This report includes details about where your water comes from, how it is tested, what is in it, and how it compares with State and Federal drinking standards. 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?
Santa Fe Springs tap water comes from two sources—groundwater and surface water. The City pumps groundwater from our local, deep well and disinfects that water before distributing it to our customers. Last year, the City purchased treated and disinfected water from the Central Basin Municipal Water District’s groundwater treatment facility in Whittier Narrows. We also use Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s (MWD) Riltered and disinfected 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 our groundwater and MWD’s treated surface water supplies 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, semiannually or annually, or less often depending on the state, federal, and local regulations.

What Are Drinking Water Standards?
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) limits the amount of certain substances allowed in tap water. In California, the State Department of Public Health (Department) regulates tap water quality by enforcing limits that are at least as stringent as the USEPA’s. Historically, California limits are more stringent than the federal requirements.

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 quality of drinking water. Regularly monitoring 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). MCLGs and PHGs 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?
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. The following columns list the MCL, MCLG, or PHG, 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. Exceedance 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.
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, 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 can 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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, that 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, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radiotoxic contaminants, that 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 USEPA and the Department 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.

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 USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

You can also get more information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. You can also get more information at www.epa.gov/safewater and www.edph.ca.gov/cert/icr/drinkingwater.

Every Effort Helps When It Comes to Water Conservation.

- Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on your grass. If it springs back when you lift your foot—it doesn’t need water. So, set your sprinklers for more days in between watering. Saves 750 - 1500 gallons per month.
- Fix leaky faucets and plumbing. Saves 20 gallons per day for every leak stopped.
- Don’t run the hose while washing your car. Use a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end. Saves 150 gallons each time.
- Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictions. Saves 500 - 800 gallons per month.
- Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. Saves 300 - 800 gallons per month.
- Shorten your showers. A two minute reduction can save up to 700 gallons per month.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. Saves 150 gallons or more each time and up to 600 gallons per month.
- Don’t use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. Saves 400 gallons per month.
- Capture tap water. While you wait for hot water to come down the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can to use later on house plants or your garden. Saves 200 - 300 gallons per month.
- Don’t waste the sidewalk, driveway or gutter. Adjust your sprinklers so water only lands on your lawn or garden. Saves 500 gallons per month.

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 USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection of Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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.

The City of Santa Fe Springs conducted an assessment of its groundwater supplies in 2002. Groundwater supplies are considered most vulnerable to chemical/petroleum processing/storage, automobile repair shops, automobile gas stations, dry cleaners, fleet/truck/bus terminals, landfills/dumps, motor pools, sewer collection systems, water supply wells, electrical/electronic manufacturing, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, furniture repair/manufacturing, and wastewater. A copy of the approved assessment may be obtained by calling the City of Santa Fe Springs Water Department at 562-868-0511, extension 361.

How Can I Participate in Decisions On Water Issues That Affect Me?

The public is welcome to attend City Council meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

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 call 562-868-0511, extension 361.

PRACTICE THESE TIPS AND START SAVING WATER AND MONEY!