2015 Annual Water Quality Report

Walnut Grove
PWS ID: 3410047

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER

A Message from California American Water President Rob MacLean

Dear Customer:

The attached water quality report is our "report card" that gives you the results of the quality of the water we provided to your business or home in 2015. Since 2015 was the 4th year of the worst drought to hit California in 100 years, I want to thank you for your water conservation efforts throughout last year. The drought is a good reminder of how precious water is, and how much we can do to reduce our use when needed.

This report includes information about the quality of the water we provide to our customers. As you read through our Annual Water Quality Report, you will see that we continue to supply water that meets or surpasses all state and federal water quality standards. Better yet, the price you pay for this high quality water service remains about one penny per gallon.

Due to recent events in Flint, Michigan, I want to draw your attention to the sections of this report related to lead that demonstrate our compliance with the lead standard and provide helpful information for customers wishing to learn more about this topic. You can find more information on our **lead fact sheet,** or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

Water is still an exceptional value when you consider the facilities and technology needed to draw water from the source and treat it, along with miles and miles of pipeline hidden below the ground to bring water to your tap. What's more, our plant operators, water quality experts, engineers and maintenance crews work around the clock to make sure that quality water is always there when you need it. Delivering reliable, high-quality water service also requires significant investment to maintain and upgrade aging facilities. In 2015 alone, we invested more than more than $64 million in local infrastructure across California.

Because water is essential for public health, fire protection, economic development and overall quality of life, California American Water's employees are committed to ensuring that quality water keeps flowing not only today but well into the future.

Sincerely,

Robert G. MacLean
President

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it at (888) 237-1333.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien al (888) 237-1333.

Ntawm no yog ib co lus qhia tseem ceeb heev txog koj cov dej seb huv npaum li cas. Yog tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov lus qhia no, thov hu rau peb ntawm (888) 237-1333.

這是關於您的水質的十分重要的資訊。如果您需要幫助翻譯此資訊請致電(888) 237-1333 與我們聯繫。

आपके पानी की गुणवत्ता के बारे में यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण सूचना है। यदि इस सूचना के अनुवाद के लिए आपको सहायता की जरूरत हो, तो कृपया (888) 237-1333 पर हमें काल करें।

Это очень важная информация о качестве Вашей воды. Если Вам требуется перевод этой информации, позвоните нам по телефону (888) 237-1333.

Ito ay isang napakahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa kalidad ng iyong tubig. Kung iyong kailangan ng tulong sa pagsalin ng impormasyon na ito, mangyaring tumawag sa amin sa (888) 237-1333.

Đây là thông tin rất quan trọng về chất lượng nước của quý vị. Nếu quý vị cần thông dịch thông tin này, xin gọi chúng tôi theo số (888) 237-1333.

Our Commitment to Quality

Once again, we proudly present our Annual Water Quality Report. This document covers compliance testing completed through December 2015. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations remains exemplary. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

About California American Water

California American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), provides high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to more than 615,000 people.

About American Water

American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company. Marking its 130th anniversary this year, the company employs 6,700 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in 47 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

What is a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)?

To comply with state and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulations, California American Water issues a report annually describing the quality of your drinking water. This report is also called an Annual Water Quality Report and the purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect your drinking water sources. In 2015, we conducted hundreds of tests at numerous sampling points in your water system, all of which were below state and federal maximum allowable levels. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. It includes details about where your water comes from and what it contains. The data presented in this report is a combination of data from our nationally recognized main water quality lab, and commercial laboratories, all certified in drinking water testing by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (formerly California Department of Public Health).

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call our Customer Service Center at (888) 237-1333

Share this Report

Landlords, businesses, schools, hospitals and other groups are encouraged to share this important water quality information with water users at their location who are not billed customers of California American Water and therefore do not receive this report directly.

About Your Water

Water in the Walnut Grove system comes from wells that pump groundwater from aquifers in the Walnut Grove area. California American Water chlorinates your drinking water to ensure that it meets bacteriological quality standards. The water supply is distributed for residential and commercial use. California American Water uses water treatment technologies to remove naturally occurring arsenic and manganese from the groundwater produced from some of the supply wells.

Notice of Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources in the Walnut Grove system was completed in February 2003. No man-made contaminants have been detected in the groundwater supplies.

The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities (although not associated with any detected chemicals): sewer collection systems, automobile – gas stations, chemical/ petroleum processing/storage, dry cleaners, landfills/dumps, metal plating/finishing/ fabricating, underground storage tanks – confirmed leaking tanks, and irrigated crops.

A copy of the completed assessment may be viewed at: California American Water, 4701 Beloit Drive, Sacramento, CA 95838.

Information Regarding Contaminants Detected In Your Water

Arsenic

While your drinking water meets the state and federal standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing it from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 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. Compliance with the arsenic standard is based on the running annual average of four consecutive quarters of monitoring.

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the United States. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water when showering, washing dishes, or doing other household activities with water. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water in most cases will be a minor source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air inside. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal for your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program at (800) 745-7236, the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791, or the National Safety Council's Radon Hotline at (800) SOS-RADON.

Fluoride
Fluoride is a naturally occurring substance. It can be present in drinking water from two sources: 1) by nature when groundwater comes into contact with fluoride-containing minerals naturally present in the earth; or 2) by a water purveyor through the addition of fluoride to the water before the water is put in the distribution system. In the Walnut Grove system, all fluoride in the water is from naturally occurring minerals and the concentrations are well below the limits for contaminants in drinking water set by the USEPA and State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

What are the Sources of Contaminants?

