



FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Newsletter

NUMBER 56

JUNE 2016

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Monitoring Data & Test Results from Calendar Year 2015

A message from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW): In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the DDW prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The DDW regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

While Fern Valley Water District (FVWD) works hard to ensure that our water is safe and pleasing for our customers, all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

This yearly report describes where your water comes from, what is in it, and how its quality compares with the regulatory standards set by the Division of Drinking Water.

OUR PRECIOUS WATER SUPPLY is a function of the amount of precipitation that falls locally in the watershed. The District produced a total of 38.15 million gallons of water from our surface water and groundwater supplies: Under licenses issued by the California State Water Resources Control Board, 16.13 million gallons or 26.7% of the water delivered to you last year was obtained from Tahquitz Creek; Strawberry Creek remained dry throughout the year. These diversion sites are located at an elevation high above Fern Valley. We filter this water through our surface water treatment plant. The filtered water then enters a granular activated carbon adsorption facility, further removing a wide variety of potential contaminants. Chlorine disinfectant is added to protect you against microbial contaminants. A Source Water Assessment of FVWD's surface water supply was completed in 2012. A copy is available at the District office.

Groundwater supplies (Wells): When there is insufficient surface water supply, the District supplements your water supply from a combination of 11 vertical groundwater wells. Last year 22.01 million gallons or 73.3% of the water delivered to you was from wells. This deep well water is obtained from fractured rock, not from a large underground aquifer. An assessment of the drinking water sources for FVWD was completed in December 2002. The sources are most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: low density septic systems, campgrounds/recreational areas, and surface water streams. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the District office. You may also request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting Office Manager, Jessica Priefer at (951) 659-2200.

The well water is aerated to remove carbon dioxide (CO₂), a corrosive gas naturally present in groundwater. The aeration process removes the CO₂, which in turn elevates the pH producing water that is less corrosive to the District's water system and your household plumbing. This reduces the risk of lead and copper from leaching into the water from your plumbing. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health 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. Fern Valley Water District 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://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ❖ **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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, which 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 and gas production and mining activities.

Informational Statement

The sources of drinking water in 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. Water industry professionals are dedicated to removing any materials that might prove harmful to customers. FVWD uses effective, multi-barrier treatment processes to ensure our water continues to meet state and federal standards.

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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The following are definitions and notations used in this report:

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.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (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 (CAL EPA).

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).

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

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfection 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 Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of 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.

None: The USEPA and CAL EPA, have not set a Public Health Goal or Maximum Contaminant Level for this substance.

Not detectable (ND): At testing limit.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): A measurement of the cloudiness of water.

Parts per million (ppm): Or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Parts per billion (ppb): Or micrograms per liter (ug/L).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of radiation.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): Disinfection Byproducts locational annual running average.

FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Monitoring Data & Test Results From Calendar Year 2015

All water produced and delivered by the District meets or exceeds standards for public drinking water established by the DDW and the USEPA.

In the following tables, you will find detailed information about the water that comes from your tap. Your water is regularly tested for more than 120 chemicals and other substances, as well as radioactivity. Only substances that were detected are listed in the tables. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2015. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be from more than one year of sample results.

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding the quality of your water, please contact Victor Jimenez, General Manager at (951) 659-2200.

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Parameter	Range of Detection	Average	Unit Measurement	MCL	PHG MCLG MRDLG	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Radionuclides (years sampled 2010, 2012, 2015)						
Gross Alpha Activity Groundwater	1.44-7.9	4.428	pCi/L	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium Groundwater	1-8.2	4.758	pCi/L	20	0.43	Erosion of natural deposits

Household Lead and Copper Test Results 2013	No. of Samples Collected	90 th Percentile level detected	Number of sites exceed action level	AL	MCLG	Typical Source in Drinking Water
Lead (ppb)	10	<5	None	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	10	0.22	None	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Range of Detection	Highest LRAA	Unit Measurement	MCL	PHG MCLG MRDLG	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Total Trihalomethanes (THMs)	2.9-8.9	7.2	ppb	80	None	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	3.7-12	8.6	ppb	60	None	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Chlorine Residual	0.45-0.68	0.54	ppm	4.0	As Cl ₂	Disinfectant added for treatment

Sampling Results for Microbiological					
Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of Detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 (in one month)	0	More than 1 positive sample per month	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0 (in the year)	0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste

Deficient monitoring for synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs) for groundwater sources: SOC monitoring consists of collection of a sample once every 9 years for the analysis of atrazine and simazine (runoff from Herbicide used on row crops and along railroad and highway right-of-ways). All sources were last sampled for atrazine and simazine in 2006. Therefore, the District should have sampled for SOC's in 2015. The State Water Resources Control Board has determined that this monitoring deficiency did not result in a risk to public health. The District took immediate action once learning of the monitoring deficiency. As expected, all groundwater monitoring samples for atrazine and simazine continue to be ND (not-detectable).

SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Groundwater (year sampled 2015)

Parameter	Level Detected	Average	Unit Measurement	MCL	PHG MCLG	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Chloride	1.7-3.6	2.84	ppm	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sodium	10-12	11.2	ppm	None	None	Generally found in ground and surface water
Total Hardness	29-48	38.6	ppm	None	None	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	79-110	90.6	ppm	1000	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	0-0.58	0.19	NTU	5	None	Soil runoff
Sulfate	0-1.2	0.64	ppm	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Iron	0-200	40	ppm	300	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

Surface water

Chloride	1.3	1.3	ppm	500	None	Naturally occurring organic materials
Aluminum	0.069	0.069	ppm	1	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Hardness	18	18	ppm	None	None	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	5.2	5.2	ppm	None	None	Generally found in ground and surface water
Sulfate	0.87	0.87	ppm	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Iron	0.12	0.12	ppm	300	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Manganese	0.122	0.122	ppm	0.05	None	Erosion of natural deposits

Sampling Results Showing Treatment of Surface Water Sources

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our surface water filtration system.	
Treatment Technique ^(a) Alternative Technology Filtration	EPD (Environmental Products Division) two stage pressure filter
Turbidity Performance Standards ^(b) (that must be met through the water treatment process)	Turbidity of the filtered water must: 1 – Be less than or equal to 0.2 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month. 2 – Not exceed 1.0 NTU for more than eight consecutive hours. 3 – Not exceed 5.0 NTU at any time.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1.	100%
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year	0.14
Number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements	0

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

(b) Turbidity (measured in NTU) is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Turbidity results which meet performance standards are considered to be in compliance with filtration requirements.

Stage 3

Water Restrictions In Effect

Dear Customer,

On January 17, 2014, the Governor declared a State of Emergency exists throughout California due to severe drought conditions.

On April 17, 2015, Fern Valley Water District Board of Directors declared a Stage 3 Water Shortage Emergency to comply with the Governor's request. The Board's decision is a call for action based on Governor Brown's executive order to redefine water efficiency goals and continue water reduction limiting outside watering to two days per week.

Below is a description of the Water Shortage Emergency Stages and Violations.

Water Conservation Stages. Users of the District's water shall comply with the restrictions established for the applicable Water Conservation Stage as described below. Failure to comply with any mandatory water conservation restrictions shall result in fines and penalties.

- (a) Water Conservation Stage 1. Upon implementation of Water Conservation Stage
 - (1) Users of District water shall prohibit irrigation runoff and shall eliminate water leaks on their property.
 - (2) Users of District water shall voluntarily limit the quantity of water used to that quantity absolutely necessary for domestic and business purposes.
 - (3) Users of District Water shall take all steps necessary to prevent waste of water and to assure that all water is beneficially used to the maximum extent possible.
 - (4) Users of District water shall not wash hard or paved surface areas, including driveways, parking areas, patios, tennis courts, and similar impermeable surfaces, and shall not sprinkle unplanted areas for dust control or other purposes, except to alleviate immediate fire or sanitary hazards.
- (b) Water Conservation Stage 2. Upon implementation of Water Conservation Stage 2, Users of District water shall continue to follow water conservation measures under Water Conservation Stage 1 in addition to the further measures under Water Conservation Stage 2, as follows:
 - (1) Users of District water shall only irrigate outdoor plants and gardens between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. and shall prohibit irrigation runoff.
 - (2) Restaurants shall provide drinking water to patrons only upon request
 - (3) Users of District water may wash automobiles, trucks, trailers, and other types of mobile equipment at any time, but only with a hand-held bucket and a hand-held

hose equipped with an automatic, positive, shut-off nozzle. Such users shall not permit continuous flow during washing and rinsing. Such washings are exempted from these regulations where the health, safety, and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleanings, such as ambulances, garbage trucks, and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.

- (c) Water Conservation Stage 3. Upon implementation of Water Conservation Stage 3, Users of District water shall continue to follow water conservation measures under Water Conservation Stages 1 and 2 in addition to the further measures under Water Conservation Stage 3, as follows:

- (1) Users of District water shall not fill or refill swimming pools, except to replace evaporation losses.
- (2) Users of District water shall not use water from fire hydrants except for emergencies, the maintenance of system water quality, or the delivery of construction water.

Violations: All violations of the water use restrictions and prohibitions set forth herein shall result in the following actions.

