WATER QUALITY REPORT

DELIVERED JUNE 2022 (Based on 2021 data)

A LETTER FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

Building a sustainable tomorrow today

California is experiencing extremely dry conditions, which means serious issues in some parts of the state. While, thanks to the aquifer, our community is not hard hit by the drought, we've always got our eye on sustainability. Desert Water Agency provides incentives to our customers to make saving water easy. These programs are a great way for you to do your part to show support during the drought.

It is our responsibility to protect our community's precious water resources and we need your help to do it. Through our programs for grass removal, smart controllers, water efficient irrigation, EnergyStar washing machines, we can support water conservation together while making improvements to your property.

Our goal as a government agency and utility is to make sure there is water in the Palms Springs area for future generations. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was implemented statewide in 2015 to protect groundwater and require diligent management like we've had in place for decades. We've partnered with our neighbors to develop plans through 2045 and have projected water demands to the year 2070 so we can do our best to keep water safe, reliable and affordable even in the face of longer droughts and climate change.

From those that focus on these planning efforts to the team that collects and analyzes water quality samples – our employees embody the spirit of public service. If you ever have a question about water or need help with your account, just know we're here for you. This report is part of our commitment to transparency. On the following pages, you'll see results from thousands of water quality samples collected in 2021.

If you have any questions regarding this report or our conservation efforts, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Yours in service,

Mark S. Krause

MARK S. KRAUSE
General Manager & Chief Engineer

DESERT WATER

OUR WATER SUPPLY

DESERT WATER AGENCY

Established in 1961, Desert Water Agency (DWA) is a public nonprofit agency and State Water Contractor managing water in a 325-square-mile area that includes parts of Cathedral City, Palm Springs, and Desert Hot Springs, as well as some unincorporated areas of Riverside County. The Agency's responsibility is to provide safe, reliable water to its retail customers while managing water resources throughout its boundary. DWA is guided by an elected board of five community members. Board members make policy decisions as public representatives.

WATER SOURCES

Desert Water Agency's groundwater comes from the Indio Subbasin of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin, a natural reservoir storing water beneath the valley floor. Mountain streams also bring water by way of Chino Creek, Falls Creek, Snow Creek and the Whitewater River. A new surface water filtration plant came online in late 2020 to filter Snow Creek and Falls Creek surface water. Chino Creek operates in accordance with filtration avoidance criteria.

Natural groundwater replenishment is supplemented with Colorado River water, imported via the Colorado River Aqueduct and infiltrated into the groundwater basin through recharge ponds near Windy Point.

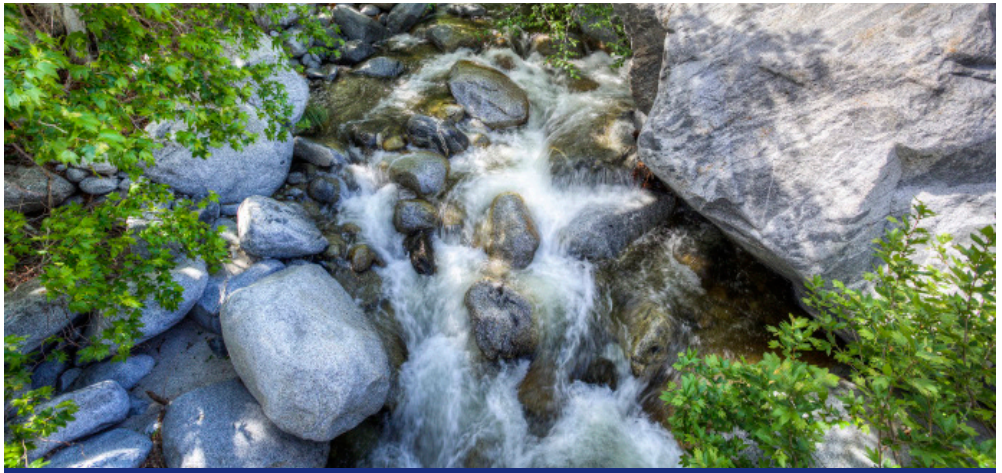
WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Unless otherwise noted, data presented in this report was obtained between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021. Water quality monitoring was performed in accordance with regulations established by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In some cases, the State Water Resources Control Board allows DWA to test for certain contaminants less than once a year, because the Agency's system is not susceptible to these contaminants, or because the levels recorded are expected to change little from year to year.

