FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Newsletter

NUMBER 71 JUNE 2023

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Monitoring Data & Test Results from Calendar Year 2022

A message from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and State Water Resources Control Board, (State Water Board): *In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State Water Board prescribe regulations that limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Water Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.*

While Fern Valley Water District (FVWD) works hard to ensure that our water is safe and pleasing for our customers, all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

This yearly report describes where your water comes from, what is in it, and how its quality compares with the regulatory standards set by the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water.

OUR PRECIOUS WATER SUPPLY is a function of the amount of precipitation that falls locally in the watershed. The water that you receive from your tap is a blend of both surface water and groundwater. The ratio changes depending on availability of each source. A water source assessment was completed in 2002 for ground water and 2012 for surface water. The District produced a total of 42.1 million gallons of water from our surface water and groundwater supplies. Under licenses issued by the California State Water Resources Control Board, 18.2 million gallons or approximately 43.2% of the water delivered to you last year was obtained from Tahquitz Creek; and 9.5 million gallons or approximately 22.6% was obtained from Strawberry Creek. These diversion sites are located at elevations high above Fern Valley. We filter this water through our surface water treatment system, and then the filtered water enters a granular activated carbon adsorption system, further removing a wide variety of potential contaminants. Chlorine disinfectant is added to protect you against microbial contaminants. The combination of these different systems comprise our surface water treatment plant.

Groundwater supplies (Wells): When there is insufficient surface water supply, the District supplements your water supply from a combination of 10 vertical groundwater wells. Last year 14.4 million gallons or approximately 34.2% of the water delivered to you was from wells. This deep well water is obtained from fractured rock, not from a large underground aquifer. The sources are most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: low density septic systems, campgrounds/ recreational areas, and surface water streams. Copies of both assessments are available at the District office. You may also request a summary of the assessments be sent to you by contacting Assistant General Manager, Jessica Priefer at (951) 659-2200.

The well water is aerated to remove carbon dioxide (CO2), a corrosive gas naturally present in groundwater. The aeration process removes the CO2, which in turn elevates the pH, producing water that is less corrosive to the District's water system and your household plumbing. This reduces the risk of lead and copper from leaching into the water from your plumbing. 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. The District 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

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ***Microbial contaminants,*** such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 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.
- ***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, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- ***Radioactive contaminants,*** that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Informational Statement

The sources of drinking water in 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. Water industry professionals are dedicated to removing any materials that might prove harmful to customers. FVWD uses effective, multi-barrier treatment processes to ensure our water continues to meet state and federal standards.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer that are 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. USEPA/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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The following are definitions and notations used in this report:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): Non-enforceable guidelines regarding chemicals that may cause cosmetic or aesthetic effects in drinking water.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CAL EPA).

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The 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 (USEPA).

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

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL): 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of 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.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

N/A: Not applicable

None: The USEPA and CAL EPA, have not set a Public Health Goal or Maximum Contaminant Level for this substance.

(ND) Not detectable: At testing limit.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): A measurement of the cloudiness of water.

Parts per million (ppm): Or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Parts per billion (ppb): Or micrograms per liter (ug/L).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of radiation.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): Disinfection Byproducts locational annual running average.

FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Monitoring Data & Test Results from Calendar Year 2022

All water produced and delivered by the Fern Valley Water District meets or exceeds standards for public drinking water established by the State Water Board and the USEPA.

In the following tables, you will find detailed information about the water that comes from your tap. Your water is regularly tested for more than 120 chemicals and other substances, as well as radioactivity. Only substances that were detected are listed in the tables. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2022. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be from more than one year of sample results.

