

## Definitions & Abbreviations

**AL or Regulatory Action Level** — The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MCL or Maximum Contaminant Level** — The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to public health goals or maximum contaminant level goals as economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

**MCLG or Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** — Level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**mg/L** — Milligrams per liter (parts per million)

**MRDL or 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.

**MRDLG or Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

**N/A** — Not applicable

**NA** — Not analyzed

**ND** — None detected

**NL or Notification Level** — Health based advisory level established by the California Department of Public Health for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) as stated by CDPH.

**None** — The government has not set a Public Health Goal or Maximum Contaminant Level for this substance.

**NTU** — Nephelometric turbidity units (measurement of suspended material)

**pCi/L** — picoCuries per liter

**PDWS or Primary Drinking Water Standard** — MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirement.

**PHG or Public Health Goal** — Level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. Public Health Goals are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

**Secondary Drinking Water Standard** — Based on aesthetics, these secondary maximum contaminant levels have monitoring and reporting requirements specified in regulations.

**ug/L** — Micrograms per liter (parts per billion)

**uS/cm** — Microsiemens per centimeter

# CVWD 2010 Domestic Water Quality Table

(Covering the reporting period January - December 2009)

CVWD analyzed more than 16,000 water samples last year to ensure that your drinking water meets state and federal standards. Every year, the district is required to analyze a select number of these samples for more than 100 regulated and unregulated substances.

This table lists those substances that were detected in the district's five service areas. Gray boxes indicate no substance was detected or existing data is no longer reportable. The data on the chart, which summarizes results of the most recent monitoring completed between 2001 and 2009, shows

that CVWD continues to deliver drinking water that meets state and federal water quality standards.

**To read this table:** First, determine in which service area you live (columns 4-8). Then move down the column, comparing the detection level of each chemical or other contaminant with the Public Health Goal, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal and Maximum Contaminant Level (columns 2-3).

For example, if you live in La Quinta and want to know the level of fluoride detected in your service area, you would look down the Cove Communities column and stop at the fluoride row. The average

fluoride level in that service area is 0.6 mg/L with the range of results varying between no detection and 1.0 mg/L.

Compare these values to the Maximum Contaminant Level in Column 3. Fluoride levels in this water comply with the Maximum Contaminant Level of 2.0 [mg/L]. The range can show a level above the Maximum Contaminant Level and still comply with the drinking water standard when compliance is based on average levels found in each water source.

