

How to Read this Report

Find the approximate location of your service address on the map found on the cover of this report. Note the background color on the map - it will be either **light blue** or **yellow**. If it is light blue, refer to the information provided by the City of Escondido. If it is yellow, refer to the information provided by Rincon del Diablo MWD. Although you may not be billed by that particular water utility, this is the actual source of your water.

Your Water Source

2008 Consumer Confidence Report City of Escondido

Surface Water Source: This water is provided by the City of Escondido (City). The City has two sources for its drinking water: 1) local water, which originates from Lake Henshaw in the San Luis Rey Watershed. Water from Lake Henshaw is transferred to Lake Wohlford to the Escondido/Vista Water Treatment Plant, and 2) water purchased from the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). This water in turn is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD imports its water from two sources: a 242 mile-long aqueduct which transports Colorado River water from Lake Havasu to S. California and a 444 mile-long aqueduct that transports water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in northern California to Lake Skinner located in Riverside County. *The chart to the right shows the water quality for 1/01/08 - 12/31/08.*

2008 Consumer Confidence Report Rincon del Diablo MWD

Surface Water Source: As a member agency, Rincon purchases 100% of its drinking water supply from the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). The SDCWA in turn purchases its water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD is a wholesaler that provides water to over 17 million people living in Southern California. MWD imports its water from two sources: a 242 mile-long aqueduct which transports Colorado River water from Lake Havasu to southern California and a 444 mile-long aqueduct that transports water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in northern California to Lake Skinner located in Riverside County. The water is treated at the Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant at Lake Skinner before delivery into our distribution system. *The chart to the right shows the water quality for 1/01/08 - 12/31/08.*

Potable Water

Since your water comes from a natural source and has met the federal and state standards, it is considered safe or "potable" (rhymes with "floatable"). In accordance with state regulations, your drinking water is routinely monitored for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include inorganic contaminants, lead, copper, nitrates, volatile contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants, disinfection by-products, and microbiological contaminants.

Note: All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline** at 1-800-426-4791.

Safe Drinking Water Hotline

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons 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 from their health care providers about their drinking water. 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 Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Hard Water

Water is considered "hard" when two nontoxic minerals, calcium and magnesium, are present in water in substantial amounts. The term "hard" refers to the difficulty of getting soap to lather when used with this water.

You may see the affects of hardness around your kitchen and bathrooms. Hardness is the cause for white scaling in tea kettles and on shower heads and faucets. In some instances water-related appliances (e.g. dishwashers, water heaters, etc.) may be affected by the level of hardness. When this is the case, the manufacturer of the appliance may ask you to verify the level of hardness in your water.

In 2008, hardness ranged from 12.7 - 14.4 grains/gallon.

Two significant sources of your drinking water are the Colorado River and the California State Water Project (imported water from Northern California). Of the two, the Colorado River water is considered "harder."

The ratio of Colorado River and California State Water Project waters varies throughout the year (due to availability, judicial issues, drought, etc.). When the ratio of Colorado River water increases, your water becomes harder. Similarly, when the amount of California State Water Project increases, the hardness becomes diluted.



