

# Community Water Company of Green Valley 2020 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 2020. This report is designed to help you, the water user, make informed decisions regarding your drinking water. We hope 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:



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## Community Water Company of Green Valley

Community Water Company is a non-profit water utility with members located in unincorporated Pima County and the Town of Sahuarita. In 2020, Community Water Company delivered an average of 2.17 million gallons of water per day to about 22,000 people (approximately 99 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 twenty-one full-time employees. Their primary responsibility is to provide reliable delivery of drinking water that 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 Green Valley, Sahuarita, portions of Tucson, and surrounding communities. In our local region, water is withdrawn from the aquifer by private wells, municipal, agricultural, and industrial users.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 a combination of wells.

## Source Water Assessment Report

Based on the information currently available on the hydrogeologic settings of and the adjacent land uses that are in the specified proximity of the drinking water source(s) of this public water system, the department has given a low-risk designation for the degree to which this public water system drinking water source(s) are protected. A low-risk designation indicates that most source water protection measures are either already implemented, or the hydrogeology is such that the source water protection measures will have little impact on protection.

## 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, 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 levels 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 that 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems;
- Inorganic contaminants - such as salts and minerals, which 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 - come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;
- Radioactive contaminants - 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Information Helpline 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 less than six months. 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. Ask advice from your health care provider if you are caring for an infant and nitrate levels are above 5 ppm.

**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, 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 consumer’s 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. You may wish to have your water tested if you are concerned about lead in your water. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://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
- RAA = Running Annual Average
- TT = Treatment Technique - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

## COVID 19

The virus that causes COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water. Conventional water treatment methods that use filtration and disinfection, such as those in most municipal drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19. Source: Center for Disease Control (CDC)

**Table 1 – Detected Regulated Contaminants**

Contaminant/Date	MCLG	MCL	Unit Measure	Detected Measure	Violation Yes/No	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						Compliance testing occurs twice monthly
Coliform 2020	Presence of coliform bacteria in no more than one (1) monthly sample			0	No	Naturally present in the environment.

<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>				Highest	Range		
Arsenic 2020	10	10	ppb	Running Annual Average 6 ppb	3.4 – 7.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium 2019	2.00	2.00	ppm	0.018	<0.010 - 0.018	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride 2019 (CWC does not add fluoride)	2.0	4.0	ppm	1.70	0.41 - 1.70	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate 2020	5.00	10.00	ppm	2.66	0.39 – 2.66	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium 2019	50	50	ppb	3.0	ND–3.0 ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits and various other sources

<b>Total Trihalomethane / Haloacetic Acids (Disinfection By-Products/DBPs)</b>				Highest	Range	Next compliance testing occurs in 2021	
TTHM 2020	40.0	80.0	ppb	4.0	3.1-4.0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 2020	30.0	60.0	ppb	<2.0	<2.0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>				Highest	Range	Next compliance testing occurs in 2022	
Gross alpha 2016	0	15	pCi/L	7.4	5.3 – 7.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 2016	0	5.0	pCi/L	0.5	ND – 0.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined uranium	None	None	µg/L	0	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits

<b>Unregulated Inorganic Contaminants</b>				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	Scale of 0 - 14, with 7 as neutral
Chloride	None	None	ppm	50.9	10.7 - 50.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits and various other sources
Hardness	None	None	ppm	109	62 - 109	No	
Iron	None	None	ppm	.23	<.02 - .23	No	
Magnesium	None	None	ppm	17	2 – 17	No	
Sodium	None	None	ppm	63	36-63	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 2018	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	No. of Samples Exceeds AL	Units of Measure	AL	ALG	MCL Violation Y or N	Next compliance testing occurs in 2021
Lead	<5 ppb	0	ppb	15	0	N	Water lines and plumbing fixtures
Copper	.13 ppm	0	ppm	1.3	1.3	N	Water lines and plumbing fixtures

Disinfectant 2020				Running Annual Average	Range	Next compliance testing occurs in 2021	
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	ppm	0.58	0.47 - 0.71	N	Additive used to control microbes

Water Quality Table – Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule					
Metals	Detected (Y/N)	Average	Range of All Samples (Low-High)	MRL	Likely Source of Contamination
Germanium (ppt)	Y	395	310-540	300	Naturally-occurring element; commercially available in combination with other elements and minerals; a byproduct of zinc ore processing; used in infrared optics, fiber-optic systems, electronics, and solar applications
Manganese (ppt)	Y	7310	620-14000	400	Naturally-occurring element; commercially available in combination with other elements and minerals; used in steel production, fertilizer, batteries, and fireworks; drinking water and wastewater treatment chemical; an essential nutrient

Alcohols	Detected (Y/N)	Average	Range of All Samples (Low-High)	MRL	Likely Source of Contamination
1-butanol (ppb)	Y	5.46	5.46	2.0	Used as a solvent, food additive, and in production of other chemicals

Disinfection Byproducts	Detected (Y/N)	Average	Range of All Samples (Low-High)	MRL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA6BR) (ppb)	Y	1.15	.949-1.362	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA9) (ppb)	Y	1.4	1.151-1.647	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Y	.99	.811-1.169	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Bromide (ppb)	Y	103	87.6-117	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

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 regular office hours are from 7:30-noon and 1:00-4:30. Additional information about Community Water Company of Green Valley is available on our website:

<http://www.communitywater.com>

## Summary of Sampling Results

Our water met all primary federal and state standards for drinking water during 2020. 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. 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 2020. 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 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. 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 3.6 to 6.3 grains per gallon.

***What is the sodium content of the water?*** Sodium levels in 2019 ranged between 36 and 63 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 2022.

## 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 Information Helpline 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.

Please share this information with other people who drink our 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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