



# Water Quality Report 2012



Este informe  
contiene informacion  
muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

# 2012 Water Quality Report

For more than 55 years, the Vallecitos Water District (Vallecitos) has taken pride in the water it delivers to its now more than 94,000 residents. As a result of its commitment to excellence, Vallecitos is proud to provide the 2012 water quality test results for drinking water delivered to its customers.

After more than 200 types of tests conducted by its wholesalers – the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) – and additional tests performed by Vallecitos, it has been concluded that your water either met or exceeded all local, state,

and federal potable drinking water standards. Along with these tests, your drinking water went through a treatment process that included filtering and disinfecting to ensure acceptable quality. Results of our own testing and that of our wholesalers' monitoring are found in the tables of this report.

This publication is a summary of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards.

## Origins of Your Drinking Water

Vallecitos customers receive 100 percent imported water from SDCWA, which is purchased from MWD. Water is mainly imported from:



*Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta via the 444-mile California Aqueduct*



*Colorado River via the 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct*

During its journey, your water remains safe due to increased security at key facilities, increased water sampling, and aerial and ground patrols. Protecting your water doesn't end with the thousands of tests performed throughout the year. Vallecitos also supports regulatory changes in public policy to improve water quality.

The end result is more than 5 billion gallons of an exceptional product delivered annually through 19 operational storage reservoirs and 350 miles of pipeline to a 45-square-mile area that includes San Marcos; Lake San Marcos; portions of Escondido, Carlsbad, and Vista; and other unincorporated areas in San Diego County.

## The Water We Drink

The U.S. Congress has directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to require water systems to report the quality of the drinking water they serve annually. Vallecitos supports this regulation and has provided Water Quality Reports and other water quality data to all of its customers for many years.

### Did you know...?

**The Vallecitos Water District has a consistent record of either meeting or exceeding all federal and state drinking water regulations.**

# The Reason for Contaminants



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 at (800) 426-4791.



In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the California Department of Public Health 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. Vallecitos and its water wholesalers treat the water according to these regulations.

The sources of drinking water (both bottled and tap water) include rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs, ponds, 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 human activity.

## Contaminants possibly present in source water before treatment include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as 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 compounds that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



## Health Advisories Regarding Your Water

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. USEPA/Center for Disease Control guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* or other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791**.



Parts per million (ppm) =  
One drop in a 10-gallon aquarium



Parts per billion (ppb) =  
One drop in a residential  
swimming pool

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** This report is only a summary of the water quality activities during the past year. If you have any questions about your water quality or Vallecitos Water District, please visit our website at [www.vwd.org](http://www.vwd.org) or call (760) 744-0460 during business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.). The District's headquarters is located at 201 Vallecitos de Oro, San Marcos, CA 92069. Questions specific to water quality can be directed to Ed Pedrazzi, Vallecitos Water Operations Supervisor, at (760) 744-0460, ext. 253. For additional information, contact:

\* **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** - (800) 426-4791 - [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

\* **National Center for Disease Control** - (404) 639-3311 - [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

\* **California Department of Public Health**- Division of Drinking Water & Environmental Management  
(619) 525-4159 - [www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/Pages/DWP.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/Pages/DWP.aspx)

\* **Metropolitan Water District of Southern California** - (213) 217-6000 - [www.mwd.dst.ca.us](http://www.mwd.dst.ca.us)



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All are welcome to attend the Vallecitos Board Meetings held the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 4:00 pm in the Administration building — 201 Vallecitos de Oro in San Marcos.

# - Special Edition - 2012 Water Quality Report



## Improved treatment techniques ensure superior product and value



*Vallecitos and its wholesalers conducted thousands of tests last year to ensure superior drinking water quality.*

Modern treatment techniques have improved water supplies to the point where people often take the safety of tap water for granted.

A century ago, however, many people did have to worry about their water. That was when filtration and chlorination systems were first installed in municipal water systems. That seemingly basic service made a profound difference: U.S. life expectancy increased and child mortality decreased. Once-common diseases such as cholera and typhoid have been essentially wiped out.

Continuous advances in technology have allowed water agencies to adopt increasingly sophisticated ways of preventing harmful levels of bacteria and chemicals from fouling water supplies.

Federal and state agencies oversee the testing process, periodically setting more stringent safeguards. Over the past 30 years, the number of regulated contaminants in potable water has nearly quadrupled. And contaminant levels that once were measured in parts per million are now traced to parts per billion – giving consumers an even greater margin of safety.

The entire process has delivered a major public health benefit and a real value considering that Vallecitos tap water still costs less than a penny a gallon.