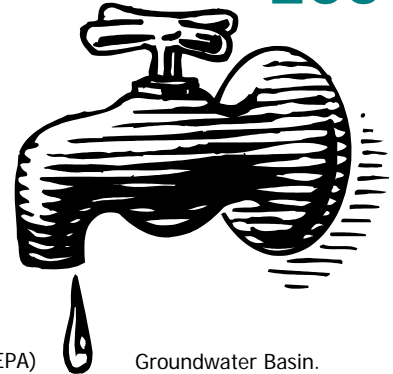


Drinking Water Quality Report

CITY OF HEMET WATER DEPARTMENT

2007



The City of Hemet is pleased to provide our customers with this information about the quality of our drinking water. This annual report tells you where our water comes from, what our tests show about it, and other information. The safety of your water supply is our top priority.

About Our Water

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 deliver to their customers a brief annual water quality report.

In 2007, 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.

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

Groundwater 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 as needed to supplement our water supply.

Questions?

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

Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Hemet water system 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 not associated with any detected contaminants: sewer collection systems, a fire station, high density housing, and transportation corridors or road right of ways.

A copy of the complete source assessment report is available for review at the City of Hemet Water Department. To review this report, contact Ron Proze, City of Hemet Water Superintendent at (951) 765-3710.

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ESPAÑOL - Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua de beber. Favor de leerlo o hablar con alguien que lo entienda bien. Para asistencia en español llame 765-3710.

Public Participation Opportunity

The Hemet City Council meets twice each month on the second Tuesday at 1:00 PM and on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 PM 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).

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) 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. In 2007, the City of Hemet collected 572 bacteriological samples to test for

the presence of bacteria, including total coliform bacteria, fecal coliform, and *E. coli*. None of these samples tested positive for these contaminants. Chlorine is added to the water and a slight "residual" of 0.4 parts per million (ppm) is maintained to eliminate any bacteria that may enter the system.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which 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, that 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, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil /gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the State 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.

Important Health Information

Arsenic: While your drinking water meets the current standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 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.

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 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 advice from your health care provider. All high nitrate wells in our system are sampled monthly and the water from these wells is blended to meet Federal and State standards. The average nitrate level in our system is 16 mg/L, which is well below the maximum contaminant level standard of 45 mg/L established by the USEPA and State Department of Public Health.

Trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP): California Department of Public Health (Department) describes 1,2,3-TCP as having various industrial uses and historic pesticide uses, with the primary possible contaminating activity appearing to be hazardous waste sites. Department drinking water notification level for 1,2,3-TCP, first established in 1999, is 0.005 micrograms per liter (µg/L). The average level of 1,2,3-TCP in our system was 0.03 µg/L (ppb) in 2007. Some people who use water containing 1,2,3-TCP in excess of the notification level over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer, based on studies in laboratory animals.

2007 WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

AL	Regulatory Action Level
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
Micromhos	A measure of conductivity (electric current in water)
NC	Not Collected
ND	Not Detected
NS	No Standard
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 Protection Agency.

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.

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

Microbiological Contaminants

Total Coliform Bacteria	Sample	MCL = More than 5.0% of monthly samples positive		572 samples collected; 0 samples positive		NO	2007	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present.
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Radioactive Contaminants

Gross Alpha particle activity	pCi/L	15	NS	1.7	ND-3.5	NO	2007	Erosion of natural deposits.
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Inorganic Contaminants

Aluminum	ppb	1000	600	16	ND-140	NO	2005-2006	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Arsenic	ppb	10	4	0.8	ND-4.5	NO	2005-2006	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass/electronics production wastes.
Barium	ppb	1000	2000	12	ND-110	NO	2005-2006	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	0.6	0.2-2.0	NO	2005-2006	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (NO3)	ppm	45	45	16	1.8-31	NO	2005-2006	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.
Selenium	ppb	50	50	7	ND-33	NO	2005-2006	Discharge from petroleum, glass, metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines/chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive).

Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors

Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	Single Sample Results: 5.2		NO	2005	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. Some people who use water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
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SECONDARY STANDARDS - Aesthetic Standards Established by California Department of Health Services

Iron	ppb	300	NS	11	ND-100	NO	2005-2006	Leaching from natural sources; industrial wastes.
Specific Conductance	micromhos	1600	NS	1113	440-1800	NO	2005-2006	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence.
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	NS	688	450-1000	NO	2005-2006	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.

METALS - As a by-product of corrosion of consumer's plumbing

Copper	ppb	AL = 1300	170	90th percentile of 30 samples: 210 ppb		NO	2004*	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. 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 and copper monitoring was not completed in 2007. Monitoring for lead and copper is scheduled to take place in summer 2008.
Lead	ppb	AL = 15	2	90th percentile of 30 samples: ND		NO	2004*	

OTHER CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS - Unregulated, for monitoring only

NOTIFICATION LEVEL								
Boron	ppb		1000	998	ND-5500	N/A	2005-2006	
1,2,3-Trichloropropane	ppb		0.005	0.03	0-0.17	N/A	2005-2006	
Vanadium	ppb		50	7.1	ND-57	N/A	2005-2006	

ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENTS ANALYZED

Hardness	ppm		NS	260	78-440	N/A	2005-2006	
pH	pH units		NS	7.8	7-8.5	N/A	2005-2006	
Potassium	ppm		NS	6.4	3.7-11	N/A	2005-2006	
Sodium	ppm		NS	137	73-330	N/A	2005-2006	

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**



"Small changes in our daily lives can make a big difference in protecting our natural resources."

The San Jacinto River Watershed Council

Water Conservation

An effective way to minimize environmental damage and promote a safe and reliable water supply is through conservation. This is particularly important for City of Hemet water customers since all of our drinking water comes from local groundwater.

Water-conserving efforts add up. Reducing our water use will increase the

availability and quality of our local water resources.

YOU can do your part by implementing some of the suggestions below. This information was obtained from the [Guidebook for Living in the San Jacinto Watershed](#), published by the San Jacinto River Watershed Council. Learn more about the Council at www.sawpa.org/sjrw/

ADDITIONAL SOURCES FOR WATER CONSERVATION IDEAS:

California Urban Water Conservation Council
www.cuwcc.org

Metropolitan Water District
www.bewaterwise.com

H₂OUSE Water Saver Home
www.H2ouse.org

What You Can Do Inside Your Home

- ◆ Replace high volume flush toilets. Savings: up to 8,500 gallons per year for the average single-family household.
- ◆ Use a low-flow showerhead. Savings: more than 14,600 gallons per household
- ◆ When it's time for a new washing machine or dishwasher, buy a water-saving model. Water-wise machines use 1/3 less water and half the energy, and require less detergent and washing additives.
- ◆ Fix all leaky faucets and plumbing joints.
- ◆ Run your dishwasher and clothes washer only when fully loaded.

What You Can Do Outside Your Home

- ◆ Consider using a weather-based irrigation controller that irrigates according to historic or real-time weather patterns in your neighborhood.
- ◆ During the winter, turn your controller off and water only when winter rains are infrequent.
- ◆ During the hotter and drier seasons, water less frequently and more deeply to encourage stronger, healthier plants.
- ◆ Check for broken and misaligned sprinkler heads often. This problem causes excessive runoff and landscape failures.
- ◆ Lawns are very thirsty. Use them for functional areas only.
- ◆ Consider using native plants best adapted to the southern California climate.
- ◆ Use drip and low-volume irrigation for garden beds and pots. Group plants with similar water needs.
- ◆ Sweep paths & driveways rather than using a hose.
- ◆ Place mulch and clippings from your own garden around your plants and trees to reduce evaporation and keep the roots cooler.
- ◆ Do not cut your lawn too low—taller grass reduces evaporation.
- ◆ Water your yard at cooler and less windy times of the day to reduce water loss through evaporation. Early morning is best.



The [2007 Drinking Water Quality Report](#) is produced by:

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