Annual

Drinking Water Quality Report

Puyallup Highlands

2019

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Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuniquese con alguien que pueda traducir la informacion.

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

At Valley Water District we vigilantly safeguard and routinely monitor your drinking water. **This report is a snapshot of water quality monitoring for the period of January through December 2019**. We are proud to report that this system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

The source water for the Puyallup Highlands is fed through an intertie with the City of Puyallup. Valley Water District owns and operates the water distribution system infrastructure within the Puyallup Highlands subdivision and purchases water from the City of Puyallup. While the District strives to provide safe drinking water, it is important that you also take steps to protect your water supply.

Employing water conservation strategies, taking steps to minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and disposing of household chemicals properly are all ways that you can do your part to impact the quality of your drinking water. Please visit our office or log on to our website for great water saving tips and related information.

Read this report at your leisure. It is designed to help you understand how we continually strive to protect water resources, improve the water treatment process, and provide you with safe, dependable drinking water.

How can I get involved?
We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you would like to learn more, please attend any regularly scheduled Board Meeting held at the District Office on the first and third Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m.

If you have questions about the information in this report or any concern regarding water quality and the services we deliver every day, please contact the District office at 253-841-9698.

Sean Vance, District Manager ~ Brian Thompson, Field Supervisor ~ Email: service@valleywaterdistrict.com

Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 such as the following:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, 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 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 are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

Do I need to take special precautions?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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 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/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 Water Drinking Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels.

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 vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Valley Water District utilizes an intertie with the City of Puyallup to provide water to the Puyallup Highlands water system. Below is water quality monitoring information provided to Valley Water District by the City of Puyallup regarding water quality results for substances regulated at their treatment plant.

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. Valley Water District 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

2019 ~ City of Puyallup Water Quality Data Table ~ 2019

Substance	MCL {MRDL}	MCLG {MRDLG}	Highest Level Detected	Range Low – High	Violation?
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	7	ND - 7	No
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.3	0.2 – 1.3	No
HAAs (ppb) (stage 2) *	60	N/A	11.58	5.7-11.58	No
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	3.16	<0.2 - 3.16	No
TTHMs (ppb)	80	N/A	4.96	ND – 4.96	No
TTHMs (ppb)*	80	N/A	33.89	12.73-33.89	No
Copper (ppm)	AL 1.3 m/L	1.3 m/L	0.0978	Above AL 0/35	No
Lead (ppb)	AL 0.015 mg/L	0.015 mg/L	90th % < 10ppb	Above AL 0/35	No
Chloride (ppm)	SMCL 250	N/A	17	2.0 - 17.0	No
Iron (ppm)	SMCL 300	N/A	< 0.1	< 0.1	No
Manganese (ppb)	SMCL 50	N/A	80	ND - 80	Yes
Sulfate (ppm)	SMCL 250	N/A	8	ND - 8	No
Bromdicloro-Methane (ppb)			1.68	ND – 1.68	No
Chlordibromo-Methane (ppb)			1.7	ND – 1.7	No
Chloroform (ppb)			1.63	ND – 1.63	No
Chloroform (ppb) *			31.08	11.05-31.08	No
Sodium (ppm)			28	6.0 - 28.0	No
Barium (ppm)	2	2	< 0.01	< 0.01	No
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	< 7	< 7	No
Nickel (ppb)	100	100	< 5	< 5	No
Disinfection By-Products		**System Average**	**Highest Site**	**Range All Sites**	**# of Sites**
LRAAs Puyallup	TTHMs	0.001360	0.003855	ND - 0.003855	7
LRAAs Tacoma	TTHMs	0.019100	0.019575	0.019575	1
Localational running annual ave.	HAAs	0.008225	0.007612	0.007613	1

* Tacoma Water

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected
Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
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.
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.
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 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.
NA/ND	Not Applicable/Not Detected

Description of Water Treatment Process
Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and micro-organisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The District encourages all customers to complete a Cross Connection Control Survey, which can be requested at the District office or found at the Forms Page of the District's website valleywaterdistrict.com. The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. The District is responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers. A 5-minute shower uses 4 - 5 gallons of water, compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.