1 Detected parameter, units	2 PHG or (MCLG)	3 Primary or (secondary) MCL	4 Cove Communities <sup>(1)</sup> Range (Average)	5 Indio Hills, Sky Valley & areas around Desert Hot Springs Range (Average)	6 Mecca, Bombay Beach, North Shore & Hot Mineral Spa Range (Average)	7 Desert Shores, Salton Sea Beach & Salton City Range (Average)	8 Thermal & Valerie Jean <sup>(2)</sup> Range (Average)	9 Major Source(s)
Arsenic, ug/L	0.004	10	ND-5.7 (ND)		ND-18 (7.7) <sup>(8)</sup>		ND-5.3 (ND)	Erosion of natural deposits
Boron, mg/L <sup>(3)</sup>	None	NL=1.0				0.3-0.4 (0.4)		Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride, mg/L	None	(500, 600) <sup>(9)</sup>	6.5-120 (16)	12-22 (17)	40-55 (46)	230-350 (280)	7.8-43 (22)	Leaching from natural deposits
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ), mg/L <sup>(4)</sup>	MRDLG 4.0	MRDL 4.0	ND-2.2 (0.2)	0.1-0.5 (0.3)	ND-1.3 (0.4)	ND-1.9 (0.3)	ND-1.0 (0.3)	Result of drinking water chlorination
Chromium, ug/L	(100)	50	ND-22 (ND)	15-20 (18)			ND-24 (15)	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium VI, ug/L <sup>(3)</sup>	None	None	6.2-17 (9.4)					Erosion of natural deposits
Copper, mg/L <sup>(5)</sup> [homes tested/ sites exceeding AL]	0.3	AL=1.3	0.12 [50/ 0]	0.96 [20/ 0]		0.13 [22/ 0]		Erosion of natural deposits
Copper, mg/L	None	(1.0)	ND-0.1 (ND)					Leaching from natural deposits
Fluoride, mg/L	1	2.0	ND-1.0 (0.6)	0.4-0.7 (0.6)	0.9-1.2 (1.0)	0.7-1.7 (1.2)	0.6-0.9 (0.8)	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha particle activity, pCi/L	(Zero)	15	ND-11 (3.7)	3.5-14 (7.5)	ND-3.0 (ND)	ND-3.9 (ND)	ND-4.8 (ND)	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ), mg/L	None	None	23-290 (120)	120-200 (170)	15-17 (16)	200-290 (240)	11-57 (39)	Erosion of natural deposits
Foaming Agents (MBAS), ug/L	None	(500)	ND-0.09 (ND)					Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> ), mg/L	45	45	ND-39 (7.1)	ND-5.2 (3.7)		5.0-6.0 (5.5)	ND-3.4 (2.1)	Leaching of fertilizer, animal waste, natural deposits
Odor threshold, units	None	(3)	ND-1.0 (ND)					Naturally occurring organic materials
pH, units	None	None	7.3-8.2 (7.8)	7.7-8.0 (7.8)	6.9-8.7(8.0)	7.6-8.0 (7.8)	7.0-7.8 (7.5)	Physical characteristic
Sodium, mg/L	None	None	17-86 (28)	58-80 (66)	46-53 (48)	220-260 (230)	36-45 (41)	Erosion of natural deposits
Specific conductance, uS/cm	None	(1,600, 2,200) <sup>(9)</sup>	240-920 (370)	570-780 (660)	270-290 (280)	1,500-2,000 (1,700)	240-340 (280)	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate, mg/L	None	(500, 600) <sup>(9)</sup>	13-190 (38)	150-220 (170)	ND-1.9 (0.6)	200-280 (250)	1.4-43 (22)	Leaching from natural deposits
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE), ug/L	0.06	5	ND-0.6 (ND)					Discharge from dry cleaners and auto shops
Total Coliform bacteria, positive samples/month	(0)	more than 5% <sup>(6)</sup> or more than 1 <sup>(7)</sup>			ND-1 (ND)			Naturally present in the environment
Total dissolved solids, mg/L	None	(1,000, 1,500) <sup>(9)</sup>	130-550 (220)	370-520 (430)	140-170 (150)	850-1,200 (980)	130-210 (160)	Leaching from natural deposits
Total trihalomethanes, ug/L <sup>(4)</sup>	None	80	1.5-7.8 (3.4)	6.5	1.2	7.5	10	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity, NTU	None	(5)	ND-1.0 (ND)		ND-0.5 (ND)	ND-0.6 (0.2)	ND-0.3 (ND)	Leaching from natural deposits
Uranium, pCi/L	0.43	20	ND-12 (4.5)	5.4-11 (7.5)	2.0	2.4-4.2 (3.0)	2.6-5.0 (3.8)	Erosion of natural deposits
Vanadium, ug/L <sup>(3)</sup>	None	NL=50	6.2-39 (14)	9.8-26 (15)		6-24 (17)	ND-29 (18)	Erosion of natural deposits

## Footnotes

(1) Includes the communities of Rancho Mirage, Thousand Palms, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta and portions of Bermuda Dunes, Cathedral City and Riverside County.

(2) In 2009, the Valerie Jean and Thermal service areas were consolidated into one service area.

(3) Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA and the California Department of Public Health have not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist both

regulatory agencies in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

(4) The reported average represents the highest running annual average based on distribution system monitoring.

(5) Reported values are 90th percentile levels for samples collected from faucets in water user homes.

(6) Systems that collect 40 or more samples per month.

(7) Systems that collect less than 40 samples per month.

(8) The average reported is the highest running annual average used for determining compliance.

(9) Values listed are the upper and short-term consumer acceptance contaminant levels.