



Water testing performed in 2009



Presented By:
CITY OF UKIAH

PWS ID#: CA2310003

2009 Executive Summary

The City of Ukiah, Public Works Department, Water Division, is responsible for providing a safe and reliable water supply to its customers. The Water Division consistently meets and exceeds State and Federal standards for drinking water quality.

During the drought of 2009, Ukiah's water conservation program and the community as a whole were able to reduce water consumption by 35 percent over the summer and 20 percent for the entire year. We are continuing to see a significant reduction in the unnecessary use of water.

Due to the drought and the low water levels in Lake Mendocino, the City of Ukiah believed it prudent to locate and develop new water sources. A new ground water well was added to the water system in 2009, and a second ground water well will be added in 2010. These new wells will enhance Ukiah's water system reliability, flexibility, and redundancy. They will also address new drinking water regulations and environmental concerns regarding the Russian River.

The new EPA Ground Water Rule requires increased source water monitoring for fecal coliform bacteria and additional regulations to ensure safe drinking water. The City's ongoing sewer system inspection and repair program is also helping to address and prevent inadvertent contamination of surface and ground water sources.

The Long Term 2 (LT2) *Cryptosporidium* and Giardia sampling and the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation 2 (UCMR2) sampling programs were completed in 2009. The test results have shown the City's water to be of excellent quality.

We ask that you take a few minutes to read through this report to learn more about the quality of your drinking water. After all, well informed customers are our best allies. Regularly scheduled Ukiah City Council meetings convene on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Ave., Ukiah, CA. These meetings provide citizens an opportunity to express concerns regarding the City's drinking water.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Paul Smith, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, at (707) 467-2842.



Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Ukiah supplies its customers with water that is considered underflow from the Russian River as well as three ground water sources. The percentages delivered from each source, and when they are in use, is dependent on both the demand on the system and the time of year. There are times of emergency when the City may have to purchase water from our neighboring water systems. These systems would be Millview County Water District and Willow County Water District.

LT2 Rule

The U.S. EPA has created the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2) for the sole purpose of reducing illness linked with the contaminant *Cryptosporidium* and other disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water. The rule will reinforce existing regulations and provide a higher level of protection of your drinking water supply.

Sampling of our water source has shown the following:

Cryptosporidium: 0–4.3 oocysts

Giardia lamblia: None detected

E. coli: 0–12.2 colonies

It is important to note that these results are from our raw water source only and do not reflect the quality of our treated drinking water supply. For more information, contact the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Lead and Drinking Water

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. We are 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Source Water Assessment

In June of 2001, the City of Ukiah completed a Source Water Assessment. This study considered the topography, type of vegetative cover, soil type, type of animal life, and climate conditions of our watershed. Combined with human related recreation, industry, and life style, several areas were considered to have influence on our raw waters. The influence was considered to be minimal and several areas of concern have been mitigated. These include the closing of the landfill, the replacement of leaking underground storage tanks, and bulk fuel containment. The City is continually upgrading its system and monitors for a variety of possible hazards. The City's water is still considered safe and reliable. The summary from that report is as follows.

Vulnerability Summary

According to the results of the vulnerability analysis, the surface water source is considered most vulnerable (vulnerability score* of 15) to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: Gas stations; Plastic synthetic producers; Historic gas stations; Historic waste dumps/landfills; Historic mining operations; Confirmed leaking tanks; Wastewater treatment and disposal facilities; Managed forests; Septic systems—high density (>1/acre); Chemical/petroleum processing/storage.

The above list of the PCAs includes several activities that can contaminate the drinking water source by releasing deleterious chemicals. Therefore, this list corroborates the conclusion in the 2001 Update Report of Watershed Sanitary Update (Page 3): "The greatest potential threat of drinking water quality is that of a spill of deleterious material (e.g., petroleum products, hazardous or toxic substances) that could enter Lake Mendocino or the Russian River. The potential threat is great because the water treatment systems used by the City, the RVCWD, and the MCWD were not designed to remove these types of substances."

Further, the comparison of the above list of PCAs and that of "potential contaminant sources" delineated in the 2001 Update Report (Page 2) shows that some activities appear in both lists: (1) wastewater treatment and disposal facilities, (2) septic systems—high density, and (3) releases from industrial activities. The category of "releases from industrial activities" in the 2001 Update Report list encompasses some specific activities in the PCAs list, including gas stations, historic gas stations, confirmed leaking tanks, plastic synthetic producers, and chemical/petroleum processing/storage. Other activities in the 2001 Update Report list also ranked high in the Vulnerability Score, including septic systems—low density (vulnerability score of 13), grazing animals (13), non-body and body contact recreation (13), spills from traffic or railroad accidents (11), and pesticide/herbicide use in agriculture (11).

