Since 1991, California water utilities have been providing information on water served to its consumers. This report is a snapshot of the tap water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, how it is tested, what is in it, and how it compares with state and federal limits. We strive to keep you informed about the quality of your water, and to provide a reliable and economic supply that meets all regulatory requirements.

**Where Does My Tap Water Come From?**
Your tap water comes from 2 sources: groundwater and surface water. We pump groundwater from local wells that draw from the Central Basin. We also use Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s (MWD) surface water from both the Colorado River and the State Water Project in northern California. These water sources supply our service area shown on the adjacent map. The quality of groundwater delivered to your home is presented in this report.

**How is My Drinking Water Tested?**
Your drinking water is tested regularly for unsafe levels of chemicals, radioactivity and bacteria at the source and in the distribution system. We test weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually or less often depending on the substance. State and federal laws allow us to test some substances less than once per year because their levels do not change frequently. All water quality tests are conducted by specially trained technicians in state-certified laboratories.

**What Are Drinking Water Standards?**
The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) limits the amount of certain substances allowed in tap water. In California, the Department of Health Services regulates tap water quality by enforcing limits that are at least as stringent as the Federal EPA’s. Historically, California limits are more stringent than the Federal ones.

There are two types of these limits, known as standards. Primary standards protect you from substances that could potentially affect your health. Secondary standards regulate substances that affect the aesthetic qualities of water. Regulations set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for each of the primary and secondary standards. The MCL is the highest level of a substance that is allowed in your drinking water.

Public Health Goals (PHGs) are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency. PHGs provide more information on the quality of drinking water to customers, and are similar to their federal counterparts. Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs). PHGs and MCLGs are advisory levels that are nonenforceable. Both PHGs and MCLGs are concentrations of a substance below which there are no known or expected health risks.

**How Do I Read the Water Quality Table?**
Although we test for over 100 substances, regulations require us to report only those found in your water. The first column of the water quality table lists substances detected in your water. The next columns list the average concentration and range of concentrations found in your drinking water. Following are columns that list the MCL and PHG or MCLG, if appropriate. The last column describes the likely sources of these substances in drinking water.

To review the quality of your drinking water, compare the highest concentration and the MCL. Check for substances greater than the MCL. Exceedence of a primary MCL does not usually constitute an immediate health threat. Rather, it requires testing the source water more frequently for a short duration. If test results show that the water continues to exceed the MCL, the water must be treated to remove the substance, or the source must be removed from service.

**Manganese**
Wells in the Bellflower Municipal Water System were found to contain manganese over the Secondary MCL of 50 ppb in 2006. The Secondary MCL of manganese is set for aesthetic reasons, and there are no health concern associated with the levels of manganese found at these wells.

**Iron**
Wells in Bellflower Municipal Water System were found to contain iron over the Secondary MCL of 300 ppb in 2006. Iron in the concentrations that occur naturally in groundwater and surface water have no known adverse health concern associated with the levels of iron found at those wells.

**Total Coliform Bacteria**
On February 9, 2006, Peerless Water Company (now known as Bellflower Municipal Water System) informed the Department of Health Services of two (2) positive total coliform samples for System #1: this was a violation as the total coliform MCL. Sample collection/Analysis and Department public notification conformed to California Code of Regulations Title 22, Sections 64428.1, 64424 and 64426.1. Coliforms generally are harmless bacteria (a type of microbe) that live naturally in the intestines of humans and also found in most animals, birds, plants, soil, air and water. Water that contains coliforms is not safe to drink however, not
because of the coliforms, but because of the germs that possible may be in well water when coliforms are found there. Coliform bacteria, or rather their absence, is a good index of the degree of bacteriologic safety of a water supply. Flushing was the method used to clean the water and retesting. This was a Tier 2 violation requiring public notification by mail or hand delivery within 30 days which was done. The Drinking Water Standards in the Safe Drinking Water Act have established upper limits for the concentration of coliform bacteria in a series of water samples (roughly, no more than one organism per 100 ml of sample water).

