-45	96.2	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste
Total dissolved solids	2013-2015	mg/L	1000	N/A	No	140-590	343	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	2013-2015	NTU	5	N/A	No	ND-0.4	0.2	Soil runoff

Sampling Results for Sodium & Hardness

Inorganic Chemicals	Year Tested	Unit	MCL (SMCL)	PHG (MCLG)	Exceeded Standard?	Range	WKWD Average	Typical Source of Substance
Hardness	2013-2015	mg/L	None	None	No	14-320	106.5	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	2013-2015	mg/L	None	None	No	17-68	69.4	Erosion of natural deposits; seawater influence

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 - December 31, 2015 and may include earlier monitoring data.

Drought News

Dear Water Customer,

I am writing to once again thank you for your continued efforts to use water efficiently.

Due to a better than average water year, Governor Brown has somewhat relaxed California's conservation mandates. The purpose of this letter is to explain these changes.

Although no longer required, the District **suggests** continuing to follow these commonsense water saving tips:

- A. Water outdoor landscapes no more than three times a week.
- B. Water outdoor landscapes only in the evening or early morning, to avoid evaporation.
- C. Do not drain swimming pools, unless necessary for health and safety.
- D. As a reminder replacing landscapes with Drought Tolerant plants are an exceptional way to save water. West Kern water has given examples with our own Xeriscape Project and can assist you with any questions you may have.

California's conservation mandates continue to require the following:

- A. Cars may only be washed with hoses that have an automatic shut-off nozzle. Shut-off nozzles are available from the District **free** of charge;
- B. Water cannot be used to clean sidewalks or driveways unless there is a health and safety issue;
- C. Outdoor landscapes may not be watered in any way that causes runoff;
- D. Outdoor landscapes may not be watered at all for two days after any measurable rainfall.

The District continues to offer rebates for water efficient toilets and washing machines. In addition, water audits are available upon request. The purpose of these audits is to assist our customers in identifying ways to use water more efficiently around the home. Audits are offered on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please call us at 661 763-3151 ext. 130 if you are interested.

Sincerely,

Harry O. Starkey
General Manager

Noticias de Sequia

Agua Estimado cliente,

Escribo una vez más gracias por sus continuos esfuerzos para usar el agua eficientemente.

Debido a un mejor año promedio del agua, gobernador Brown ha relajado un poco de conservación de mandatos de California. El propósito de esta carta es para explicar estos cambios.

El distrito sugiere (no obligatoria) las siguientes acciones:

Al aire libre riego aunque ya no es necesario, el distrito sugiere continuar a seguir estos consejos de ahorro de agua por sentido común:

- A. Agua al aire libre paisajes no más de tres veces a la semana.
- B. Paisajes al aire libre de agua sólo en la tarde o temprano en la mañana, para evitar la evaporación.
- C. Desagüe piscinas , a menos que sea necesario para seguridad y salud .
- D. Como un recordatorio, reemplazando áreas encespedadas con plantas tolerantes a la sequía es una excelente manera de conservar el agua. West Kern completó recientemente un proyecto sencillo en nuestra oficina que lo demuestra. Estaremos encantados de ayudarle con cualquier pregunta relacionada con esta aproximación al paisajismo.

Los mandatos de conservación de California continúan y requiere lo siguiente;

- A. Coches sólo pueden ser lavados con mangueras que tienen una boquilla de cierre automática. Boquillas de cierre están disponibles en el distrito gratis de cargo.
- B. Agua no puede utilizarse para limpiar las aceras o calzadas, a menos que haya un problema de salud y seguridad.
- C. Paisajes al aire libre no pueden ser regados en cualquier manera que causa escurrimiento.
- D. Paisajes al aire libre no pueden ser regados por dos días después de cualquier lluvia que se puede medir.

El distrito continúa ofreciendo descuentos para baños eficientes de agua y lavadoras. Además, agua auditorías están disponibles bajo solicitud. El objetivo de estas auditorías es ayudar a nuestros clientes en la identificación de formas de usar el agua más eficientemente en el hogar. Auditorías están disponible en orden de llegada. Por favor llámenos al 661 763-3151 ext. 130 si está interesado.

Atentamente,

Harry O. Starkey
Gerente General



P.O. Box 1105
Taft, CA 93268



USE WATER WISELY

California is in a historic drought, and the State Water Resources Control Board, along with the Governor, has adopted regulations to make water use more efficient. West Kern has implemented a water conservation program that includes audits, rebates, kits, and other tools to help our customers save water. Visit www.wkwd.org for details and additional information on the drought, water conservation programs and water use restrictions.

West Kern thanks you for taking the time to learn more about your water quality.