Parameter (a)	State			Escondido		Rincon		Description			
	MCL	PHG	DLR	Range	Average	Range	Average				
	MRDL	MCLG									
CLARITY (b)											
Turbidity: (NTU %) (c)											
Combined Filter Effluent	0.3	NS	NS	0.04-0.13	0.07	0.08-0.08	.08	Soil runoff			
Lowest monthly % samples meeting standard		NS		100%		100%					
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS (d,e)											
Total Coliform Bacteria (%)											
Monthly positives in DSYS	5	0	-	0-1.99%	.55%	0-0.8%	0.1%	Naturally present in the environment			
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS, AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT PRECURSORS											
Total Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	80	NS	0.5	38 - 81	56	ID1		IDA		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination; sampled quarterly (f)	
						31 - 51	41	35 - 73	54		
Running Annual Average				49 - 57	54	37 - 46	42	50 - 55	52.5		
Highest Running Average					57		46		55		
Haloacetic Acids (ug/L)	60	NS	1.0	11 - 30	20	13 - 31	22	4 - 42	23	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination; sampled quarterly (g)	
											16 - 19
Running Annual Average					19		27		25		
Highest Running Average											
Total Chlorine Residual (mg/L)	4.0	4.0	-	0.20-3.10	1.80	1.33-1.76	1.54	1.27-1.54	1.40	Addition of chlorine & ammonia as combined disinfectant, chloramine	
											1.80-1.90
Running Annual Average					1.90		1.54		1.50		
Highest Running Average											
Chlorite (mg/L)	1	0.8	-	0.47-0.68	0.56	ND	ND	NA	NA	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination	
Chlorate (ug/L)	NS	NS	-	160-250	200	24-58	41	160-250	200	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination	
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - Lead/Copper in Residential Taps (Escondido - 2006, Rincon- 2006) (h)											
Lead (ug/L)	AL	15	2	5	90th percentile of 64 samples <5	# > AL 0	90th percentile of 30 samples <5	# > AL 0	90th percentile of 11 samples <5	# > AL 0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
Copper (mg/L) (i)	1.3	0.17	.05	0.67	0	ND - 0.73	0	0.07-1.10	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - PRIMARY STANDARDS (Finished Water)											
Fluoride (mg/L)	2	1	0.1	0.70-0.83	0.78	0.70-1.00	0.85	See "Fluoride Note" located below.			
Nitrate as N (mg/L)	10	10	0.4	ND	ND	ND-0.50	ND	Runoff/leaching from fertilizer use; sewage; erosion of natural deposits			
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - SECONDARY STANDARDS (Finished Water)											
Aluminum (ug/L)	200	600	50	ND	ND	ND	ND	Residue from water treatment process; erosion of natural deposits			
Color (units)	15	NS	NS	1-1	1	2-2	2	Naturally occurring organic materials			
Chloride (mg/L)	500	NS	NS-	68-88	80	92-99	96	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence			
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	NS	0.5	140-190	158	173-221	195	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes			
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1000	NS	NS	410-561	495	502-590	542	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence			
Specific Conductance (umho/cm)	1600	NS	NS	699-907	806	857-971	913	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence			
pH (units)	6.5-8.5	NS	-	6.9-8.3	7.4	8.0-8.2	8.1				
Zinc (mg/L)	5	NS	0.05	ND-0.40	0.31	ND	ND	Corrosion control additives			
Corrosivity (SI)	Non-corrosive	NS		-0.20-0.30	0.10	0.24-0.63	0.44	Natural or industrial-influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon, & oxygen in the water; affected by temperature and other factors			
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - UNREGULATED (Finished Water)											
Boron (mg/L)	NL=1	NS	0.1	0.15-0.16	0.16	0.12-0.15	0.14	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes			
Chromium (ug/L)	NS	NS	1	ND	ND	0.09-0.30	0.21	Industrial waste discharge; could be naturally present as well			
ADDITIONAL ANALYZED (Finished Water)											
Bicarbonate (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	82-210	140	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching			
Calcium (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	46-62	53	52-67	59				
Haloacetic Acids (ug/L)	60	NS	1	11-26	18	12-24	16	Byproducts of drinking water chlorination			
Hardness as CaCO (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	189-260	217	222-273	247	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching			
Heterotrophic Plate											
Count (CFU/mL)	500	NS	-	<1-10	0.40	ND-4	ND	Naturally present in the environment			
Magnesium (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	18-26	21	21-27	24				
Odor Threshold (units)	NS	NS	1	ND	ND	7-29	17	Naturally occurring organic materials			
Perchlorate (ug/L)	NS	NS	4	ND	ND	ND	ND	Industrial waste discharge			
Phosphate (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	ND-0.20	0.06	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching			
Potassium (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	4.4-5.1	4.7	4.1-4.7	4.5	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching			
Silica (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	4.5-9.4	7.2	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching			
Sodium (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	73-91	83	83-94	89	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching			
Total Alkalinity (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	67-170	115	94-113	105	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching			
Total Chlorine Residual (mg/L)	4	4	-	2.1-2.7	2.6	1.4-3.2	2.4	Addition of chlorine and ammonia as a combined disinfectant chloramine			
Total Organic Carbon (mg/L)	NS	NS	0.3	1.9-4.9	3.3	1.9-2.5	2.2	TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfectant byproducts. These byproducts include TTHMs and HAAs			
Total Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	80	NS	0.5	39-68	53	37-61	48	Byproducts of drinking water chlorination			
RADIONUCLIDES (Finished Water)											
Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/L)	15	0	3	ND	ND	3.3-4.3	3.6	Erosion of natural deposits			
Gross Beta Activity (pCi/L)	50	0	4	ND	ND	ND-8.8	ND	Erosion of natural deposits			
Combined Radium (pCi/L) (j)	5	0	-	ND	ND	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits			
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	.43	1	1.9 - 1.9	1.9	2.3-2.7	2.5	Erosion of natural deposits			

