2009 Water Quality Report

Spanish (Espanol)
Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuniquese con alguien que pueda traducir la informacion.

Is my water safe?
We are routinely tested for over 80 contaminants. In 2009, only 12 of those contaminants were detected, and only 1 was found at a level higher than the EPA allows. Since the updated EPA's Arsenic Rule became effective on January 23, 2006, our water has exceeded the drinking water standard for Arsenic contamination. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.) This report is a snapshot of 2009's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?
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. EPA/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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791)

Where does my water come from?
Our water is pumped from the underground water aquifer formed within the Santa Fe Group of sand and gravel deposits. Well #3 and #4 are located on Lot 73, replatted to be called Lot 50-A. These two wells are on Trails Road East just across the street from the town homes. Our water system includes the wells, the respective pump houses, all equipment contained within the pump houses, the large storage tank on Lot 51-A, the distribution line, meters, meter cans, valves, fire hydrants, easements of record, and water rights.

The original Well #1 collapsed and was re-drilled in June of 2003. It later became known as Well #4. The depth is 760 ft. and depth to static water level is 357 ft. The water-bearing layer is 680 to 760 ft. of coarse sand and gravel. Well #3 and Well #4 operate in tandem. Well #3 is our primary producer. It was drilled in 1995. The depth is 580 ft. with depth to static water level at 398 ft. The water-bearing layer is 520 to 580 ft. of gravel and river sand.

Water is drawn from the wells by submersible pumps. Each pump delivers water to the system and to a 100,000-gallon storage tank. Water is chlorinated by injection under pressure of a sodium hypochlorite solution directly into the well pump discharge line.

Source water assessment and its availability
The Susceptibility Analysis of the Placitas Trails Water Coop (PTWC) water utility reveals that the utility is well maintained and operated, and the sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on well construction, hydrogeologic settings, and system operations and management. The susceptibility rank of the entire water system is moderately high, as determined by the Drinking Water Bureau of NMED.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?
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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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: 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, which 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems; and 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?
We want our members to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regular monthly board meetings. They are usually held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the conference room of the La Puerta Real Estate building. Please call one of the board members to find out the meeting location. Also, as required in the Coop bylaws, we hold an annual membership meeting in October of each year.

Conservation Tips
Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the day. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving; 3-5 gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

Additional Information for Lead
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. Placitas Trails Water Cooperative 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/safewater/lead.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	0.33	0.1	0.87	2009	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppm)	0.06		ND	NA		2009	No	Not Regulated; Byproducts of drinking water
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppm)	0.08		ND	NA		2009	No	Not Regulated; Byproducts of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	NR	NA		2009	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	37	29	42	2009	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.045	NA		2009	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	NR	NA		2009	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	NR	NA		2009	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	NR	NA		2009	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.8	NA		2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Mercury [Inorganic] (ppb)	2	2	NR	NA		2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
Nickel (ppm)	NC	NC	0.0	NA		2009	No	Discharge from organic chemical manufacture, petroleum refining and edible oil hardening
Nitrate-Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	0.5	NA		2009	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	NC	NC	34	NA		2009	No	Not Regulated
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	2.26	NA		2009	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Thallium (ppb)	0.5	2	ND	NA		2009	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories
Zinc (ppm)	5	NC	0.02	NA		2009	No	Secondary Standard – Not Regulated
Radioactive Contaminants								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	ND	NA		2005	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	4.57	2.2	4.57	2005	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	**MCLG**	**AL**	**Your Water**	**Sample Date**	**# Samples Exceeding AL**	**Exceeds AL**	**Typical Source**
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.1884	2009	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	0	15	1.7	2009	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

Contaminants	**MCLG or MRDLG**	**MCL or MRDL**	**Your Water**	**Violation**	**Typical Source**
Inorganic Contaminants					
Cyanide [as Free Cn] (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories

Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides					
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	50	50	ND	No	Residue of banned herbicide
2,4-D (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Alachlor (AKA: Lasso) (ppb)	0	2	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Benzo(a)pyrene (ppb)	0	0..2	ND	No	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
BHC – Gamma (AKA: Lindane) (ppb)	0.2	0.2	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens
Carbofuran (ppb)	40	40	ND	No	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
Chlordane (ppb)	0	2	ND	No	Residue of banned termiticide
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate (ppb)	400	400	ND	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	400	400	NA	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) (ppb)	0	0.2	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards
Dinoseb (ppb)	7	7	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables
Diquat (ppb)	20	20	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Endothall (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Endrin (ppb)	2	2	ND	No	Residue of banned insecticide
Ethylene dibromide (ppt)	0	50	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Glyphosate (ppb)	700	700	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Heptachlor (ppt)	0	400	ND	No	Residue of banned pesticide
Heptachlor epoxide (ppt)	0	200	ND	No	Breakdown of heptachlor
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	50	50	ND	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Methoxychlor (ppb)	40	40	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Oxamyl [Vydate] (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram (ppb)	500	500	ND	No	Herbicide runoff
Simazine (ppb)	4	4	ND	No	Herbicide runoff
Toxaphene (ppb)	0	3	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle
Volatile Organic Contaminants					
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	3	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene) (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories

Dichloromethane (ppb)	5	5	ND	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
O-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	600	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
P-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	75	75	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Total Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) (ppb)	0	0.5	ND	No	Runoff from landfills; discharge of waste chemicals
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5	5	ND	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	ND	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

Unit Descriptions

Term	**Definition**
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: Not Available or Not Applicable (Depending upon context)
NC	NC: Not Controlled by EPA
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Not Reported.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	**Definition**
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

Violations and Exceedances

Arsenic

Studies show people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. During 2009, the Placitas Trails Water Cooperative was notified on a quarterly basis that both of its wells, Well #3 & #4, have an arsenic concentration that exceeds the 10 ppb MCL. These notices were provided to members of the cooperative as required by NMED. (Note: Additional copies are available). In December of 2009, PTWC received an NMED Administrative Compliance Order for Well #3 & #4 regarding arsenic concentrations in excess of the 10 ppb MCL. PTWC complied with the order and responded with a project schedule that will achieve compliance with 10 ppb MCL no later than January 31, 2014. The compliance will be achieved by installation of a treatment system to remove the excess arsenic concentration from the source water prior to distribution. The PTWC Board selected the coagulation/filtration process using Iron salts as the preferred technology for the arsenic treatment system. The PTWC Board has imposed a temporary monthly assessment on it members to raise capital funds for the treatment system implementation and will select an engineer to guide the project.

For more information please contact:

Rod Biddle, Director of Operations
Placitas Trails Water Cooperative
4 Dusty Trails Drive
Placitas, NM 87043
(505)962-2074
Website: www.placitastrails.com
Direct Link: http://www.placitastrails.com/PDF/ptwc/2009CCR.pdf