

Community Water Company of Green Valley

2016 Water Quality Report

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Community Water Company is pleased to present this annual Water Quality Report to its customers. The water we delivered met or surpassed all primary federal and state standards for drinking water during 2016. This report is designed to help you, the water user, make informed decisions regarding your drinking water. We think you will find this Water Quality Report informative and enlightening. Above all, we want to maintain your confidence in our efforts to provide you with safe drinking water. Within this report, you will find information about:



- Community Water Company (page 1)
- Our Water Source (page 1)
- Source Water Assessment Report (page 2)
- Ways to Protect Our Water Source (page 2)
- Water Quality and Substances Contained in Source Water (page 2)
- Health Effects and Definitions (page 3)
- Table 1 – Detected Contaminants (page 4)
- How You Can Get More Information (page 5)
- Summary of Sampling Results (page 5)
- Water Quality Questions - Hardness and Sodium (page 5)
- Information for Those with Special Health Needs (page 5)

Community Water Company of Green Valley

Community Water Company is a member-owned, non-profit water utility located in unincorporated Pima County and the Town of Sahuarita. In 2016, Community Water Company delivered an average of 1.95 million gallons of water per day to almost 22,000 people (approximately 90 gallons per person per day). Our service area is approximately eight square miles, located roughly between Anamax Road to the north, the Santa Cruz River to the east, Freeport-McMoRan mine to the west, and Mission Twin Buttes Road to the south. We currently have one part-time and nineteen full-time employees. Their primary responsibility is to provide reliable delivery of drinking water which meets all applicable standards.

Our Water Source

Community Water Company's water source is groundwater from the Tucson Basin Aquifer. An aquifer is a saturated permeable geologic unit that can transmit groundwater. This same aquifer is the water supply source for all of Green Valley, parts of Tucson, and surrounding communities. In our region, water is withdrawn from the aquifer by private wells, municipal, agricultural and industrial users. Community Water Company pumps groundwater from the aquifer and stores the water in reservoirs. To protect against bacteriological contamination, the water is chlorinated before it is delivered to the community through our water distribution system. You may receive water from any one of our wells or from a combination of wells.

Source Water Assessment Report

The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) provides a screening level evaluation of potential contamination that could occur in specific service areas. It does not mean the contamination has or will occur. We use this information to evaluate well placement and plan for future treatment needs. Source Water Assessments are on file with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and are available for review. To obtain a copy, contact the Arizona Source Water Coordinator at (602) 771-4641.

Ways to Protect Our Water Source

Proper disposal of household chemicals and automotive waste can help minimize the risk of groundwater contamination by reducing the potential for runoff and leaching. For more information call Pima County landfills at (520) 690-5749.

Hazardous waste collections occur periodically in the Green Valley/Sahuarita area each year. For more information, please contact the Green Valley Council (520) 648-1936 for the date, time, and location of collections.

Water Quality and Substances Contained in Source Water

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, which uses the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards, regulates the amount of certain contaminants which may be present in water delivered by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide similar protection for public health. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by naturally occurring substances or man-made sources. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves natural minerals and radioactive materials, and can be contaminated by substances resulting from animal or human activity. Contaminants which may be present in source water include the following:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- Organic chemicals contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum productions, and also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems;
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and minerals, 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, that may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Information about bottled water can be obtained from the Food and Drug Administration at (888) 723-3366.

Health Effects Language

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause “blue baby syndrome”. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods-of-time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, and detected nitrate levels are above 5 ppm, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Arsenic levels less than or equal to the MCL of 10 ppb in your drinking water meet EPA’s standards. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Lead at elevated levels 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. Community Water Company 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 still in your plumbing fixtures 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Definitions

The following definitions are provided to help you understand the following water quality information:

- AL = Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements
- MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health
- MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level – The “Maximum Allowed” is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water
- MFL = Million Fibers per Liter
- MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
- MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
- PPM = Parts per Million or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)
- PPB = Parts per Billion or Micrograms per Liter (µg/L)
- PPT = Parts per Trillion or Nanograms per Liter
- PPQ = Parts per Quadrillion or Pictograms per Liter
- MREM = Millirems per year is a measure of radiation absorbed by the body
- NA = Not Applicable, sampling was not completed by regulation or was not required
- NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units, a measure of water clarity
- PCi/L = Picocuries per Liter is a measure of radioactivity in water
- TT = Treatment Technique - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