Fluoride Note

Our water systems treat your water by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level in order to help prevent dental decay in consumers. The fluoride levels in the treated water are maintained within a range of 0.7 - 1.3 ppm as required by Department regulations

Water - Taste and Smell

When your water tastes or smells funny, the problem might be in the water or it might not. The odors may actually be coming from your sink drain where bacteria grow on food, soap, hair, and other things that get trapped. Gases in the drain that smell get stirred up when water goes down the pipe. Odor can also come from bacteria growing in water heaters - usually ones that have been turned off for a while or have the thermostat set too low.

Chlorine is added to tap water to ensure that germs in the water are killed. When you can taste or smell a hint of chlorine, your water has been properly treated. There are regulations that limit the amount of chlorine added to tap water. An easy way to get rid of chlorine taste and smell is to let the water sit in a glass for a few minutes or put the water in a covered container and chill it in the refrigerator.

For odors, does it come from only one faucet? Does it go away after running the water for a few minutes? If yes to either question, the source of the odor is probably within your plumbing system. If no to both questions, please call the agency that bills you for water.

Volumetric Measurements Used in This Report

With the development of sensitive scientific instruments, it is possible to measure water characteristics in precise and minute quantities. The measurements used in this report are in **parts per million**, which is equivalent to **mg/L** (*milligrams per liter*). Also used are **parts per billion** and **parts per trillion**, which are equivalent to **ug/L** (*micrograms per liter*) and **ng/L** (*nanograms per liter*), respectively. For perspective purposes, consider the following approximations:

1 part per million = 1 packet of artificial sweetener added to 250 gallons of iced tea.

1 part per billion = 1 packet of artificial sweetener added to an Olympic size swimming pool

1 part per trillion = 3 grains of artificial sweetener added to an Olympic size swimming pool

The Sacramento Delta

The Sacramento Delta is a major collection point of drinking water for over 20 million people -- that's more than 2/3's of California's population.



Abbreviations Key

AL	Regulatory Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
CFU	Colony-Forming Units.
DLR	Detection Limit for Reporting: A detected contaminant is any contaminant detected at or above its detection level for purposes of reporting.
DSYS	Distribution System.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to PHGs, MRDLGs, and maximum contaminant level goals as economically or technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the <i>United States Environmental Protection Agency</i> (USEPA).
mg/L	Milligrams Per Liter: Parts per million (ppm).
NA	Not Applicable.
ND	None Detected: Parameters for detection limits available upon request.
ng/L	Nanograms Per Liter: Parts per trillion (ppt)
NL	Notification Level.
NS	No Standard.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Limit: The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLs are set by the <i>United States Environmental Protection Agency</i> .
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units: A measure of the cloudiness in water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the WTP and DSYS.
pCi/L	PicoCuries Per Liter: A measure of radioactivity.
PDWS	Primary Drinking Water Standard: MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
PHG	Public Health Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the <i>California Environmental Protection Agency</i> .
SI	Saturation Index (Langelier).
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
ug/L	Micrograms Per Liter: Parts per billion (ppb).
umho/cm	Micromhos Per Centimeter: A measure of a substance's ability to convey electricity.
WTP	Water Treatment Plant.

Technical Assistance

This is a “report card” of how we are doing in terms of providing our customers with safe, reliable, and high-quality drinking water. The federal and state governments require us to publish our annual testing results to reassure you that we are meeting strict government standards. Although the charts can be highly technical and somewhat confusing, the table content and a portion of the report language are mandated by federal law. We would be glad to assist you if you have any questions about our Consumer Confidence Reports.

If you need assistance with the information contained in this report, you will need to contact the water agency that **BILLS** you for your service.

If your water bill is generated by the City of Escondido, please call Timothy Kwak, Supervising Chemist at (760) 839-6274.