WATER SOURCE INFORMATION

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.



SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

• Source Water Assessment Plans (SWAPs), last updated 2000-2014, for various sources, are available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

• These sources are considered vulnerable to activities normally associated with residential, commercial and industrial development. However, all water provided by Desert Water Agency meets all U.S. EPA and SWRCB guidelines. To review the SWAPs, please contact our office during regular business hours.

Questions? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Paul Monroy, laboratory director, at (760) 323-4971 ext. 169.

GLOSSARY

Action Level (AL): The level at which the system must undertake a number of additional actions to control corrosion.

Aggressive Index: A calculation used to determine the corrosivity of water in our pipes. Numbers ≤ 10 are considered very aggressive, between 10-12 are moderately aggressive and ≥12 are non-aggressive.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken during the previous four calendar quarters.

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. MCLG's are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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.

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. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Microsiemens Per Centimeter (µS/cm): A measurement of the electrolytes in the water, which determines the ability of the water to conduct electrical current.

Micrograms Per Liter (µg/L): A measure of a contaminant in a known quantity of water. 1 µg/L equals 1 part per billion (see parts per billion).

Milligrams Per Liter (mg/L): A measure of a contaminant in a known quantity of water. 1 mg/L equals 1 part per million (see parts per million).

NA: Not applicable.

Nanograms per Liter (ng/L): A measurement of a contaminant in a known quantity of water. 1ng/L equals 1 part per trillion. (see parts per trillion).

ND: Not detected or below the reporting detection limit.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): A measure of cloudiness due to undissolved solids in the water. We measure turbidity because it is a good indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system and/or water quality.

SAMPLING RESULTS

During the past year we have taken more than 2,550 water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. **The tables below show those contaminants that were detected in the water.** The State allows us to monitor for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. Some of our data, although representative, are more than one year old. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

Substance	Unit of Measure	MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Groundwater Source			Surface Water Source			Violation		Likely source of contamination
				Year Sampled	Amount Detected	Range (Low-High)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected	Range (Low-High)	Yes	No	
Chlorine	mg/L	(4.0 as Cl_2)	[4 as Cl_2]	2021	0.45	ND-2.2	2021	0.78	ND-3.0		x	Drinking water disinfectant added to treatment
Fluoride	mg/L	2.0	1	2019-2021	0.4[1]	ND-0.64	2021	ND	ND		x	Erosion of natural deposits: discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	pCi/L	15	0	2014-2021	6.8	ND-16	2013	ND	ND		x	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	ug/L	60	NONE	2021	9.9[2]	ND	2021	34[2]	17-44		x	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (as N)	mg/L	10	10	2021	0.99	0.3-2.6	2021	ND	ND		x	Runoff/leaching from fertilizer use: leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposit
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)	ug/L	5	0.06	2019-2021	<0.5	ND-0.71[3]	NA	NA	NA		x	Runoff/leaching from natural deposit
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)*	ug/L	80	NONE	2021	16[2]	ND-12	2021	38[2]	33-42		x	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity	NTU	5	NONE	2019-2021	0.2	0.1-0.72	2021	0.31	0.22-0.40		x	Soil runoff
Surface Water Turbidity[4]	NTU	TT=1 NTU	NONE	NA	NA	NA	2021	0.31	0.07-0.31		x	Soil runoff
Surface Water Turbidity[9]	NTU	TT= 95% of samples < 0.2 NTU	NONE	NA	NA	NA	2021	98.9%	98.9-100%		x	Soil runoff
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	2014-2021	6.3	2.75-15.9	NA	NA	NA		x	Erosion of natural deposits

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community.