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding the quality of your water, please contact Victor Jimenez, Fern Valley Water District General Manager at (951) 659-2200.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

CONSTITUENT	MCL	MCLG	HIGHEST # OF DETECTIONS (in one month)	# MONTHS IN VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA	1 Positive monthly sample	0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment
FECAL OR E.COLI BACTERIA	A routine sample & repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or E.coli positive	0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste

HOUSEHOLD LEAD AND COPPER TAP SAMPLING (2022)

CONSTITUENT	UNIT	AL	PHG (MCLG)	# SAMPLES COLLECTED	90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	# SAMPLES EXCEEDING AL	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
LEAD	UG/L	15	0.2	10	0.0092	0	Naturally-occurring
COPPER	MG/L	1.3	0.3	10	0.15	0	Naturally-occurring

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS	UNIT	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	DATE	RANGE	AVERAGE*	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
CHLORINE	MG/L	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	2022	.525-.725	.635	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM)	UG/L	80	N/A	2022	3.1-28	11.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	UG/L	60	N/A	2022	0-17	7.4	By-product of drinking water disinfection
*AVERAGE LISTED FOR TTHM AND HAA5 REPRESENT HIGHEST LRAA							

GROUNDWATER SOURCES - PRIMARY STANDARDS							
CONSTITUENT	UNIT	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	DATE	RANGE	AVERAGE	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
GROSS ALPHA	PCI/L	15	0	2015-2022	.119-5.69	2.81	Erosion of natural deposits
URANIUM	PCI/L	20	0.43	2020-2022	ND-30.6*	7.28	Erosion of natural deposits
GROUNDWATER SOURCES - SECONDARY STANDARDS							
CONSTITUENT	UNIT	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	DATE	RANGE	AVERAGE	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
BICARBONATE ALKALINITY	MG/L	--------	N/A	2021	32-72	56.14	Naturally occurring
CALCIUM	MG/L	--------	N/A	2021	5.8-17	12.4	Naturally occurring
CHLORIDE	MG/L	500	N/A	2021	2.5-5.3	3.66	Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits
HARDNESS (TOTAL) AS CACO3	MG/L	--------	N/A	2021	18-51	37.57	Naturally occurring
MAGNESIUM	MG/L	--------	N/A	2021	1.4-2.4	1.73	Naturally occurring
PH, LABORATORY	UNITS	--------	N/A	2021	6.8-7.2	7.01	Measure of the acidity of the water
SODIUM	MG/L	--------	N/A	2021	8.3-12	10.19	Salt present in the water that is generally naturally occurring
SPECIFIC CONDUCTANCE	US	1600	N/A	2021	78-160	119.71	Substances that form ions when in water
SULFATE	MG/L	500	N/A	2021	0.63-0.79	0.67	Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits
ZINC	MG/L	5	N/A	2021	ND-18	.03	Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS	MG/L	1000	N/A	2021	68-110	91.71	Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits
TURBIDITY, LABORATORY	NTU	5	N/A	2021	0.16-0.36	0.26	Soil runoff

* Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have kidney problems or an increased risk of getting cancer.

SURFACE WATER SOURCES - PRIMARY STANDARDS							
CONSTITUENT	UNIT	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	DATE	RANGE	AVERAGE	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
BARIUM	MG/L	1	2	2022	ND-.017	.0085	Erosion of natural deposits
SURFACE WATER SOURCES - SECONDARY STANDARDS							
CONSTITUENT	UNIT	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	DATE	RANGE	AVERAGE	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
BICARBONATE ALKALINITY	MG/L	--------	N/A	2022	32-40	36	Naturally occurring
CALCIUM	MG/L	--------	N/A	2022	5.4-7.5	6.45	Naturally occurring
CHLORIDE	MG/L	500	N/A	2022	1.9-3.4	2.65	Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits
HARDNESS (TOTAL) AS CACO3	MG/L	--------	N/A	2022	17-24	20.5	Naturally occurring
MAGNESIUM	MG/L	--------	N/A	2022	ND-1.3	.65	Naturally occurring
PH, LABORATORY	UNITS	--------	N/A	2022	7.3-7.4	7.35	Measure of the acidity of the water
SODIUM	MG/L	--------	N/A	2022	5.6-8.4	7.0	Salt present in the water that is generally naturally occurring
SPECIFIC CONDUCTANCE	US	1600	N/A	2022	55-79	67	Substances that form ions when in water
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS	MG/L	1000	N/A	2022	44-68	56	Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits

SURFACE WATER TREATMENT							
CONTAMINANT	UNIT	MCL	PHG	DATE	LEVEL FOUND	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
TURBIDITY	NTU	TT = 1	N/A	2022	0.0	NO	Soil runoff
		TT = 95% OF SAMPLES ≤ 0.2	N/A		0.0	NO	

Sampling Results Showing Treatment of Surface Water Sources

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our surface water filtration system.	
Treatment Technique [(a)]	EPD (Environmental Products Division) two stage pressure filter
Turbidity Performance Standards [(b)] (that must be met through the water treatment process)	Turbidity of the filtered water must: 1 – Be less than or equal to 0.2 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month. 2 – Not exceed 1.0 NTU for more than eight consecutive hours. 3 – Not exceed 5.0 NTU at any time.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1.	100%
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year	0.164 NTU
Number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements	0

(a) A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
(b) Turbidity (measured in NTU) is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Turbidity results which meet performance standards are considered to be in compliance with filtration

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS NOT MET FOR FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Our water system failed to monitor as required for drinking water standards during the past year and, therefore, was in violation of the regulations. Even though this failure was not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we did to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. The chain of custody forms submitted with the samples were filled out incorrectly, and therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do at this time.
- The table below lists the contaminant we did not properly test for during the last year, how many samples we are required to take and how often, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were and will continue to be taken.

Contaminant	Required Sampling Frequency	Number of Samples Taken	When All Samples Should Have Been Taken	When Samples Were or Will Be Taken
Uranium	Quarterly for 4 Quarters Beginning the 3rd Quarter of 2022	2	3rd and 4th Quarters of 2022 and 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2023	1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarters of 2023

If you have health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened?
The April 2022 sample for total uranium from Well 3 was reported at 30.6 mg/L, exceeding the State MCL of 20 mg/L., which in turn triggered quarterly sampling from Well 3. We mistakenly listed Radium 226 and Radium 228 on the chain of custody to the lab, instead of total uranium. The submitted samples reported no detection and we did not become aware of the error until February 2023.

What is being done?
We immediately submitted new samples weekly specifying total uranium, which reported results of 5.5 mg/L, 6.2 mg/L, and 3.7 mg/L and the second quarter sample for 2023 reported 5.1 mg/L.

For more information, please contact Victor Jimenez at 951-659-2200 or PO Box 3039, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

Please share this information with all the 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 public notice in a public place or by distributing copies by hand or mail.

Secondary Notification Requirements
Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- SCHOOLS: Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by the Fern Valley Water District

State Water System ID# 3310040

Date Distributed: June of 2023

IMPORTANT NOTICE– PLEASE READ!!

It is very important that you do your very best to shut-off the water at the customer valve located near the meter, not a valve located near the house, whenever leaving the property for any extended periods. Although a valve near the house may protect you if there are leaks in the house, these valves will not protect your main service line between the meter and the house and these lines are very prone to freezing if not installed deep enough. All water that passes through the meter is your responsibility and the District no longer has the ability to offer any form of forgiveness in the event that your property suffers any form of leak for any reason. We have had several customers receive very expensive bills due to unfortunate leaks. We do our best to notify all customers of any irregular usage that we detect, but unless we see a leak or a neighbor reports a leak to us, reading the meters is our only method of detection. We read your meters bi-monthly and a water leak can add up to a large amount of usage in a two month time frame, so please remember to shut-off your water at the customer valve. If you forget to turn off your water, or for whatever reason are unable to return to your property, call the office and we will do our best to assist you in getting it shut-off as a one-time courtesy. Additional calls will result in call-out fees being assessed and these calls will only be addressed as workload and operator availability allow.

PLEASE MAKE THIS A PRIORITY!