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 human activity. Groundwater sources are typically less susceptible to surficial contaminants than surface water systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 may result from urban stormwater 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 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

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

Source Water Protection Tips for Consumers

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water sources in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water sources.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil and antifreeze to a recycling center. (www.emd.saccounty.net/HowDoI/DisposeofHouseholdHazardousWaste.html)
- Do not dispose of unused medications down the drain.
- Use environmentally friendly soaps and detergents when washing your vehicles.

Educational Information – Special Health Information

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. You can obtain more information about contaminants and potential health effects by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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

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. California American Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been idle 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.

How to Contact Us

If you have any questions about this report, your drinking water, or service, please call California American Water's Customer Service toll free at (888) 237-1333.

Water Information Sources

California American Water
www.californiaamwater.com

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/index.shtml

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
www.epa.gov/safewater

Safe Drinking Water Hotline
(800) 426-4791

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

American Water Works Association
www.awwa.org

Water Quality Association
www.wqa.org

National Library of Medicine/National Institute of Health
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/drinkingwater.html

How to Read This Table

California American Water conducts extensive monitoring to ensure that your water meets water quality standards. The results of our monitoring are reported in the adjacent tables. While some monitoring was conducted in 2015, certain substances are monitored less than once per year because the levels do not change frequently. For help with interpreting this table, see the "Definition of Terms" section.

Starting with a **Substance,** read across. **Year Sampled** is usually 2015 or the most recent data from a prior year. **MCL** shows the highest level of the substance (contaminant) allowed. **PHG** (or **MCLG**) is the goal level for that substance (this may be lower than what is allowed). **Average Amount Detected** represents the (calculated) average level of that substance from the drinking water sources that California American Water used in 2015. **Range** tells the highest and lowest amounts measured. A **"No"** under **Violation** indicates regulatory requirements were met. **Major Sources in Drinking Water** tells where the substance usually originates.

Definitions of Terms Used in This Report

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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. Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.

micromhos per centimeter (µmhos/cm): A measure of electrical conductance.

Million fibers per liter (MFL): The number of asbestos fibers (in millions) per liter that are greater than 10 microns in length.

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): Measurement of the

clarity, or turbidity, of the water.

Notification Level (NL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, requires notification to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water and the consumer. Not an enforceable standard.

NR: Not reported

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

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

pH: A measurement of acidity, 7.0 being neutral.

picocuries per liter (pCi/L): Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).

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

Public Health Goal (PHG): 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.

RAA: Running Annual Average

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

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

TOC: Total Organic Carbon

TON: Threshold Odor Number

Total Dissolved Solids: An overall indicator of the amount of minerals in water.

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

Variances and Exemptions: Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Water Quality Statement

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met USEPA and state drinking water standards. California American Water vigilantly safeguards its water supplies, and once again we are proud to report that our system did not violate any state or federal water quality standards.

There's a lot more to your water bill than just water.

When you turn on the tap, it's easy to see what your water bill buys. What's not as easy to see is what it takes to bring that water to your home. The miles of pipeline hidden below the ground. The facilities that draw water from the source. The plant where it's treated and tested. The scientists, engineers, and maintenance crews working around the clock to make sure that water is always there when you need it. Your water payments are helping to build a better tomorrow by supporting needed improvements that will keep water flowing for all of us—today and well into the future.

Water Quality Results

Regulated Substances

Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Amount Detected	Range		Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
					Low	High		
Arsenic (ppb)	2015	10	0.004	ND	ND	7.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; Glass, and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm) (naturally occurring)	2015	2	1	0.25	0.25		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2014	10	0.02	ND	ND		No	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
Distribution System Monitoring								
Chlorine (ppm)	2015	MRDL=4.0	MRDLG=4.0	1	0.79	1.65	No	Treatment chemical used to disinfect drinking water
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)[1]	2015	60	N/A	8	8		No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)[1]	2015	80	N/A	24	22	24	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

[1]The "Average Amount Detected" is the Highest Running Annual Average

Secondary Substances

Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	SMCL	Average Amount Detected	Range		Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
				Low	High		
Chloride (ppm)	2015	500	67	67		No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Color (units)	2015	15	5	5		No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2015	300	ND	ND	180	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Odor (TON)	2015	3	2	2		No	Naturally-occuring organic materials
Specific Conductance (mmhos/cm)	2015	1,600	540	540		No	Substances that form ions when in water; Seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2015	500	ND	ND		No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2015	1,000	320	320		No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

Lead and Copper (tap water samples)

Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	Action Level	PHG (MCLG)	Number of Samples	Amount Detected (90th Percentile)	Homes Above Action Level	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Copper (ppm)	2013	1.3	0.3	11	0.21	0	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2013	15	0.2	11	4.0	0	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharges from industrial manufacturers

Additional Water Quality Parameters of Interest

This table shows average levels of additional water quality parameters that are often of interest to consumers. The averages shown are calculated from the levels detected at each source used to supply water is 2015. Values may vary from day-to-day. There are no health-based limits for these substance in drinking water.

Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	Average Amount Detected	Range	
			Low	High
Alkalinity as CaCO3 (ppm)	2015	170	170	
Calcium (ppm)	2015	6	6	
Magnesium (ppm)	2015	2	2	
pH	2015	8.0	8	
Radon (pCi/L)	2006	378	378	
Silica (ppm)	2015	36	36	
Sodium (ppm)	2015	109	109	
Total Hardness as CaCO3 (ppm)	2015	24	24	