WATER QUALITY REPORT

DELIVERED JUNE 2017

DESERT WATER

PROTECTING YOUR WATER TODAY & TOMORROW

Every year, the water quality report is our opportunity to show you the quality of the water we deliver to homes and businesses across the community. We're proud to serve water that exceeds all state and federal drinking water quality standards. We encourage you to read through this report and contact us if you have any questions. As a public water agency, our team is here to serve you.

One important function we have in the community is ensuring ample water supplies for future generations. Managing groundwater is exactly what Desert Water Agency was established to do. We work with our partner, Coachella Valley Water District, to replenish your water supply with water imported to our valley. This imported water is key to the sustainability of the groundwater basin, the primary drinking water source for our valley.

The natural groundwater is very high quality and full of minerals that you need to live. The Colorado River water we use to replenish our basin is a drinking water source for 33 million people. This water doesn't have some of the minerals that we find in our groundwater basin, so it dilutes some of what occurs naturally. Because most of our valley's groundwater recharge happens in Desert Water Agency's service area, we are the only local agency that doesn't have to treat for chromium-6, which naturally occurs in our soils.

The water we pump from deep within the ground is treated will a small amount of chlorine and then put directly into our system. The fact that we don't have to filter or process our groundwater is part of what has kept water so affordable in our region. Recently, a variety of external factors have driven water rates up. It is happening both across our valley and across the state. The way we use, think about, and pay for water is changing.

The drought brought to light some underlying issues in water pricing and also irrevocably changed our water-use landscape. I'm pleased that we've enjoyed such a wet winter, but many of the regulatory changes the state put in place will linger on for decades. Our commitment to conserve is rain or shine. We're eager to continue working with customers to be more efficient with water. We've rolled out several new programs just this year.

We invite you to take advantage of our conservation programs and rebates, and to engage with us. We are your water agency. The water we serve belongs to you, the public. Our Board of Directors, the guiding body for this agency, are your representatives. You're welcome to attend our bi-monthly board meetings held the first and third Tuesdays of each month. You can also stop by our offices or visit our website to learn more about what we do. We're grateful to serve this incredible community.

Hearing what matters to our community helps us serve you better. It is our privilege to provide you this service.

Mark S. Krause

MARK S. KRAUSE
General Manager & Chief Engineer

DESERT WATER AGENCY

Established in 1961, Desert Water Agency (DWA) is a public nonprofit agency and State Water Contractor serving residents and visitors 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 a safe, reliable water supply to its service area while protecting its interests in the State Water Project. DWA is guided by an elected board of five community members. Board members make guiding policy decisions as public representatives.

OUR WATER SUPPLY

WATER SOURCES

Water is a precious and limited resource; only about .007 percent of the water found on Earth is readily accessible to treat for drinking.

Desert Water Agency's groundwater comes from the Whitewater River Sub-basin 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 and Snow Creek. Surface water sources are operated under criteria for avoiding filtration.

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

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Unless otherwise noted, data presented in this report was obtained between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2016. 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 vary 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

• A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP), last updated in 2014, is 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 SWAP, 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 Beth Amheiser, laboratory director, at (760) 323-4971 ext. 169.

GLOSSARY

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 detection limit for reporting.

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.

Notification Level (NL): Health-based advisory levels established by the State for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum caontaminant 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 acid condition of a liquid. The pH may range from 0 to 14, where 0 is most acid, 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.

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

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.

> Means "greater than": For example >0.1 means any sample tested having a value greater than 0.1.

SAMPLING RESULTS

During the past year we have taken more than 2,000 water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. **The tables below show only 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.

