



City of  
**SEAL BEACH**  
Water Department

LET'S GET  
**SMART** ABOUT **WATER**



# 2015 Water Quality Report



# Your 2015 Water Quality Report

Since 1990, California public water utilities have been providing an annual Water Quality Report to their customers. **This year's report covers calendar year 2014 drinking water quality testing and reporting.**

Your City of Seal Beach Water Department vigilantly safeguards its water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets the quality standards required by federal and state regulatory agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) are the agencies responsible for establishing and enforcing drinking water quality standards.

In some cases, the City goes beyond what is required by testing for unregulated chemicals that may have known health risks, but do not have drinking water standards. For example, the Orange County Water

District (OCWD), which manages the groundwater basin, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), which supplies treated imported surface water to the City, test for unregulated chemicals in our water supply. Unregulated chemical monitoring helps the USEPA and DDW determine where certain chemicals occur and whether new standards need to be established for those chemicals.

Through drinking water quality testing programs carried out by OCWD for groundwater, MWD for treated surface water, and the Seal Beach Water Department for the distribution system, your drinking water is constantly monitored from source to tap for regulated and unregulated constituents.

The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.



# The Quality of Your Water is Our Primary Concern

## Sources of Supply

Your water supply is a blend of groundwater pumped from four local wells by the City of Seal Beach Water Department and water imported from Northern California and the Colorado River by the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) via the MWD. Groundwater comes from a natural underground aquifer that is replenished with water from the Santa Ana River, local rainfall, imported water, and the Groundwater Replenishment System. The groundwater basin is 350 square miles and lies beneath north and central Orange County from Irvine to the Los Angeles County border and from Yorba Linda to the Pacific Ocean. More than 20 cities and retail water districts draw from the basin to provide water to homes and businesses.



## Orange County's Water Future

For years, Orange County has enjoyed an abundant, seemingly endless supply of high-quality water. However, as water demand continues to increase statewide, we must be even more conscientious about our water supply and maximize the efficient use of this precious natural resource.

OCWD, MWDOC, and the City of Seal Beach work cooperatively to evaluate new and innovative water management and supply development programs, including water reuse and recycling, wetlands expansion, recharge facility construction, ocean and brackish water desalination, surface storage, and water use efficiency programs. These efforts are helping to enhance long-term countywide water reliability and water quality.

A healthy water future for Orange County rests on finding and developing new water supplies, as well as protecting and improving the quality of the water that we have today. Your local and regional water agencies are committed to making the necessary investments in new water management projects today to ensure an abundant and high-quality water supply for our future.

## Basic Information About Drinking Water 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 land or through the layers of the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal and human activity.

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.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and DDW prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. DDW regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Immuno-Compromised People

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have had organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some elderly persons and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

The USEPA and the national Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Eastern Time (7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in California).

## Conservation Tips for Inside Your Home

Collect water used to wash fruits and vegetables

**Use it to water your houseplants**

Install aerators on the kitchen faucet

**Reduce flow to less than 1 gallon per minute**

Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes

**Saves up to 50 gallons per week**

Plug the sink instead of running water to rinse your razor

**Saves up to 300 gallons a month**

Buy water-saving devices like high-efficiency toilets and clothes washers. You'll save gallons of water per day and many of these items are eligible for rebates. To learn more, visit: [www.ocwatersmart.com](http://www.ocwatersmart.com).

*Talk to your family and friends about saving water. If everyone does a little, we all benefit a lot.*



## Questions about your water? Contact us for answers.

For information about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact Darrick Escobedo at (562) 431-2527 ext. 1409.

For information regarding opportunities to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your water, please contact Darrick Escobedo at (562) 431-2527 ext. 1409.

For more information about the health effects of the listed contaminants in the following tables, call the USEPA hotline at (800) 426-4791.

# Important Information the EPA Would Like You to Know

## Issues in Water Quality that Could Affect Your Health

### Drinking Water Fluoridation

Fluoride has been added to U.S. drinking water supplies since 1945. Of the 50 largest cities in the U.S., 43 fluoridate their drinking water. In December 2007, MWD joined a majority of the nation's public water suppliers in adding fluoride to drinking water in order to prevent tooth decay. In line with recommendations from the DDW, as well as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MWD adjusted the natural fluoride level in imported treated water from the Colorado River and State Water Project to the optimal range for dental health of 0.7 to 1.3 parts per million. Our four local groundwater wells are not supplemented with fluoride; they have naturally occurring fluoride levels of 0.57 parts per million or less. Fluoride levels in drinking water are limited under California state regulations at a maximum dosage of 2 parts per million.

