

La Mesa Water Cooperative
P.O. Box 53
Placitas, NM 87043

2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report (also known as the Consumer Confidence Report). This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide all of us with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We have six wells that have drawn, continue to draw or will draw from the Rio Grande Basin-Fill, which underlies La Mesa and Sundance subdivisions, at depths to water of 225 to 300 feet. Well 1 was retired in April 2012; well 2 which was a minor contributor to the water system was retired in September 2013 due to above limit arsenic level [the well, on the average, tested 15 ppb and Fed limit is 10 ppb]; well 3 was also not on line in 2013 due to arsenic levels above Federal standards; well 5 is a major contributor to the current water supply [arsenic tested 7 ppb in 2013; well 6 is a newly built well that went to production in April 2013 [arsenic tested on average in 2013 was 8 ppb which is below the Fed limit].

We're pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

If you have any questions about this report please write to La Mesa Water Cooperative, P.O. Box 53 Placitas, NM 87043. We want our members to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are usually held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Placitas Library. Meeting notices are posted in advance of each meeting at the mail boxes.

You may also call any of the Board members if you would like more information about Board meetings or have a specific topic that you would like to discuss with the Board.

Gordon Forbes 771-3464
Marty Davis 771-9127
Dan Lawrence 771-1408
Dennis Szarka 867-5225
Irena King 771-8437
Dave Otter 867-7986
Bob Davey 771-3434
Jim Pilcher 771-9341
Bob Blanchard 802-922-1042

La Mesa Water Cooperative routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The enclosed table shows the most recent results of monitoring. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducts well testing and tests each well every three years for organic and inorganic contaminants. Testing for contaminants is done on a schedule set by NMED. Tests are conducted for Coliform bacteria on a monthly basis and all of our results have been negative. Radio-nuclides testing is done every five years. **You will be promptly notified if NMED notifies us of any violations.**

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u> <u>Low</u> <u>High</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.57	0	0.57	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer
Arsenic (ppb)	10	10	12.25	3	21	2013	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards
Barium (mg/L)	2	2	0.1	<0.1	0.1	2013	No	Discharge of drilling wastes Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (mg/L)	0.1	0.1	0.002	<0.001	0.002	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Contaminants								
Uranium (µg/L)	0	30	6	3	6	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha including radon & uranium (pCi/L)	0	15	14.5	5.4	14.5	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha excluding radon & uranium (pCi/L)	0	15	4.9	3	4.9	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr)	0	4	6.4	5.9	6.4	2011	No	Decay of natural & man-made deposits
Combined radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	0	5	0.48	0.14	0.48	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	ND	--	--	2013	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.44	0.24	0.63	2013	No	Water additive used to control microbes

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
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Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.24	2011	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead – action level at Consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	6	2011	0	No	

Unit Descriptions	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
MCLG	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 allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variance and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.

MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations. Some people who drink water-containing arsenic significantly in excess of the regulatory standard over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. As of January 23, 2006 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has imposed a more stringent standard of 10 ppb (parts per billion) compared to the previous standard of 50 ppb. In 2006 La Mesa Water Cooperative began the process of addressing arsenic abatement, primarily because Well #3's arsenic level is 22 ppb - below the old standard, but non-compliant with the new one, so this well is not currently in use. Well #5 has been drilled on the La Mesa Park site on 5 Calle Cienega and is presently on-line supply water with an arsenic level well below the new 10 ppb standard. Because well #2 is aging and contributing small fraction of water to the system, your Board considered a number of approaches to address the need for low arsenic level water supply and decided to drill a new well#6 in an area where the water is compliant with the arsenic standard, near well #1. For future water needs, your Board is studying alternatives to cleaning up arsenic in well #3 and possibly well #6 which, on preliminary testing has levels below but close to Federal standards and in time may need arsenic clean up.

Chlorine is injected into your drinking water at each well site to provide disinfection. Chlorine is used to kill bacteria which may be in the water.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. Our water is sampled regularly and tested by the New Mexico Environment Department.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants or the lack thereof 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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Source Water Assessment and Its Availability

The La Mesa Cooperative water system is well maintained and operated, and sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on well construction, hydrogeologic settings, and system operations and management. The susceptibility rank of the entire water system is Moderately High.

Although throughout the U.S. it is common to find potential sources of contamination located atop wellheads, continued regulatory oversight, wellhead protection plans and other planning efforts continue to be the primary methods of protecting and ensuring high quality drinking water.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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. La Mesa Water Coop 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>.

The New Mexico Environment Department notified the Coop that it had failed to notify the NMED Drinking Water Bureau that under their sampling schedule a sample for Well # 5 for volatile organic compounds had not been taken by the Drinking Water Bureau as scheduled.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

Sincerely,

La Mesa Water Cooperative
March 2014