



# Rancho Los Amigos



## SOURCES OF WATER

In 2020, Rancho Los Amigos was supplied entirely by two groundwater wells, Well Nos. 1 and 2. The groundwater is disinfected with chlorine to kill harmful microorganisms and to keep the water safe as it travels to your tap.

An assessment of the groundwater wells was completed in August 2002. The assessment evaluates the vulnerability of water sources to contamination and helps determine whether more protective measures are needed. The wells are considered most vulnerable to machine shops; NPDES/WDR permitted discharges, utility station maintenance areas and automobile gas stations. A copy of the complete assessment can be obtained by contacting the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, Los Angeles Office, 500 North Central Avenue, Suite 500, Glendale CA 91203, or by phone at (818) 551-2004.

## TO OUR CUSTOMERS

This report was prepared by the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts on behalf of the Rancho Los Amigos Water System. Rancho Los Amigos is in the City of Downey and provides drinking water to several Los Angeles County Department offices including Health Services (Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center), Agricultural Commissioner, Probation, Public Health and Sheriffs.

Please read as it contains important information about your drinking water. If you have any questions about this report, please contact Mr. Hatem Ben Miled at (626) 300-4679. To view this report on the internet, please visit [www.lacwaterworks.org](http://www.lacwaterworks.org).

Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Water Quality Report. We look forward to another year of providing you with safe, reliable water.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions or comments regarding water quality or this report, please contact Mr. Hatem Ben Miled at (626) 300-4679. To view this report on the internet, please visit our website at [www.lacwaterworks.org](http://www.lacwaterworks.org).



# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water testing performed in 2020





## DRINKING WATER & YOUR HEALTH

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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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, 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, 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, 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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. USEPA/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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## MAKE WATER CONSERVATION A WAY OF LIFE

In addition to protecting the quality of water delivered to you, we also promote and implement water conservation programs. The importance of saving water by developing simple habits like turning off the water while brushing teeth, finding and fixing leaks, washing full loads of laundry, and planting California friendly plants in the yard are simple steps in achieving water use efficiency. Not only during drought periods but in everyday life in California, water conservation should remain a high priority for all Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts customers. For more tips on how to conserve water and to learn more about the rebate programs we offer, visit [www.LACWaterworks.org](http://www.LACWaterworks.org) or call (626) 300-3313. We can all take actions every day to conserve water for tomorrow!

## Every Drop Travels A Long Way... Fix Your Leaks.



## LEAD & COPPER

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. The 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>



## SAMPLING RESULTS

During the past year, your water is tested for chemical, physical, radiological and bacteriological parameters. We also test for additional organic and inorganic chemicals that are not regulated. The tables included in this report list all the substances that were detected. The presence of these substances in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table are from the testing performed last year. The State allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

## Table Definitions

**90th Percentile:** Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

**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. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**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 a 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.

**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 Environmental Protection Agency.

**ppb:** parts per billion (micrograms per liter)  
**ppm:** parts per million (milligrams per liter)  
**µS/cm:** MicroSiemens per centimeter  
**NTU:** Nephelometric turbidity unit  
**TON:** Threshold Odor Number  
**\*\* HAA5, chlorine, TTHMs, color, odor, turbidity and pH were measured within the distribution system**

**N/A:** Not applicable  
**ND:** Non-detect  
**NL:** Notification level  
**pCi/L:** PicoCuries per liter

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	MCL [MRDL]	PHG [MCLG]	YEAR SAMPLED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE LEVEL	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chlorine** (ppm)	[4.0] as Cl <sub>2</sub>	MRDLG = 4 as Cl <sub>2</sub>	2020	0.91 - 1.83	1.17	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fluoride (ppm)	2.0	1	2020	0.36	0.36	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	15	[0]	2020	ND - 4.4	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5]** (ppb)	60	N/A	2020	3.9 - 4	4	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate as N (ppm)	10	10	2020	2.6	2.6	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes [THMs]**(ppb)	80	N/A	2020	18	18	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	2020	1.6	1.6	Erosion of natural deposits

LEAD & COPPER						
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG	90TH% LEVEL	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.3	0.3	0.56	0/20	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2019	15	0.2	1.6	0/20	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system; discharge from industrial manufactures; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS						
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	MCL [MRDL]	PHG [MCLG]	YEAR SAMPLED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE LEVEL	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	500	N/A	2020	79	79	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1600	N/A	2020	750 - 780	765	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	500	N/A	2020	110	110	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1000	N/A	2020	470 - 480	475	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity** (NTU)	5	N/A	2020	ND - 0.47	0.21	Soil runoff

OTHER PARAMETERS			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE LEVEL
Bicarbonate Alkalinity (ppm)	2020	210	210
Calcium (ppm)	2020	82 - 83	82.5
Hardness (ppm)	2020	270	270
Magnesium (ppm)	2020	16	16
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppb)	2020	0.0021 - 0.012	0.008
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppb)	2020	0.005 - 0.028	0.020
pH** (Units)	2020	7.5	7.5
Sodium (ppm)	2020	52	52
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2020	170	170

#### PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manmade chemicals that have been commonly used in consumer products such as cookware and food packaging for their water and oil resistant properties. Although PFAS have been classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as emerging drinking water contaminants on the national landscape, regulators have not yet established enforceable drinking water standards for PFAS. However, the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water has set notification level for two of the more prevalent PFAS substances: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). A notification level (NL) is a health-based advisory level for constituents that lack drinking water standards and requires notification to customers when exceeded.

In November 2020, the notification levels of PFOS and PFOA were exceeded in one of the two active wells that serve the Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center. The well that exceeded notification levels was turned off shortly after the exceedance and has not been used to serve customers. The remaining active well has been used as the primary source of water since then. Both wells will continue to be monitored for PFAS.