Additional information about the fluoridation of drinking water is available on these websites:

#### U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/](http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/)

#### State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml)

For more information about MWD's fluoridation program, please contact Edgar G. Dymally at (213) 217-5709 or by email at [edymally@mwdh2o.com](mailto:edymally@mwdh2o.com).

### What are Water Quality Standards?

Drinking water standards established by the USEPA and DDW set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **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 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.
- **Secondary MCLs:** Set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

### How are Contaminants Measured?

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. Contaminants are measured in:

- parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

### What is a Water Quality Goal?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and DDW have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

- **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 USEPA.
- **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.
- **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.

### About Lead in Tap Water

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 City of Seal Beach Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

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, (800) 426-4791, or on the web at: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>.

### Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts

Disinfection of drinking water was one of the major public health advances in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Disinfection was

a major factor in reducing waterborne disease epidemics caused by pathogenic bacteria and viruses and it remains an essential part of drinking water treatment today.

Chlorine disinfection has almost completely eliminated from our lives the risks of microbial waterborne diseases. Chlorine is added to your drinking water at the source of supply (groundwater well or surface water treatment plant). Enough chlorine is added so that it does not completely dissipate through the distribution system pipes. This "residual" chlorine helps to prevent the growth of bacteria in the pipes that carry drinking water from the source into your home.

However, chlorine can react with naturally-occurring materials in the water to form unintended chemical byproducts, called disinfection byproducts (DBPs), which may pose health risks. A major challenge is how to balance the risks from microbial pathogens and DBPs. It is important to provide protection from these microbial pathogens while simultaneously ensuring decreasing health risks from disinfection byproducts. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the

### 2014 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Treated Surface Water

Chemical	MCL	PHG, or (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Radiologicals – Tested in 2014</b>						
Alpha Radiation (pCi/L)	15	(0)	ND	ND – 4	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Beta Radiation (pCi/L)	50	(0)	5	4 – 6	No	Decay of Man-made or Natural Deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	3	2 – 3	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
<b>Inorganic Chemicals – Tested in 2014</b>						
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	0.17	0.08 – 0.31	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	0.11	0.11	No	Refinery Discharge, Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm) treatment-related	Control Range 0.7 – 1.3 ppm Optimal Level 0.8 ppm		0.8	0.7 – 1	No	Water Additive for Dental Health
<b>Secondary Standards* – Tested in 2014</b>						
Aluminum (ppb)	200*	600	170	80 – 310	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	90	87 – 92	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Color (color units)	15*	n/a	1	1	No	Naturally-occurring Organic Materials
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	n/a	1	1	No	Naturally-occurring Organic Materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	980	960 – 1,000	No	Substances that form Ions in Water
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	230	220 – 240	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	630	600 – 650	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
<b>Unregulated Chemicals – Tested in 2014</b>						
Alkalinity, total as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	120	120 – 130	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Boron (ppm)	NL = 1	n/a	0.1	0.1	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	72	70 – 74	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	290	280 – 290	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (grains/gallon)	Not Regulated	n/a	17	16 – 17	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	26	25 – 27	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	8.1	8.1	n/a	Hydrogen Ion Concentration
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	4.6	4.4 – 4.8	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	94	89 – 99	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT	n/a	2.6	2.4 – 2.9	n/a	Various Natural and Man-made Sources

ppb = parts-per-billion; ppm = parts-per-million; pCi/L = picoCuries per liter; µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter; ND = not detected; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; (MCLG) = federal MCL Goal; PHG = California Public Health Goal; NL = Notification Level; n/a = not applicable; TT = treatment technique \*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard.

Turbidity – combined filter effluent Metropolitan Water District Diemer Filtration Plant	Treatment Technique	Turbidity Measurements	TT Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
1) Highest single turbidity measurement	0.3 NTU	0.06	No	Soil Runoff
2) Percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	No	Soil Runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, an indication of particulate matter, some of which might include harmful microorganisms. NTU = nephelometric turbidity units. Low turbidity in Metropolitan's treated water is a good indicator of effective filtration. Filtration is called a "treatment technique" (TT). A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water that are difficult and sometimes impossible to measure directly.

### Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Chlorate (ppb)	800	n/a	59	51 – 68	2013
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)**	MCL = 10	0.02	0.07	0.06 – 0.08	2013
Molybdenum, Total (ppb)	n/a	n/a	4.6	4.5 – 4.6	2013
Strontium, Total (ppb)	n/a	n/a	900	900	2013
Vanadium, Total (ppb)	50	n/a	3	2.9 – 3	2013

\*\*Hexavalent chromium is regulated with an MCL of 10 ppb but was not detected, based on the detection limit for purposes of reporting of 1 ppb. Hexavalent chromium was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.

USEPA to develop rules to achieve these goals.

Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) are the most common and most studied DBPs found in drinking water treated with chlorine. In 1979, the USEPA set the maximum amount of total THMs allowed in drinking

water at 100 parts per billion as an annual running average. Effective in January 2002, the Stage 1 Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts Rule lowered the total THM maximum annual average level to 80 parts per billion and added HAAs to the list of regulated chemicals in drinking

water. Your drinking water complies with the Stage 1 Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

Stage 2 of the regulation was finalized by the USEPA in 2006, which further controls allowable levels of DBPs in drinking water without compromising disinfection itself.

A required distribution system evaluation was completed in 2008 and a Stage 2 monitoring plan has been approved by DDW. Full Stage 2 compliance began in 2012.

### 2014 City of Seal Beach Groundwater Quality

Chemical	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Radiologicals</b>							
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	<1	ND – 2.4	No	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
<b>Inorganic Chemicals</b>							
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	<2	ND – 2	No	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.47	0.4 – 0.57	No	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
<b>Secondary Standards*</b>							
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	18	13 – 24	No	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Color (color units)	15*	n/a	3.5	ND – 7	No	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	n/a	1	ND – 2	No	2014	Naturally Occurring Organics
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	370	340 – 400	No	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	40	38 – 44	No	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	220	210 – 240	No	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
<b>Unregulated Chemicals</b>							
Alkalinity, total (ppm as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	Not Regulated	n/a	130	120 – 150	n/a	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Bicarbonate (ppm as HCO <sub>3</sub> )	Not Regulated	n/a	160	150 – 180	n/a	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	24	19 – 33	n/a	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (ppm as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	Not Regulated	n/a	74	53 – 110	n/a	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (grains/gallon)	Not Regulated	n/a	4.3	3.1 – 6.5	n/a	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	3.3	1.4 – 5.7	n/a	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	8.3	8.2 – 8.3	n/a	2014	Acidity, Hydrogen Ions
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	1.5	1.3 – 1.8	n/a	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	56	49 – 60	n/a	2014	Erosion of Natural Deposits

ppb = parts-per-billion; ppm = parts-per-million; pCi/L = picoCuries per liter; NTU = nephelometric turbidity units; ND = not detected; n/a = not applicable; < = average is less than the detection limit for reporting purposes; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; (MCLG) = federal MCL Goal; PHG = California Public Health Goal \*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).

### Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Chlorate (ppb)	800	n/a	310	86 – 1,000	2013
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)**	MCL = 10	0.02	0.09	ND – 0.25	2013
Chromium, Total (ppb)***	MCL = 50	MCLG = 100	<0.2	ND – 0.3	2013
Molybdenum, Total (ppb)	n/a	n/a	6.5	6.1 – 6.8	2013
Strontium, Total (ppb)	n/a	n/a	250	120 – 370	2013
Vanadium, Total (ppb)	50	n/a	1.3	0.4 – 2.8	2013

\*\*Hexavalent chromium is regulated with an MCL of 10 ppb but was not detected, based on the detection limit for purposes of reporting of 1 ppb. Hexavalent chromium was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.  
 \*\*\*Total chromium is regulated with an MCL of 50 ppb but was not detected, based on the detection limit for purposes of reporting of 10 ppb. Total chromium was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.

### 2014 City of Seal Beach Distribution System Water Quality

Disinfection Byproducts	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	36	6.4 – 36	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	14	4.5 – 24	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4 / 4)	1.2	0.77 – 1.7	No	Disinfectant Added for Treatment
<b>Aesthetic Quality</b>					
Color (color units)	15*	ND	ND – 1	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	ND	ND – 1	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	0.14	ND – 0.21	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits

Four locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids; Eighteen locations are tested monthly for color, odor and turbidity.  
 MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal  
 \*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).