- (1) First Violation - Notice of Violation. The General Manager is authorized and directed to issue a written notice of violation to any person who fails or refuses to comply with the water use restrictions set forth herein. The notice shall specify a reasonable period of time in which compliance is to be achieved.
- (2) Second Violation - Excessive Use Charge. For a second violation of the water use restrictions set forth herein, an excessive water use charge shall be imposed. The excessive use charge shall be a fine in the amount of \$100, which shall be added to the water bill for the period in which the violation occurred. Failure to make payment of the entire amount due, including the excessive use charge, shall subject the person to the normal consequences for failure to timely pay a water bill as set forth in the District's Rules and Regulations.
- (3) Third Violation - Extreme Use Charge. For a third violation of the water use restrictions set forth herein, an extreme water use charge shall be imposed. The extreme use charge shall be a fine in the amount of \$200, which shall be added to the water bill for the period in which the third violation occurred. Failure to make payment of the entire amount due, including the extreme use charge, shall subject the person to the normal consequences for failure to timely pay a water bill as set forth in the District's Rules and Regulations.
- (4) Fourth Violation - Termination of Service. For a fourth violation of the water use restrictions set forth herein, the General Manager has the authority to impose an additional fine in the amount of \$200 and to terminate service to the premises involved.

BRIEF SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

Fern Valley Water District was established in 1958 as a California Water District under Section 34000, Division 13 of the California Water Code. The District employs a staff of four, two office personnel and two field operators. Our system consists of approximately 22 miles of pipeline ranging in size from 4 to 12 inches in diameter. We currently have 1,183 service connections, eleven groundwater wells with a total pumping capacity of 320-gpm (gallons per minute), four aeration plants to treat the well water, one 250-gpm surface water treatment plant, and a 250-gpm surface water granular activated carbon adsorption system. Water storage includes five storage reservoirs with a capacity of 4,499,431 gallons for finished water, three reservoirs with a capacity of 2,340,000 gallons for raw or untreated water; the total water storage capacity is 6,839,431 gallons. Because our system is "gravity-feed" we can provide continued service even during short-term power outages and disruptions in supply.

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT



The District would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Steve Erler for his leadership and dedication to the District over the last 22+ years while he has served the Fern Valley community. He will retire at the end of June, drawing to a close a 30 year career in the water industry. Mr. Erler came to the Fern Valley Water District in January 1994, and spent 18 years as General Manager. Over the years, the District has seen many improvements while he was General Manager – the negotiation and purchase of property that has produced three wells, doubling the District's groundwater capacity as well as providing locations for future well sites. The construction of a new maintenance facility on that property, allowing the installation of surface water treatment and GAC treatment plants within the previous maintenance facility building. The District installed four groundwater aeration treatment facilities, and to date, 41,200 linear feet or 7.8 miles of water main have been replaced as part of the District's ongoing pipeline upgrade and replacement program. Mr. Erler has led the Fern Valley Water District to a place where our residents are assured a quality water supply, even in times of drought. He credits the unwavering support of the Board and Staff in accomplishing these goals. Mr. Erler states that it has been an honor and privilege to work for such a great organization.

Our new General Manager is Victor Jimenez and he started in April, working with Staff to familiarize himself with the daily operation of the District and get his bearings of the Idyllwild Community. He comes to us from a 20 year career with the City of El Monte Public Works Department, where he held his most recent position as Water Systems Supervisor. His duties included managing the Water Department, Wastewater Department and the Fleet Maintenance Department and he was very involved with all other aspects of the Public Works operation during his career. He holds his Water Treatment Grade III and Water Distribution Grade III Certificates as well as a Wastewater Certification. Victor would like to stress how pleased he is to join the Staff here at the District and how impressed he is with the entire community. He relocated to his new residence on the hill with his wife of 24 years, Diana, and their youngest daughter Hannah who is a 2016 graduate of Temescal Canyon High School and will be off to college in the near future. Their first child, Christiana, is a recent graduate of FIDM (Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising) in downtown Los Angeles and lives in Culver City where she is pursuing her dreams in the fashion industry, but she looks forward to spending her spare time in Idyllwild.

Public Participation

The general public is welcome to attend the regularly scheduled FVWD's Board of Directors meeting, scheduled for the third Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The meetings are held in the boardroom at the District Office located at 55790 South Circle Drive in Fern Valley. For meeting agendas, or if you have a topic that you would like to put on the Agenda, please contact Office Manager, Jessica Priefer at (951) 659-2200.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

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

FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
55790 SOUTH CIRCLE DRIVE
P.O. BOX 3039
IDYLLWILD, CA 92549

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P O BOX 3039

55790 S. CIRCLE, IDYLLWILD CA 92549

PH: (951) 659-2200 - FAX: (951) 659-0350 - EMAIL fwd@verizon.net - Website: www.fernvalleywater.com

It is our policy to be responsive to our customers' needs, and we are available for emergency assistance 24 hours a day. Our emergency phone number is (951) 659-2200. Our office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.



FVWD