Substance	Unit of Measure	AL	PHG	Distribution System			Number of School Sampled	School samples above AL/Total Samples	Violation		Likely source of contamination
				Year Sampled	Amount Detected (90th Percentile)	Sites Above AL/Total Samples			Yes	No	
Copper	mg/L	1.3	0.3	2021	0.22	0/30	NA	NA		x	Internal corrosion of household/busines water plumbing systems; discharges from industrual manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ug/L	15	0.2	2021	0	2**/30	0	0		x	Internal corrosion of household/business water plumbing systems; discharges from industrual manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Highest % postivie samples in any month	Total # of routine positive samples	Total # of repeat[5] positive samples	Violation		Likely source of contamination
						Yes	No	
Total Coliform Bacteria (State Total Coliform Rule)	5.0% of monthly samples are positive	0	3.0%	3	0		x	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and E. coli (State Total Coliform Rule)	See Footnote 6	0	0	0	0		x	Human and animal fecal waste
E. coli (Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule	See Footnote 7	0	0	0	0		x	Human and animal fecal waste

Notification Level (NL): Health-based advisory levels established by the State for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). When chemicals are found at concentrations greater than their notification levels, certain requirements and recommendations apply.

Parts Per Billion (PPB): One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in $10,000,000 (Ten million dollars).

Parts Per Million (PPM): One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or one penny in $10,000 (Ten thousand dollars).

pH: An expression of the intensity of the basic or acidcondition of a liquid. The pH may range from 0 to 14, where 0 is most acidic, 14 most basic and 7 neutral.

PicoCuries per Liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in the water.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (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.

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

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

UCMR: Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

Variances and Exemptions: SWRCB permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

< Means "less than": For example <0.2 means the lowest detectable levels is 0.2 and that the contaminant was less than 0.2 and therefore not detected.

***** This number is not the average annual amount
****** Levels found in rarely used customer faucet, but not in primary fixtures or DWA distribution line.
1. DWA does not add flouride to drinking water.
2. Highest LRAA for 2021.
3. Of 22 wellheads in the system, 21 tested nondetect.
4. Turbidity is regulated as a TT for filtration avoidance and filtration treatment. TT=1 is a requirement for both filtration avoidance and filtration treatment. TT=95% of samples ≤ 0.2 NTU is for filtration treatment only.
5. These repeat sample results validate no violation occurred.
6. If a routine and repeat sample are total coliform-positive and either is E. coli positive, or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli-positive routine sample or a system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli, then a violation occurs.
7. If a routine sample is E. Coli positive and a repeat sample is total coliform positive, then a violation has occurred.
8. Currently pending approval for regulatory limits.
9. Surface water provided by Snow Creek Filtration Plant.

	Substance	Unit of Measure	MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Groundwater Source			Surface Water Source			Violation		Likely source of contamination
					Year Sampled	Amount Detected	Range (Low-High)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected	Range (Low-High)	Yes	No	
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES	Chloride	mg/L	500	NONE	2019-2021	48	10-92	2021	1.3	1.3		x	Runoff/leaching from natural deposit; seawater influence
	Color	Units	15	NONE	2019-2020	ND	ND	2021	ND	ND		x	Naturally occurring organic materials
	Odor-Theshold	TON	3	NONE	2019-2020	1	1-2	2021	1	1		x	Naturally occurring organic materials
	Specific Conductance	uS/cm	1600	NONE	2019-2020	610	270-960	2021	130	130		x	Substance that form ions when in water; seawater influence
	Sulfate	mg/L	500	45	2019-2021	120	23-220	2021	1.2	1.2		x	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
	Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	1000	NONE	2019-2021	400	190-640	2021	75	75		x	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
OTHER SUBSTANCES													
	Aggressive Index	AI	Non-aggressive	NONE	2007-2019	12.4	12-12.7	2021	10.7	10.7		x	Influenced by hydrogen, carbon, oxygen and temperature
	Alkalinity	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2019-2021	130	100-150	2021	61	61		x	Function of carbonate, hydroxide and bicarbonate; naturally occuring
	Bicarbonate	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2019-2021	130	100-150	2021	61	61		x	Naturally occurring
	Barium	mg/L	1	2	2019-2021	ND	ND-0.11	2021	0.039	0.039		x	Naturally occurring
	Calcium	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2019-2021	73	29-100	2021	13	13		x	Contributes to water hardness; naturally occurring
	Hexavalent Chromium[8]	ug/L	NONE	NONE	2013-2018	1.3	ND-3.9	NA	NA	NA		x	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
	Hardness	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2019-2021	230	86-330	2021	38	38		x	Naturally occurring
	Iron	ug/L	300	None	2019-2020	ND	ND-120	2021	ND	ND		x	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
	Magnesium	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2019-2021	13	3.2-21	2021	1.1	1.1		x	Contributes to water hardness; naturally occurring
	Potassium	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2019	4.5	3.0-7.8	2021	2.3	2.3		x	Leaching from water softeners, fertilizers and natural deposits
	pH	pH Unit	NONE	NONE	2019-2021	8.1	8-8.2	2021	7.4	7.4		x	Naturally occurring
	Sodium	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2019-2021	40	23-77	2021	10	10		x	Naturally occurring