### Lead and Copper Action Levels at Residential Taps

	Action Level (AL)	Health Goal	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding AL / Number of Sites	AL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	2.4	0 / 31	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.13	0 / 31	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing

Every three years, at least 31 residences are tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of samples was collected in 2012. Copper was found in 31 homes; none exceeded the regulatory action level. Lead was found in eight homes; none exceeded the action level. The regulatory action level is the concentration of lead or copper which, if exceeded in more than ten percent of the homes tested, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

### Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring in the Distribution System

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Chlorate (ppb)	800	n/a	84	59 – 140	2013
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)**	MCL = 10	0.02	0.11	0.05 – 0.2	2013
Molybdenum, Total (ppb)	n/a	n/a	5.3	4.9 – 6.3	2013
Strontium, Total (ppb)	n/a	n/a	810	270 – 1,000	2013
Vanadium, Total (ppb)	50	n/a	2.8	2.1 – 3.2	2013

\*\*Hexavalent chromium is regulated with an MCL of 10 ppb but was not detected, based on the detection limit for purposes of reporting of 1 ppb. Hexavalent chromium was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.

## Conservation Tips for Outside

Rotating nozzles for pop-up sprays **Uses 20% less water than traditional sprinkler heads**

Remove the turf from your yard **Saves about 42 gallons per square foot/per year**



Check your sprinkler system for leaks, overspray, and broken sprinkler heads and repair promptly **Saves up to 500 gallons per month**

Install a smart sprinkler controller **Saves up to 40 gallons per day/ over 13,000 gallons per year**

Additional water saving steps and devices are also available and some of these are eligible for substantial rebates. Consider replacing your lawn with drought tolerant plants, synthetic turf, or permeable hardscape. Or add rotating sprinkler nozzles, a weather-based controller, or a drip line to enhance your automated irrigation system. And mulch. Hundreds of gallons a year can be saved by simply using organic mulch around plants.

For complete rebate information for these water saving resources, visit: [www.ocwatersmart.com](http://www.ocwatersmart.com).

## Source Water Assessments

### Imported (MWD) Water Assessment

Every five years, MWD is required by the DDW to examine possible sources of drinking water contamination in its State Water Project and Colorado River source waters.

In 2012, MWD submitted to the DDW its updated Watershed Sanitary Surveys for the Colorado River and State Water Project, which include suggestions for how to better protect these source waters. Both source waters are exposed to stormwater runoff, recreational activities, wastewater discharges, wildlife, fires, and other watershed-related factors that could affect water quality.

Water from the Colorado River is considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. Water supplies from Northern California's State Water Project are most vulnerable to contamination from urban/stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater.

The USEPA also requires MWD to complete one Source Water Assessment (SWA) that utilizes information collected in the watershed sanitary surveys. MWD completed its SWA in December 2002. The SWA is used to evaluate the vulnerability of water sources to contamination and helps determine whether more protective measures are needed.

A copy of the most recent summary of either Watershed Sanitary Survey or the SWA can be obtained by calling MWD at (213) 217-6850.

### Groundwater Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Seal Beach was completed in December 2002. The groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with detected contaminants: sewer collection systems and military installations.

A copy of the complete assessment is available at State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, 605 W. Santa Ana Boulevard, Building 28, Room 325, Santa Ana, CA 92701. You may request a summary of the assessment by contacting the City of Seal Beach Water Department at (562) 431-2527 ext. 1409.



**The California State Water Project**  
 The State Water Project, one of the largest water systems in the world, collects water from rivers in Northern California and transports it, through a network of canals, pipelines and tunnels, over many hundreds of miles to Southern California, where it's distributed throughout the region. Along the way, it's lifted almost 3,800 feet, with the highest single lift of 1,926 feet over the Tehachapi Mountains, which separate the San Joaquin Valley from Southern California. To view a short YouTube video that shows the length and complexity of the State Water Project, [click here](#).

# The Need to Conserve — — Has Never Been Greater

As California enters its fourth year of drought, water conservation has become vitally important for us all. There are many areas in and around our homes where we can save water, particularly outdoors, where our gardens and lawns receive almost 60% of all the water we use. To learn more about the drought, or to find useful tips for how to conserve water, click the logos to visit:

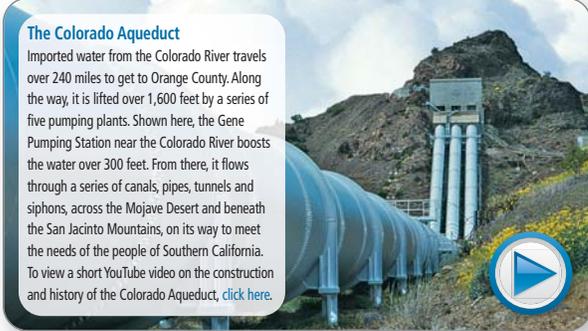
[bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com)® or



To learn about programs and devices that can help save water, along with information on rebates for these water saving resources, visit:

[www.OCWaterSmart.com](http://www.OCWaterSmart.com)

To view a short YouTube video on multiple ways to conserve water, [click here](#).



