La Mesa Water Cooperative

PO Box 53

Placitas, NM 87043

lamesawatercoop.org

2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking 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.

La Mesa Water Cooperative (LMWC) drinking water is safe and meets federal and New Mexico requirements. You will be promptly notified if New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) notifies us of any violations.

Water Source:
We currently have three active wells (#3, #5 and #6) and one inactive well (#2) that draw from the Rio Grande Basin-Fill, which underlies La Mesa and Sundance Mesa subdivisions, at depths to water of 225 to 480 feet. The average hardness of our water is 8.5 grains per gallon (gpg).

Our Wells:

- Well #2 was a minor contributor to the water system and was retired in September 2013 due to above limit arsenic levels.
- Well #3 (with the new Arsenic Treatment Facility) was put into service on July 10, 2023. It provides much needed capacity and redundancy so that we can provide water even if one of our other wells is out of service for an extended period. The arsenic level of treated water is below the federal and state limit of 10 parts per billion (ppb).
- Well #5 was drilled and put on-line in 2007. It is presently supplying water with an arsenic level below the 10 ppb standard. Well #5 was the major contributor to the current water supply until July 10, 2024 when Well #3 was put into service.
- Well #6 went into production in April 2013, and in 2015 we installed an arsenic treatment system. A pilot study was conducted and the system was deemed capable of successfully treating the water for above-limit arsenic levels at this well. Due to the variability of the arsenic in the well, the treatment system is operated about six months per year. All tests are up to date according to New Mexico and federal regulations.

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 adjustments in the LMWC rate structure.

Source Water Assessment and Its Availability[1]

The La Mesa Water Cooperative water system is properly maintained and operated, and sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on well construction, hydro geologic settings, and system operations and management. The susceptibility rank of the entire water system is Moderately High which is a typical rating for NM community well systems.

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.

LMWC routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to federal and New Mexico laws. The following table shows the most recent results of monitoring. 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 monthly and all our results have been negative. Radio-nuclides testing is done every five years.

[1] "Source Water Assessment of La Mesa Water Coop System Public Water System 00123, New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau, December 2002" is available at: lamesawatercoop.org/misc_files/NMED_La_Mesa_Water_Coop_Source_Water_Assessment_2002.pdf

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all 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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or NMED requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) 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.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants – NMED tests every 3 years								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	8.5	4.2	8.5	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.084	.044	.084	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of Drilling wastes
Fluoride (ppm), [from natural sources, not an additive]	4	4	.40	.30	.40	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.14	0.09	0.14	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	2.1	1.5	2.1	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from petroleum refineries
Zinc (ppm)		5	.049	.047	.049	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Industrial Wastewaters
Radioactive Contaminants – NMED tests every 5 years								
Uranium (µg/L)	0	30	5	NA	5	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha including radon & uranium (pCi/L)	0	15	4.1	NA	4.1	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha excluding radon & uranium (pCi/L)	0	15	0.8	NA	0.8	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Combined radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	0	5	0.14	NA	0.14	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	.36	.13	.59	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	0	60	ND	ND	ND	2022	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	0	80	1.9	1.2	1.9	2022	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water 90%	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants – NMED tests every 3 years							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.17	2023	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead – action level at Consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2.5	2023	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
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	
Term	**Definition**
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

As you can see from the Water Quality Data Table, our system had no water quality violations. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and New Mexico 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 NMED.

Educational Background:

Chlorine is injected into your drinking water at each well site to provide disinfection. Chlorine is used to kill bacteria and inactivate viruses which may be in the water. We regularly test water samples at select houses to verify that we maintain appropriate chlorine levels.

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 EPA has imposed a more stringent standard of 10 ppb (parts per billion) compared to the previous standard of 50 ppb.

Samples of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were collected at Well #5 by the US Geological Survey (USGS) on September 11, 2020. Sample results for 28 unique PFAS compounds were reviewed by the USGS and NMED and no PFAS compounds were detected.

Lead, if present in elevated levels 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 rather than the source water. LMWC 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.

There are no lead service lines[2] on houses served by LMWC (La Mesa and Sundance Mesa subdivisions). The EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) requires water systems to prepare and maintain an inventory of service line materials and to submit the inventory to the state agencies by October 16, 2024. The LMWC distribution system for La Mesa and Sundance Mesa divisions was constructed after the 1986 ban on lead pipes. There are no lead service lines and the inventory is available on the LMWC website at http://lamesawatercoop.org/misc_files/LSL_Inventory_LMWC_NM3500123.pdf.

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 can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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,

[2] A service line is the piping between the water meter and the house. In the LMWC area, all service lines were installed by the home builder and are owned and maintained by the property owner.

radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

- 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, which 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, which 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, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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).

Contact LMWC Board:

If you have any questions about this report please write to La Mesa Water Cooperative, P.O. Box 53 Placitas, NM 87043, or send a message to board@lamesawatercoop.org. We want our members to be informed about their water utility. Board meetings are being held at the Placitas Library on the second Monday of each month. Notices and announcements are posted on the Cooperative website, lamesawatercoop.org, and the neighborhood bulletin boards.

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.

Ray Burgess	505-303-6250	Jock Embry	505-771-2330	John Wilson	505-404-8067
Sharon Chong	505-269-6401	Paula Redwine	505-506-6870		
Matt Dixon	907-301-6854	Bob Wilkins	505-404-8086		

Sincerely,

La Mesa Water Cooperative
April 2024