

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, including 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, 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, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems;
- 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, 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 (1-800-426-4791). You can also get more information on tap water by logging on to these helpful web sites:

- www.epa.gov/OGWDW (USEPA's web site)
- www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/ps/ddwem (Department web site)

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 (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 Norwalk Municipal Water System conducted its Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection reports in 2003. Wells were considered to be potentially vulnerable to petroleum and chemical processing and had moderate effectiveness against VOC intrusion. For additional information or to request a copy of the Source Assessment, please contact Adriana Figueroa or Erika Lewis at (562) 929-5700 x 5915 or 5964.

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

The public is welcome to attend City Council meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

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 contact Noel Ford at (562) 929-5599.

Some Helpful Water Conservation Tips

- Fix leaky faucets in your home – save up to 20 gallons every day for every leak stopped
- Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket – save 400 to 600 gallons per month with fewer flushes
- Adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn/garden, not the sidewalk/driveway – save 500 gallons per month

Visit us on the web at: www.ci.norwalk.ca.us