BRIEF SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

Fern Valley Water District was established in 1958 as a California Water District under Section 34000, Division 13 of the California Water Code. The District employs a staff of five, the General Manager, Assistant General Manager and three field operators. Our system consists of approximately 22 miles of pipeline ranging in size from 4 to 12 inches in diameter. We currently have 1,179 service connections, ten groundwater wells with a total pumping capacity of 320-gpm (gallons per minute), four aeration plants to treat the well water, one 250-gpm surface water treatment plant, and a 250-gpm surface water granular activated carbon adsorption system. Water storage includes five storage reservoirs with a capacity of 4,289,431 gallons for finished water, and three reservoirs with a capacity of 2,340,000 gallons for raw or untreated water; for a total water storage capacity of 6,629,431 gallons. Because our system is "gravity-feed", we can provide continued service even during short-term power outages and disruptions in power supply.

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT

The Fern Valley Water District is dedicated to providing the finest customer service and water quality possible. The District's Assistant General Manager, Jessica Priefer, has been with the District for over 16 years. She is dedicated to providing the best customer service possible to all of the District's customers.

The District wants to assure our customers that your water service is provided by certified professionals that far exceed the minimum State of California standards. The Fern Valley Water District has been classified as a T2/D2 system which requires a minimum of T2/D2 certifications for Chief Operator and T1/D1 certifications for Shift Operators. Currently the General Manager, Victor Jimenez, holds a T3 in water treatment and a D4 in water distribution and over 27 years of experience in the water industry. The veteran operator, James Nutter, holds a T3 in water treatment and a D3 in water distribution and over 27 years of experience in the water industry. Cam Clark and Tony White hold T2 and D2 certifications and continue to work toward attaining higher certifications. In addition, Staff is certified in cross connection control and the District has a comprehensive cross-connection control program.

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

- **SCADA Upgrade:** The District purchased a new SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) system to control the District's surface water treatment plant. The District now has the ability to control and monitor the plant remotely, greatly reducing the time and effort required to resolve issues that might arise at the plant. IPad tablets were purchased and issued to employees allowing remote access to the SCADA system and to begin the development of GIS mapping of the system.

- **New Board Meeting Dates:** The Board of Directors recently passed Resolution 608 changing regular Board meetings from the third Friday of every month to the third Thursday of every month. The meeting time remains 9:00 a.m. and all are welcomed.

WHAT'S COMING?

- The capital improvement program will be replacing/upgrading the water mains, valves, hydrants and services on a portion of Howland, all of Cougar and all of Silvertip starting in early July.

- We will continue the augmentation of equipment to enhance the vehicle and equipment maintenance program.

- An additional 10 hydrants will be upgraded from small post hydrants to commercial 6" hydrants to enhance fire protection.

The District continually evaluates the capital improvement plan and prioritizing projects to optimize the District's operation. This coming year will include the large project mentioned above to continue to enhance the system and help further reduce liability from aging infrastructure failures. Next year, 2024-25, will not include any large projects allowing the District to replenish reserves for the next large project in 2025-26.

LEAKS:

The District is very proactive in identifying, repairing, and whenever possible preventing leaks. If you ever see water coming out of the ground or a street, please give us a call or email us and let us know where you saw this. We will do our best to immediately dispatch someone to investigate and repair any and all leaks.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The general public is welcome to attend the regularly scheduled FVWD's Board of Director's meetings, scheduled for the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The meetings are held at the Fern Valley Water District Boardroom at 55790 South Circle Drive, Idyllwild, CA 92549, via teleconference and electronically. For meeting agendas, or if you have a topic that you would like to put on the Agenda, please contact Assistant General Manager, Jessica Priefer at (951) 659-2200.

FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

55790 SOUTH CIRCLE DRIVE, P.O. BOX 3039, IDYLLWILD, CA 92549

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 17
Idyllwild, CA 92549

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
Favor de comunicarse con Fern Valley Water District, 55790 South Circle Drive, Idyllwild, CA 92549, 951-659-2200 para asistirlo en español.

FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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Email: fvwd@verizon.net
Website: www.fernvalleywater.com

It is our policy to be responsive to our customers' needs, and we are available for emergency assistance 24 hours a day. Our emergency phone number is (951) 659-2200.