*The drinking water source is considered Vulnerable to all PCAs with Vulnerability Score greater than or equal to 11 (California Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection Program). The apparent discrepancies between the two lists, such as managed forests, historic mining operations, and historic waste dumps/landfills, may be attributable to the fact that surface protection zones were not established in this assessment.

If you would like to view the entire report, a copy is available at City Hall or through the local CDHS field office in Santa Rosa.

Substances That Could Be in Water

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) 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. 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.

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 can result from urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Distribution System Disinfection By-Products									
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	MCL	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009	Source
		2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	
Site #1	80	3.4	13.5	7.5	10.5	2.4	17.3	14.2	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Site #2	80	0	7.8	4.1	14	0	5.2	14.2	
Site #3	80	5.9	24.4	15	12.5	5.1	18.3	13.3	
Site #4	80	1.3	14.2	17.9	13.3	4	19.4	14.1	
Site #1a (collected annually)	80	NA	2	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	
Quarterly Average	80	3	15	12	13	3	15	14	
Running Annual Average	80	10	10	12	10	11	10	11	
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	MCL	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009	Source
		2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	
Site #1	60	0	10.3	4.9	11.6	0	13.8	5.6	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Site #2	60	4.6	7.7	2.8	15.8	0	7.3	5.7	
Site #3	60	0	10.8	4.5	15.5	0	11.4	5.8	
Site #4	60	0	10	5	14.9	2.5	11.9	6	
Quarterly Average	60	1	10	5	15	1	11	6	
Running Annual Average	60	5	6	7	8	7	8	8	

Important 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/.

Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water.

The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES											
				Surface Water		Ground Water		Distribution System			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2009	10	0.004	ND	NA	1.4 ¹	ND–2.8 ¹	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2009	1	2	ND	NA	0.05 ¹	ND–0.1 ¹	ND	NA	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2009	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.48	0.26–0.74	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Nitrate [as nitrate] (ppm)	2009	45	45	ND	NA	5.6	2.4–7	2.1 ¹	NA	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity² (NTU)	2009	TT	NA	0.064	0.015–0.064	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2009	TT	NA	100	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community											
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE				
Copper³ (ppm)	2007	1.3	0.3	0.59	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives				
Lead (ppb)	2007	15	2	6.9	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits				

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

			Surface Water		Ground Water		Distribution System				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2009	500	NS	4.7	NA	7.65 ¹	6.6–8.7 ¹	6.4	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (Units)	2007	15	NS	NA	NA	ND	ND–6	NA	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Corrosivity (Units)	2009	Non-corrosive	NS	10.54	NA	10.71 ¹	10.46–10.96 ¹	10.93	NA	No	Natural or industrially influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon, and oxygen in the water; affected by temperature and other factors
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	2009	1,600	NS	200	NA	320 ⁴	240–330 ⁴	230	NA	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2009	500	NS	10	NA	18 ¹	14–22 ¹	11	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2009	1,000	NS	74	NA	185 ¹	150–210 ¹	130	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2009	5	NS	NA	NA	0.123	0.028–1.0	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff

OTHER UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

		Surface Water		Ground Water		Distribution System	
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Bicarbonate Alkalinity (ppm)	2009	100	NA	185 ¹	130–190 ¹	120	NA
Boron (ppb)	2004	130	120–140	110	110–460	NA	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2009	18	NA	25.5 ¹	22–29 ¹	19	NA
Hardness as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	2009	85	NA	140 ¹	114–148 ¹	89	NA
Magnesium (ppm)	2009	9.5	NA	18 ¹	13–18 ¹	10	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2009	8.8	NA	14 ¹	11–16 ¹	14	NA

¹ Sampled in 2007.

² Turbidity is a measure of the suspended particles in the water. Monitoring is essential to indicate the effectiveness of the filtration system.

³ The sample sites used were single family residences that were plumbed with copper pipes and lead solder, installed prior to 1983.

⁴ Sampled in 2008.

Definitions

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

µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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. EPA.

micromhos: A measure of electrical conductance.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NS: No standard.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

PHG (Public Health Goal): 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 EPA.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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