	Substance	Unit of Measure	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Groundwater Source			Surface Water Source			Distribution System			Violation		Likely source of contamination
					Year Sampled	Amount Detected*	Range (Low-High)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected*	Range (Low-High)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected*	Range (Low-High)	Yes	No	
Regulated Substances	Chlorine	mg/L	[4.0 as Cl_2]	[4 as Cl_2]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2016	0.42*	ND-1.24		★	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
	Fluoride	mg/L	2.0	1	2016	0.48	0.19-0.78	2016	0.09	ND-0.14	NA	NA	NA		★	Erosion of natural desposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
	Gross Alpha Particle Activity	pCi/L	15	0	2014-2016	4.6	3.3-7.4	2013-2016	2.1	ND-6.4	NA	NA	NA		★	Erosion of natural desposits
	Haloacetic Acids [HAA5]	ug/L	60	NONE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2016	12.6[1]	ND-40.1		★	By-product of drinking water disinfection
	Hexavalent Chromium	ug/L	10	0.02	2016	1.7	ND-3.9	2016	ND	ND	NA	NA	NA		★	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits.
	Iron	ug/L	300	NONE	2016	ND	ND	2016	80	ND-240	NA	NA	NA		★	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste
	Nitrate (as N)	mg/L	10	10	2016	1.1	0.4-3.4	2016	ND	ND	NA	NA	NA		★	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
	Tetrachlroethylene [PCE]	ug/L	5	0.06	ND-0.8[4]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		★	Commercial discharge (metal degreaser)
	Total Coliform Bacteria (State Total Coliform Rule)	%	more than 5% of monthly samples are positive	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2016	0.92%[3]	NA		★	Naturally present in the environment
	Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM]	µg/L	80	NONE	2016	ND	ND	2016	ND	ND	2016	12.3[1]	ND-30.1		★	By-product of drinking water disinfection
	Turbidity[2]	NTU	5	NONE	2016	0.1	ND-0.7	2016	0.94**	ND-0.94	2016	0.07	ND-0.53		★	Soil runoff
	Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	2010-2016	6.0	2.5-13	2016	8.0	No range	NA	NA	NA		★	Erosion of natural deposits.
Secondary Substances	Chloride	mg/L	250	NONE	2016	37	6.8-81	2016	1.9	1.3-2.7	NA	NA	NA		★	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
	Color	Units	15	NONE	2016	ND	ND	2016	ND	ND	2016	0.11	ND-1.24		★	Naturally occuring organic materials
	Odor-Threshold	TON	3	NONE	2016	1	ND	2016	1	NA	2016	1	NA		★	Naturally occuring organic materials
	Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	NONE	2016	580	290-910	2016	160	110-280	NA	NA	NA		★	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
	Sulfate	mg/L	500	45	2016	110	18-220	2016	3.7	0.84-9.3	NA	NA	NA		★	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
	Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	1000	NONE	2016	370	150-600	2016	90	60-150	NA	NA	NA		★	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Other Substances	Aggressive Index	AI	Non-aggressive	NONE	2009	12.5	12-13	2009	10.84	10.65-11.19	NA	NA	NA		★	Influenced by hydrogen, carbon, oxygen, and temperature
	Alkalinity	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2016	130	110-150	2016	80	50-140	NA	NA	NA		★	Function of carbonate, hydroxide, and bicarbonate; naturally occuring
	Bicarbonate	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2016	160	130-180	2016	97	60-170	NA	NA	NA		★	Naturally occurring
	Calcium	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2016	66	25-100	2016	21	12-39	NA	NA	NA		★	Contributes to water hardness; naturally occurring
	Hardness	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2016	120	73-340	2016	59	29-110	NA	NA	NA		★	Naturally occurring
	Magnesium	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2016	12	2.1-21	2016	1.6	ND-3.7	NA	NA	NA		★	Contributes to water hardness; naturally occuring
	Potassium	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2016	4.2	2.9-7.6	2016	3.2	1.6-5.9	NA	NA	NA		★	Leaching from water softeners, fertilizers and natural deposits
	pH	NA	NONE	NONE	2016	7.8	7.5-8.2	2016	7.7	7.4-7.9	2016	8	7.3-8.7		★	Naturally occuring
	Sodium	mg/L	NONE	NONE	2016	34	20-72	2016	10	8.0-14	NA	NA	NA		★	Naturally occuring

	Substance	Unit of Measure	Notification Level	Groundwater Source			Surface Water Source			Distribution System			Violation		Likely Source of Contamination
				Year Sampled	Amount Detected*	Range (Low-High)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected*	Range (Low-High)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected*	Range (Low-High)	Yes	No	
Unregulated Substances	Boron	µg/L	1000	2016	13	ND-160	2016	ND	ND	NA	NA	NA		★	Naturally occuring
	Chlorate	µg/L	NONE	2014	64	22-380	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		★	Erosion of natural deposits
	Molybdenum	µg/L	NONE	2014	4.7	3.4-13	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		★	Naturally occuring
	Strontium	µg/L	NONE	2014	250	70-450	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		★	Naturally occuring
	Vanadium	µg/L	50	2016	7.3	ND-11	2016	1.2	ND-3.5	NA	NA	NA		★	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			Violation		Likely Source of Contamination
				Year Sampled	Amount Detected (90th Percetile)	Sites Above AL/ Total Sites	Yes	No	
Copper	mg/L	1.3	0.3	2015	0.32	0/30		★	Interal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	µg/L	15	0.2	2015	ND	0/30		★	Interal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

* This number is not the average annual amount detected, but the highest running annual average.
** This is the single highest measurement for the year.
1 Highest LRAA for 2016.
2 Turbidity is regulated as a TT for the surface sources (as a condition for filtration avoidance) and is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.
3 This is the highest percentage of positive samples collected in any one month. This report reflects 2016 regulatory changes. CA water systems must comply with the state Total Coliform Rule. As of April 1, 2016, water systems must also comply with the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule. To increase public health protection, the new federal rule ensures integrity of distribution systems and monitors for microbials (i.e., total coliform & E. coli bacteria). Water systems that exceed a certain amount of total coliform occurrences must find and correct sanitary defects.
4 Twelve wellheads out of 13 in the system tested nondetect.