Effective April 1, 2016, all water systems are required to comply with the state Total Coliform Rule and the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule. The new federal rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbials (total coliform and E. coli bacteria). U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection as the new rule requires water systems vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to do an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, the water system must take corrective action.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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.

U.S. EPA/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 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. Desert Water Agency is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in your property's plumbing. 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.

CHROMIUM-6: WHAT YOU NEED KNOW

Desert Water Agency is continually monitoring our water system, performing thousands of tests per year to make sure the drinking water we deliver to customers meets all public health standards.

One of the things we test for is chromium-6, also known as hexavalent chromium, a mineral that occurs naturally in the Coachella Valley's groundwater. California may soon become the first and only state in the nation to set a drinking water standard for chromium-6. DWA is fortunate because its water supplies are below the proposed state standard of 10 parts per billion.

Any chromium-6 that is present in the aquifer is diluted when Colorado River imports are blended with groundwater in our portion of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin. Because the success of our groundwater recharge program means our water already complies with this new state regulation, DWA is one of the only water providers in the region that will not have to perform additional treatment or build costly new facilities.

The state continues to monitor possible long-term health risks of chromium-6. However, there is no immediate health threat. DWA will continue to prioritize water quality, to ensure that families and businesses in the communities we serve have access to a safe and reliable water supply.

COMMON WATER QUALITY QUESTIONS

WHY DOES TAP WATER SOMETIMES SMELL FUNNY?

When your water tastes or smells funny, the problem may or may not be in the water. Odors might actually be coming from your sink drain, where bacteria grow on hair, soap, food, and other things that get trapped. Odorous gases get stirred up when water pours into the drain. Odor can also come from bacteria growing on devices such as water heaters.

WHY DOES TAP WATER HAVE A FAINT CHLORINE SMELL?

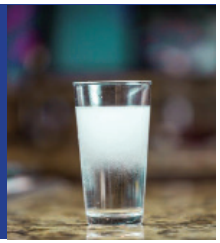
A small amount of chlorine is added to meet drinking water regulations. It is a disinfectant used to provide continuous protection against possible microbial contamination. Regulations limit the amount of chlorine added to tap water so that the water is safe to drink. A slight smell or taste of chlorine is normal.

WHY DOES MY WATER HAVE A ROTTEN EGG OR SULFUR SMELL?

This smell can occur under some conditions when sulfate is present in the water supply. Improperly maintained water heaters or lack of water circulation within a residence during warmer months are circumstances that may contribute to this odor.

WHY DOES MY WATER LOOK CLOUDY?

Occasionally, tiny air bubbles in tap water cause a cloudy appearance. Air dissolves into water when pressurized, which occurs in the groundwater basin and in the water pipes that deliver water to your tap. These bubbles dissipate after a few moments in a glass.



DO I NEED A SOFTENER?