If your water bill is generated by Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District, please call Clint Baze, Director of Operations at (760) 745-5522.

Have You Taken the 20 Gallon Challenge?



Conservation has been a way of life in San Diego County for many years, but it's especially important now. The San Diego County Water Authority and its 24 member agencies are asking residents and businesses to increase their water conservation efforts.

The 20 Gallon Challenge is a call for residents and businesses to reduce our region's water use on average by 20 gallons per person, per day. Visit www.20gallonchallenge.com today and take the Challenge. It's easier than you think.

Get Involved

Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District is a public agency governed by a five-member Board of Directors that meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. The address is 1920 North Iris Lane, Escondido. Call (760) 745-5522 or visit www.rinconwater.org for details.

The City Council of the City of Escondido normally meets the first four Wednesdays each month at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The address is 201 North Broadway, Escondido. Call (760) 839-4638 or visit www.escondido.org for details.

Foot Notes

(a) Data shown are annual averages and ranges. **(b) Tests are performed on drinking water turbidity** (clarity) at the Water Treatment Plant and in the distribution system. The turbidity tests are done continuously at the WTP. In addition, samples are taken each week at various points in the distribution system. This table reflects the clarity or turbidity produced at the WTP and in the distribution system. **(c) The turbidity** level of the filtered water shall be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of the measurements taken each month and shall not exceed 1.0 NTU at any time. **(d) Total coliform MCLs:** No more than 5% of the monthly samples may be total coliform positive. These MCLs were not violated in 2008. **(e) The City of Escondido Water Distribution System** consists of approximately 350 miles of pipelines. Tests are performed each week at various points along the system for compliance with bacteriological and physical parameters. Of concern to all customers is the bacteriological quality of the drinking water. The distribution system table indicates the amount of positive samples found in the system. **(f) Calculated** from the average of quarterly samples. **(g) Calculated** from the average of quarterly samples. **(h) This table shows the levels of copper and lead** found in the homes of selected customers. The Copper Lead Rule requires the collection of special samples from designated residents every three years. The amount of lead and copper found in the samples is an indication of the degree of leaching within the customer-owned copper plumbing and brass faucets. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that your home's level may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about the elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. As a rule, flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. **(i) The Federal and State standards** for lead and copper are treatment techniques requiring agencies to optimize corrosion control treatment. Average of the highest value is the 90th percentile value. **(j) Standards** are for Radium-226 and Radium-228 combined.



Cryptosporidium: Cryptosporidium (“crypto”) is a microscopic organism found in rivers and streams and comes from animal wastes in the watershed. When ingested by humans, it may result in a variety of gastrointestinal symptoms including diarrhea, nausea, and fever. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) has tested for crypto in its treated water supplies for years. In 2008, this organism was not detected in either MWD or the City of Escondido's source water.

Notice - Sources of drinking water (both tap 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 human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water:

- **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 like agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



Public Works Department
Utilities Division
201 North Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

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About Our Watersheds...

Colorado River and State Water Project Supplies:

In December 2002, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) completed its source water assessment of its Colorado River and State Water Project supplies. Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to recreation, urban/storm water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting MWD by telephone at (213) 217-6850.

Local Supplies:

In December of 2005, the City of Escondido prepared a *Sanitary Survey Update* 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 contaminants from these activities were detected in the local water supply in 2008.

There have been no contaminants detected in the water supply; however, it is still considered vulnerable to nearby activities. The primary activity of concern is the use of Lake Dixon and Lake Wohlford for non-body contact recreational activities such as boating (row boat and motor boat rentals), fishing, picnicking, and camping.

Lake Dixon is owned and operated by the City of Escondido. Access to Lake Dixon is restricted in the vicinity of the dam and intake by in-water buoys and on-shore fences. The level is controlled by water imported from the aqueduct and any water released to the plant for treatment. Direct management and surveillance at the lake are provided by park rangers. No swimming or body contact is allowed. A copy of the *Watershed Sanitary Survey*, which is similar to the *Source Water Assessment Program*, is available for review at City Hall (760) 839-4662.



The Colorado River - Arizona
Photo courtesy of www.wallpaperdave.com

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Treduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Si tiene preguntas favor de llamar al numero: (760) 839-4662.