

# Escondido's WATER REPORT



**City of Escondido  
Consumer Confidence Report  
Annual Report  
on  
Water Quality  
for  
2001**



## Is My Water Safe?

Yes. Last year, as in years past, your tap water not only met, but exceeded, all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and state drinking water health standards. The City of Escondido vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and is committed to providing high quality drinking water to its customers. In 2001 the City's Water Quality Laboratory analyzed over 12,000 water samples.



## What Might Be In My Drinking Water?

The sources of drinking water (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. Therefore, drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. However, the presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before it is treated 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, 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.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the California Department of Health Services prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

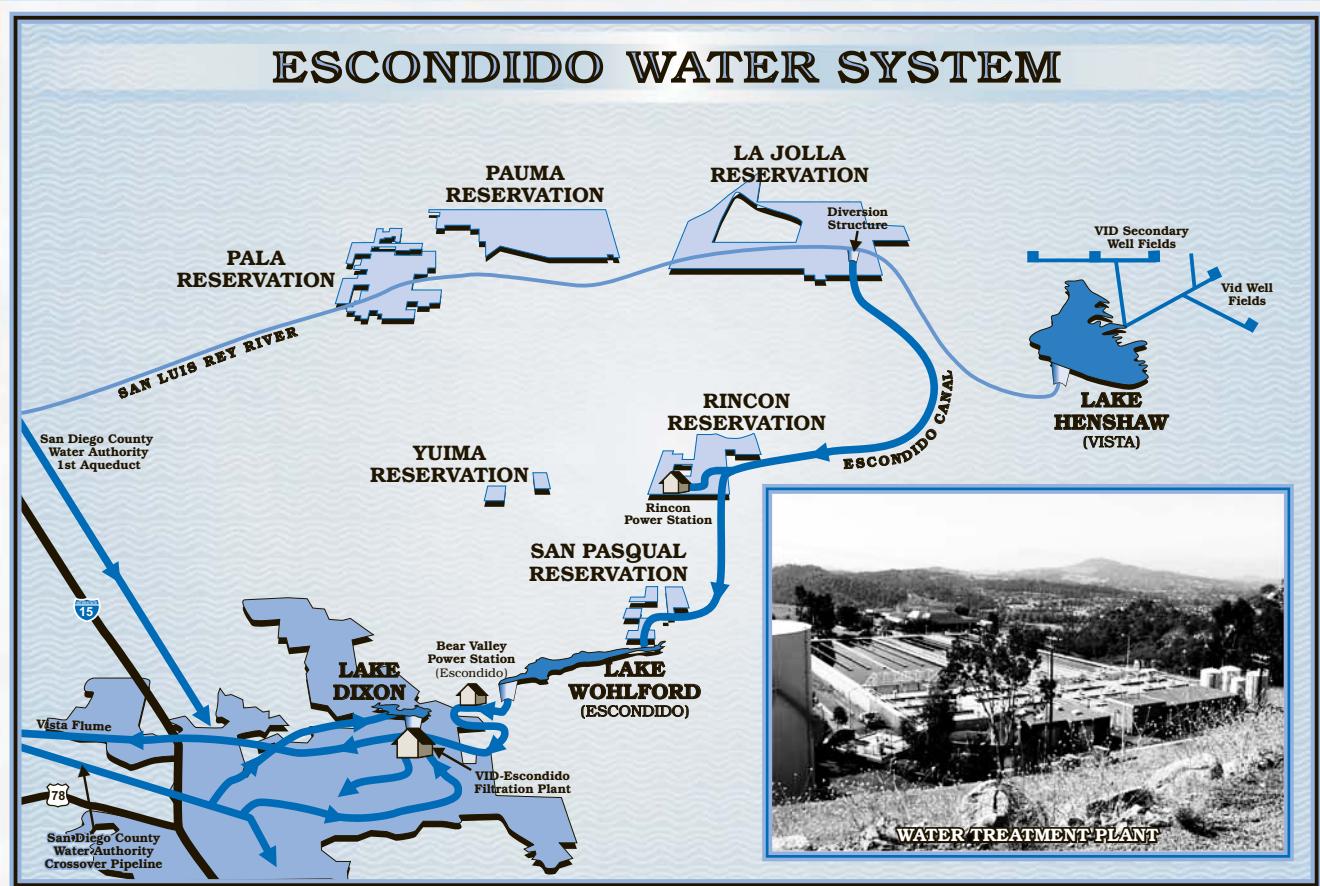


Additional information about contaminants and potential health affects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as people undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people, and infants can be

at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water. Guidelines developed by the USEPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).



## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Escondido uses three sources for its drinking water. The first is local water, which originates from the watershed and well fields near Lake Henshaw. This water is transferred to Lake Wohlford via an open canal. The second source of drinking water is imported water from the Colorado River via the Colorado Aqueduct. The third source is imported water from northern California via the State Water Project. Escondido purchases the imported water from the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA), which obtains it from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. All water, regardless of the source, is treated at the Escondido-Vista Water Treatment Plant adjacent to Lake Dixon Dam.