No. Desert Water Agency tap water meets all drinking water standards and does not need to be conditioned or filtered. DWA does not prohibit the use of water softeners, but Agency ordinance does prohibit the discharge of excess salt down the drain. Discharged salt can harm the groundwater and may require additional treatment, which would increase the future costs of providing sewer and water services.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

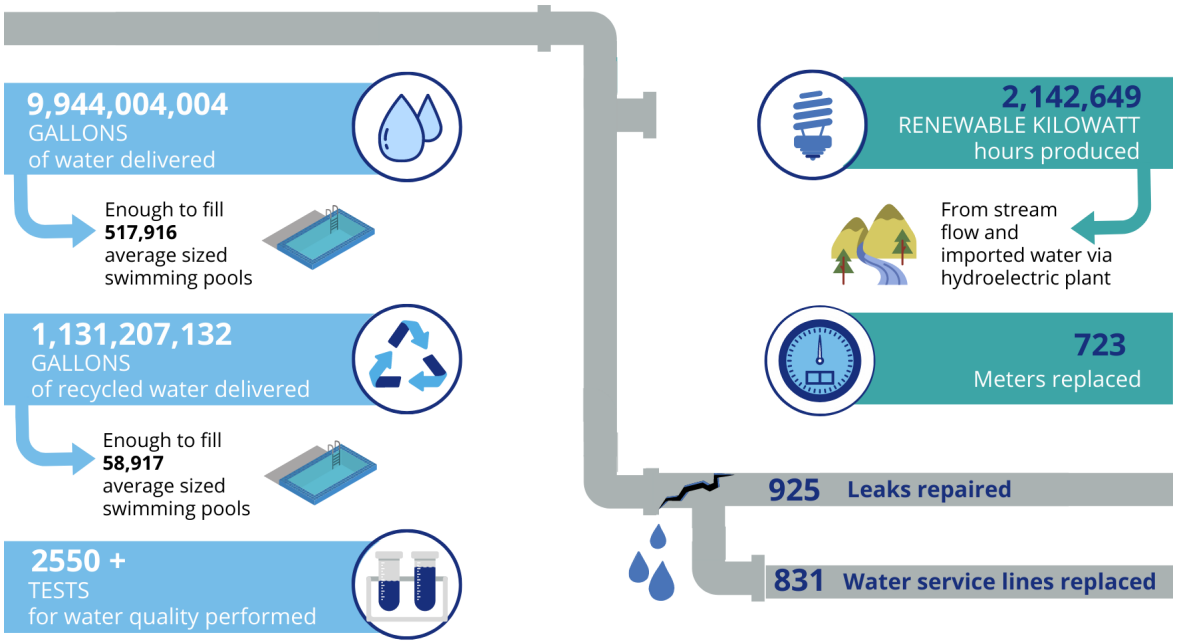
CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE WATER INCLUDE:

- **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,** 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, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, 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, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

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 is available through the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

DESERT WATER AGENCY 2021 YEAR AT A GLANCE



Your Water Quality

Desert Water Agency is committed to serving healthy, safe drinking water and to keeping you informed about the quality of the water that is delivered to your tap. Our team samples water daily to ensure it meets strict standards. As fluctuating conditions in California continue to affect water supply, it is important for us to support our customers and work together to protect this precious local resource.

By explaining the sources of our water and defining the constituents in the water, this report is our way of providing clear, transparent information to our customers. The board and staff take their responsibility to provide high-quality water very seriously and we're proud to report that our water meets and beats the strictest standards in the nation. If you have any questions when reviewing this report, please contact Paul Monroy, laboratory director, at (760) 323-4971 ext. 169.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KRISTIN BLOOMER	JAMES CIOFFI	JOSEPH K. STUART	PATRICIA G. OYGAR	PAUL ORTEGA
President- Division 5	Vice President	Secretary - Treasurer	Director	Director - Division 4

Board Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 8 a.m.

DESERT WATER

1200 Gene Autry Trail South, Palm Springs, CA 92264 | (760) 323-4971
www.dwa.org

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Para alguna pregunta o inquietud, llame al 760-323-4971.