Table 1 – Detected Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant/Date	MCLG	MCL	Unit Measure	Detected Measure	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination	
Microbiological Contaminants Compliance testing occurs twice monthly							
Coliform 2016	Presence of coliform bacteria in no more than one (1) monthly sample			0	No	Naturally present in the environment.	
Inorganic Contaminants							
				Highest	Range		
Arsenic 2016 (Running Annual Average)	10	10	ppb	6.4	3.7 – 6.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium 2016	2.00	2.00	ppm	0.02	<0.01 - 0.02	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride 2016 (CWC does not add fluoride)	2.0	4.0	ppm	1.80	0.30 - 1.80	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate 2016	5.00	10.00	ppm	2.46	0.45 –2.46	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium 2016	0.05	0.05	ppm	0.0029	<0.002 - 0.0029	No	Erosion of natural deposits and various other sources
Total Trihalomethane / Haloacetic Acids (Disinfection By- Products/DBPs)							
				Highest	Range		Next compliance testing occurs in 2017
TTHM 2015	40.0	80.0	ppb	5.8	2.1 – 5.8	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 2015	30.0	60.0	ppb	<2.0	<2.0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Radioactive Contaminants							
				Highest	Range		Next compliance testing occurs in 2022
Gross alpha 2013	0	15.1	pCi/L	7.4	5.3 – 7.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 2013	0	5.0	pCi/L	<0.2	<0.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined uranium	None	None	µg/L	0	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Inorganic Contaminants							
				Highest	Range		Tested at various times
Aluminum	None	None	ppm	.23	<.20 - .23	No	Present in the environment/industry
Acidity & alkalinity	None	None	pH	7.4	6.9 - 7.4	No	
Chloride	None	None	ppm	50.9	10.7-50.9	No	
Hardness	None	None	ppm	109	62-109	No	
Iron	None	None	ppm	.23	<.02 - .23	No	
Magnesium	None	None	ppm	17	2 – 17	No	
Sulfate	None	None	ppm	52.6	45.9-52.6	No	Possible discharge from mine tailings; erosion of natural deposits
Total dissolved solids	None	None	ppm	440	263-440	No	
Lead and Copper 2015							
				Highest	Range		Next compliance testing occurs in 2018
Lead	15.0	15.0	ppb	3.8	<0.0 – 3.8	No	Water lines and plumbing fixtures
Copper	1.3	1.3	ppm	0.14	0.01 - 0.14	No	Water lines and plumbing fixtures
Disinfectant 2016							
				Highest	Range		Next compliance testing occurs in 2017
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	ppm	0.60	0.56 - 0.60	No	Water additive used to control microbes

How you can get more information

We would be glad to answer any water quality questions you may have about this report. Please contact John Meyer, (520) 625-8409, Monday through Friday, during business hours 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additional information about Community Water Company of Green Valley is available at our website:

<http://www.communitywater.com>

Summary of Sampling Results

Our water met all primary federal and state standards for drinking water during 2016. We routinely monitor for contaminants in drinking water according to federal and state laws and are required to test the water for more than 100 constituents at intervals determined by the state. These intervals, or compliance periods, differ depending on the type of contaminant and the likelihood of variation in sample results from year to year. Regulated synthetic organic chemicals, volatile organic chemicals, and inorganic chemicals are sampled every three years. Samples for radiochemicals are required every six years. Samples are required for lead and copper every three years. Asbestos samples are required every nine years. Sampling for coliform bacteria occurs twice a month.

Table 1 on page 4 identifies substances that were detected during the required compliance period. Please remember the mere presence of a substance in drinking water does NOT necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. All of the substances in Table 1 were detected at levels that are within federal and state standards for drinking water. As noted in Table 1, some data is from the most recent compliance period, so the data may have been obtained from sampling that occurred before 2016. Table 1 also includes a list of unregulated inorganic contaminants detected in our water. These inorganic substances do not have an MCL and are not regulated by the EPA, but are measured voluntarily because they may affect the taste, odor, or appearance of drinking water or may have health effects under certain conditions. Most of these substances are found naturally in the soil. Most of these unregulated contaminants were detected at low levels.

Water Quality Questions

The following sections provide information on water quality issues affecting Community Water Company and its customers.

What is the hardness level of the water? Hardness is a measure of the amount of calcium and magnesium in the water. Hardness is generally reported in parts per million, see Table 1, but users of water softeners who test for hardness may be more familiar with the measure of grains per gallon. They should multiply parts per million by .0584. Water hardness delivered to our customers can range from about 4 to 7 grains per gallon.

What is the sodium content of the water? Sodium levels in 2016 ranged between 34 and 69 milligrams per liter (mg/L), which is approximately 8 to 14 milligrams of sodium in an 8-ounce glass of water. One liter is approximately equal to 33.82 ounces. To reduce sodium intake from drinking water, some of our customers with low sodium diets who also utilize water softeners have chosen to use potassium chloride as a substitute for sodium chloride in their brine tanks. The next compliance testing for sodium occurs in 2017.

Information for Those with Special Health Needs

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, persons 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

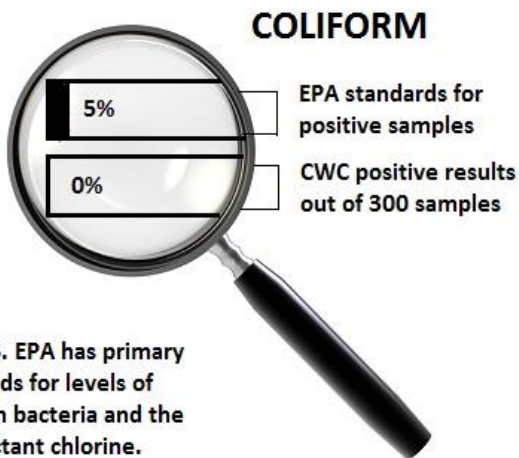
Community Water Company also collects samples for many other contaminants which are not listed in this report because they were not detected.

For more information, please contact John Meyer at (520) 625-8409 or come by our office at 1501 S. La Canada Dr. Green Valley, AZ 85622. Office hours are from 7:30-noon and 1:00-4:30 M-F.

Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

**This notice is presented by Community Water Company of Green Valley
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Safe • Local • Sustainable



The U.S. EPA has primary standards for levels of coliform bacteria and the disinfectant chlorine.

***Saving water means
saving money;
Fix those leaks right
away.***