COMMON QUESTIONS ON WATER QUALITY

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 that is 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 (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. USEPA regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

HEALTH INFORMATION

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).

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.

SAFETY OF YOUR WATER

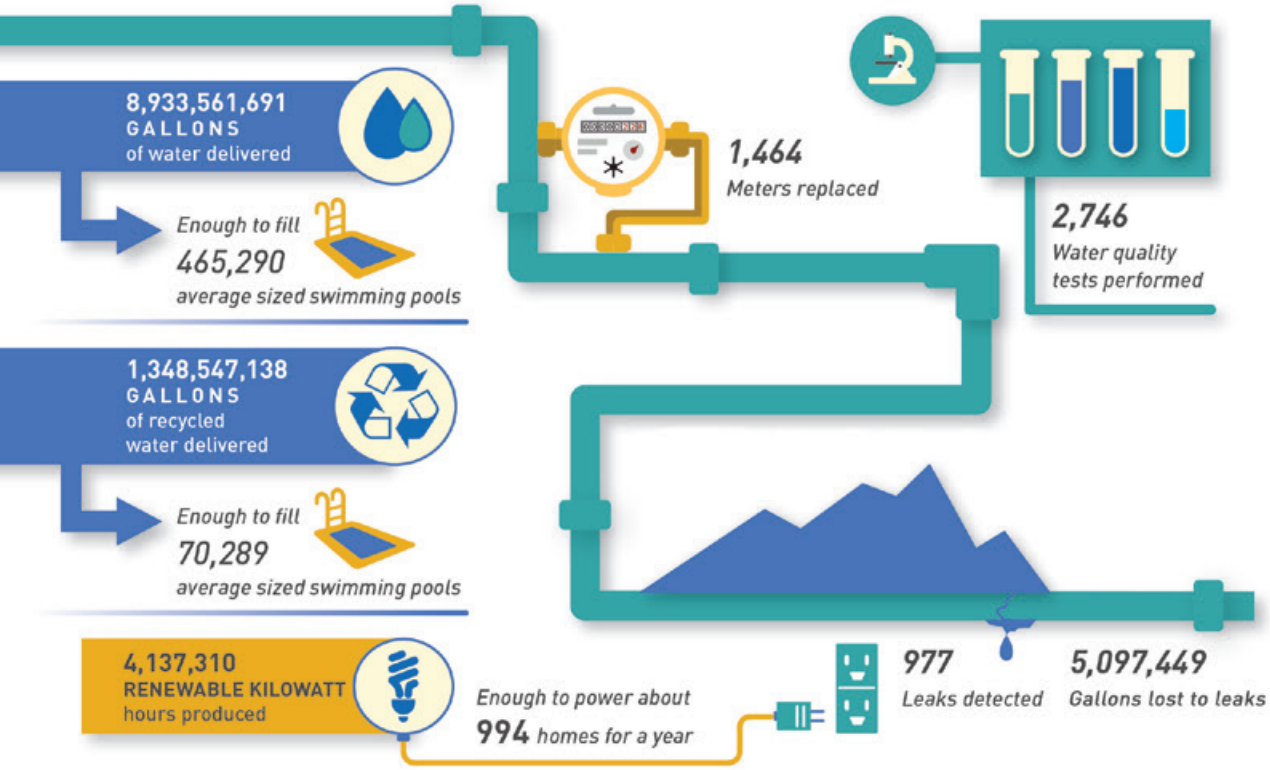
After the crisis in Flint, Michigan, some of our customers have been asking us about lead. We're very fortunate that it isn't an issue in our community.

Over time, water can sometimes corrode lead plumbing. This is how lead typically gets into water. However, the water we serve has characteristics, like alkalinity and hardness, that make it less corrosive.

Our pipelines and services are not made of lead, but your private plumbing may be. Desert Water Agency goes to dozens of homes and businesses in our community to test the water coming from their taps to determine if lead or copper from private plumbing systems is getting into the water. We have not ever had a test for lead above the limit. In fact, for the past several years we did not detect any traces of lead at the sites tested.

Technological and regulatory advancement drives us to constantly test our water for more elements and in ever smaller quantities. California has some of the strictest drinking water standards in the world. This does mean that there are more costs to cover for the clean water delivered to your tap. Keep in mind, tap water, which is regulated by California's State Water Resources Control Board, is subject to more rigorous standards than bottled water, which is regulated by the FDA.

DESERT WATER AGENCY 2016 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 dedicated staff samples water daily to ensure that it meets all standards. As drought 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. To make going through our report easier for customers, we've included informational videos; we hope that you enjoy them. The board and staff of DWA 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 Beth Amheiser, laboratory director, at (760) 323-4971 ext. 169.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 8 a.m.
at the Desert Water Agency's Operations Center Board Room.

DESERT WATER

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Este aviso contiene instrucciones pare que usted obtenga información importante sobre su agua potable.
Para alguna pregunta o inquietud, llame al 760-323-4971