The treatment of water includes filtration and disinfection to ensure destruction of harmful organisms. After chemical treatment and removal of organic components and suspended

materials, the water is filtered through beds of coal and sand supported by graded rock. Crystal clear water results.

After treatment, water is distributed from the Escondido - Vista Water Treatment Plant to the Vista Irrigation District and throughout Escondido through a system of pipelines and reservoirs.

In December of 2000 the City of Escondido prepared a Sanitary Survey of the local watershed. While the survey identifies a number of activities that have the potential to adversely affect water quality, including residential septic facilities, highway runoff, and agricultural and recreational activities, no contaminates from these activities were detected in the local water supply in 2001.

A copy of the Watershed Sanitary Survey, which is similar to a Source Water Assessment Program, is available for review at City Hall (760-839-4651).

# **What Is This Report About?**

**This Consumer Confidence Report is a snapshot of drinking water quality in 2001. Some Escondido residents and businesses receive water from Rincon Del Diablo Municipal Water District, Vallecitos MWD, or Valley Center MWD. This report focuses on water received by the City of Escondido. Included are details about where Escondido's water originates, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. If you have any questions about this report, please contact Mr. Timothy Kwak, Supervising Chemist at (760) 839-6244.**



# 2001 Water Quality Data Table

The tables shown below list all of the regulated drinking water contaminants that were detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of "contaminants" in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The USEPA or the State requires that monitoring for certain contaminants be less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