Why Do I See So Much Coverage in the News About the Quality Of Tap 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, including 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 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, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, 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 EPA and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDHS regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Federal EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). You can also get more information on tap water by logging on to these helpful web sites:

- www.epa.gov/OGWDW  (Federal EPA's web site)
- www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem  (CDHS web site)

Should I Take Additional Precautions?

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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection of Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Federal EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Source Water Assessment

MWD completed an assessment of its Colorado River and State Water Project supplies in 2002. Colorado River supplies are considered most vulnerable to recreation, urban/storm water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation and wastewater. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting MWD at (213) 217-6850.

A Source Water Assessment was conducted by California Department of Health Services in August 2001 for each of the four active groundwater wells serving the customers of Bellflower Municipal Water System. The following information was found.

Well #02

The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply:
- Automobile - Body Shops
- Automobile - Repair Shops

The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: Automobile - Gas Stations

Discussion of Vulnerability

Well #02 shown to be most vulnerable to the chemicals: Manganese, Sulfate and Flouride.

Manganese has been detected to a level of 124 which is higher than the MCL of 50. although this chemical has been detected, the given listings of chemicals suggests that it is naturally occurring,
Well 03 shown to be most vulnerable to the chemicals: Sulfate and Flouride.
The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply:
Automobile – Body Shops
Automobile – Repair Shops
Machine Shops
Apartment and condominiums
The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants:
Chemical/petroleum pipelines

Well 08 shown to be most vulnerable to the chemicals: Iron, Manganese, Sulfate and Flouride.
The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants:
Automobile – Body Shops
Automobile – Repair Shops
The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants:
Crops, irrigated (Berries, hops, mint, orchards, sod, greenhouses,
Automobile – Gas Stations

Well 17 The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply:
School
Veterinary Offices/clinics
The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants:
Apartments and condominiums
Well 17 shown to be most vulnerable to the chemicals: Arsenic, Barium, and Flouride.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at:
Department of Health Services, Drinking Water Field Operations Branch
1443 W Temple St., Room 202
Los Angeles, California 90026
You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting the California Department of Health Services at (213) 580-6723.

How Can I Participate in Decisions On Water issues That Affect Me?
The public is welcome to attend Board meetings located at 1001 S Flower Street, Bellflower, CA every 3rd Monday of the month except January and February at 4:30 pm. You may call the office at (562) 531-1500 for the day and time of the January and February monthly meeting.

How Do I Contact My Water Agency If I Have Any Questions About Water Quality?
If you have specific questions about your tap water quality, please contact Edith Marquez at (562) 531-1500.

Some Helpful Water Conservation Tips
* Fix leaky faucets in your home – save up to 20 gallons every day for every leak stopped
* Don’t use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket – save 400 to 600 gallons per month with fewer flushes
* Adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn/garden, not the sidewalk/driveway – save 500 gallons per month
**Secondary Standards Monitored at the Source for Aesthetic Purposes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Standard for Surface Water</th>
<th>Standard for Groundwater</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chromium (mg/L)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (mg/L)</td>
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<td>0.2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead (mg/L)</td>
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<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercury (mg/L)</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manganese (mg/L)</td>
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<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel (mg/L)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silicate (mg/L)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfate (mg/L)</td>
<td>250</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfide (mg/L)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sulfur (mg/L)</td>
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<td>Total Coliforms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Parent Metals</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

- *Note*: The table above lists the chemical parameters that are monitored at the source for aesthetic purposes. These standards are set to protect the public health and the environment from the potential effects of chemical contaminants. The limits are based on the best available scientific data and are designed to ensure that the drinking water is safe for human consumption. Additional chemicals of interest, such as mercury, nickel, and manganese, are also monitored to ensure the quality of the drinking water. The table above only includes a selection of parameters, and the full list of monitored chemicals is provided in the report. For more information, please refer to the official drinking water quality report.
2006 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

BELLFLOWER MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM
16913 LAKewood BLVD.
BELLFLOWER, CA 90706