**The Colorado Aqueduct**  
 Imported water from the Colorado River travels over 240 miles to get to Orange County. Along the way, it is lifted over 1,600 feet by a series of five pumping plants. Shown here, the Gene Pumping Station near the Colorado River boosts the water over 300 feet. From there, it flows through a series of canals, pipes, tunnels and siphons, across the Mojave Desert and beneath the San Jacinto Mountains, on its way to meet the needs of the people of Southern California. To view a short YouTube video on the construction and history of the Colorado Aqueduct, [click here](#).

## Conservation Tips for Inside Your Home . . .



Collect water used to wash fruits and vegetables:  
**Use it to water your houseplants**

Don't run water to thaw food:  
**Defrost in the refrigerator**

Install aerators on kitchen and bathroom faucets:  
**Reduces flow to less than 1 gallon per minute**



Turn off the water while you brush your teeth:  
**Saves up to 2.5 gallons per minute**

Spend only 5 minutes in the shower:  
**Saves up to 8 gallons each time**

Install low-flow shower heads:  
**Saves 2.5 gallons per shower**

Plug the sink instead of running water to rinse your razor:  
**Saves up to 300 gallons a month**



## . . . and More Tips for Outside Your Home

Check your sprinkler system for leaks, overspray and broken sprinkler heads and repair promptly:  
**Saves up to 500 gallons per month**

Use a broom instead of a hose:  
**Saves up to 150 gallons each time**

Water your plants in the early morning or evening:  
**Saves up to 25 gallons each time**

Remove the turf from your yard:  
**Saves about 42 gallons per square foot/per year**

Rain barrels: **Saves about 600 gallons per year**

Rotating nozzles for pop-up spray heads:  
**Uses 20% less water than conventional sprinkler heads**

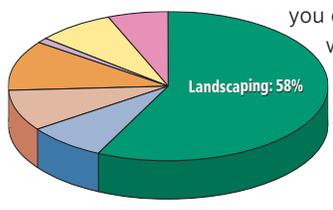
Additional water saving steps and devices are also available, and some of these are eligible for substantial rebates. Consider replacing your lawn with drought tolerant plants, synthetic turf, or permeable hardscape. Add rotating sprinkler nozzles, or a drip line to enhance your automated irrigation system. Adding organic mulch saves hundreds of gallons of water each year.

For complete rebate information for these water saving resources, visit:  
[www.ocwatersmart.com](http://www.ocwatersmart.com).

**Talk to your family and friends about saving water.  
 If everyone does a little, we all benefit a lot.**

## How Residential Water is Used in Orange County

Outdoor watering of lawns and gardens makes up approximately 60% of home water use. By cutting your outdoor watering by 1 or 2 days a week, you can dramatically reduce your overall water use.



- Showers & Baths: 8%
  - Clothes Washers: 9%
  - Toilets: 11%
  - Dishwashers: 1%
  - Leaks: 7%
  - Faucets: 6%
- Data is representative of average consumption; your water usage may vary.

# This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

يحتوي هذا التقرير على معلومات هامة عن نوعية ماء الشرب في منطقتك. يرجى ترجمته، أو ابحث التقرير مع صديق لك يفهم هذه المعلومات جيدا.

## Arabic

이 보고서에는 귀하가 거주하는 지역의 수질에 관한 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 이것을 번역하거나 충분히 이해하시는 친구와 상의하십시오.

## Korean

这份报告中有些重要的信息，讲到关于您所在社区的水的品质。请您找人翻译一下，或者请能看得懂这份报告的朋友给您解释一下。

## Chinese

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

## Spanish

この資料には、あなたの飲料水についての大切な情報が書かれています。内容をよく理解するために、日本語に翻訳して読むか説明を受けてください。

## Japanese

Bản báo cáo có ghi những chi tiết quan trọng về phẩm chất nước trong cộng đồng quý vị. Hãy nhờ người thông dịch, hoặc hỏi một người bạn biết rõ về vấn đề này.

## Vietnamese