PARAMETER	Units	State MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range Average	WTP Effluent	DLR	Typical Source/Comments
<b>Inorganic Contaminants - Primary Standards</b>							
Fluoride (F)	mg/l	2	1	Range	0.24-0.41	0.1	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
				Average	0.31		
<b>Inorganic Contaminants - Secondary Standards</b>							
Color	Units	15	NS	Range	1-1	-	Decaying vegetation or other naturally occurring organic materials
				Average	1		
Chloride (Cl)	mg/L	500	NS	Range	81-88	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
				Average	83		
Sulfate (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sup>2-</sup>	mg/L	500	NS	Range	150-180	0.5	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
				Average	166		
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	1000	NS	Range	480-530	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
				Average	500		
Specific Conductance	umho/cm	1600	NS	Range	777-845	-	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influences
				Average	805		
pH	Units	6.5-8.5	NS	Range	7.37-7.60	-	
				Average	7.48		
Zinc (Zn)	mg/L	5.0	NS	Range	ND-0.55	0.05	Corrosion control additives
<b>Inorganic Contaminants - Unregulated</b>							
Boron	mg/L	(AL=1)	NS	Range	0.12-0.15	0.1	State regulations requires us to monitor this contaminant while the State considers setting a limit on it
Perchlorate	ug/L	(AL=18)	NS	Range	ND-4.3	4	State regulations requires us to monitor this contaminant while the State considers setting a limit on it
				Average	4.1		
<b>Additional Analyzed</b>							
Total Alkalinity	mg/L	NS	NS	Range	102-111	-	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Hydroxide (OH <sup>-</sup> )	ug/L	NS	NS	Range	5-10	-	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
				Average	8		
Carbonate (CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>2-</sup>	mg/L	NS	NS	Range	0.27-0.70	-	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
				Average	0.5		
Bicarbonate (HCO <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>-</sup>	mg/L	NS	NS	Range	124-135	-	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
				Average	131		
Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	mg/L	NS	NS	Range	214-243	-	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
				Average	227		
Calcium (Ca)	mg/L	NS	NS	Range	51-58	-	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
				Average	55		
Magnesium (Mg)	mg/L	NS	NS	Range	21-24	-	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
				Average	22		
Sodium (Na)	mg/L	NS	NS	Range	75-83	-	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
				Average	79		
Potassium (K)	mg/L	NS	NS	Range	3.7-4.2	-	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
				Average	4.0		
Total Chlorine Residual	mg/L	4	(4)	Range	2.15-2.75	-	Addition of chlorine and ammonia as a combined disinfectant chloramine
				Average	2.57		
<b>Radionuclides Analyzed every four years, for four consecutive quarters (sampled in year 2000)</b>							
Gross Alpha Activity	pCi/L	15	(0)	Range	1.8-3.5	1	Erosion of natural deposits. Sampled in 2000.
Gross Beta Activity	pCi/L	50	(0)	Range	2.7-6.6	4	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. Sampled in 2000.
				Average	4.5		
Combined Radium	pCi/L	5	(0)	Range	ND-1.7	0.5	Erosion of natural deposits. Sampled in 2000.
				Average	0.8		
Uranium	pCi/L	20	(0)	Range	ND-2.7	2	Erosion of natural deposits. Sampled in 2000.
				Average	2.0		
PARAMETER	Units	State MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range Average	WTP/ D. System	DLR	Typical Source/Comments
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>							
WTP Effluent Total Coliform Bacteria	%	5	(0)	Range	0	-	Naturally present in the environment
				Average	0		
WTP Effluent Fecal Coliform Bacteria	%	NS	(0)	Range	0	-	Human and animal fecal waste
				Average	0		
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria (Monthly positives) Distribution system	%	5	(0)	Range	0-1.56	-	Naturally present in the environment
				Distribution System Wide Monthly Highest	= 1.56%		
PARAMETER	Units	State MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range Average	WTP/ D. SYS	DLR	Typical Source/Comments
<b>CLARITY (Turbidity)</b>							
Combined Filter Effluent Turbidity	NTU %	TT=95% (%<0.5)	NA	Range	0.04-0.17	-	Soil runoff
				%(<0.5NTU)	100%		
Turbidity in Distribution System	NTU %	5	(0)	Range	0.04-0.30	-	Sediment in Distribution System
				%(<0.5NTU)	100%		
PARAMETER	Units	State MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range Average	WTP Effluent	DLR	Typical Source/Comments
<b>ICR Disinfection By Products (7/97 - 12/98)</b>							
Chloral Hydrate	ug/L	NS	NS	Range	1.7-7.3	0.5	Disinfection by-products
				Average	4.7		
Chloropicrin	ug/L	NS	NS	Range	ND-1.1	0.5	Disinfection by-products
				Average	0.6		
Cynogen Chloride	ug/L	NS	NS	Range	1.6-8.0	1	Disinfection by-products
				Average	4.7		
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ug/L	NS	NS	Range	13.6-60.4	1	Disinfection by-products
				Average	38.2		
Haloacetonitriles (HANs)	ug/L	NS	NS	Range	4.6-13.0	0.5	Disinfection by-products