



# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2020

***Presented By***  
**Far West Water**

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

PWS ID#: 14004



## Quality First

Once again, we are pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

## Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination.

Far West Water and Sewer, Inc. received its Source Water Assessment from ADEQ dated October 29, 2003. The overall assessment deemed the facilities to be at a low risk for susceptibility to contamination. A copy of this assessment is available at the Far West Water and Sewer, Inc. office located at 13157 E. 44th Street, Yuma, AZ 85367, or call (928) 342-1238.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead, in drinking water, is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Far West Water and Sewer, Inc. customers are fortunate, having water supply capabilities from two separate sources. The Far West Water Treatment Plant draws surface water from Canal A, which comes from the Colorado River. This is the primary water source. The secondary water source comes from the groundwater system. This fully compliant groundwater system is maintained on a regular basis and is ready for service in the event of an emergency or loss of surface water. Far West Water and Sewer, Inc. uses the groundwater system to augment water supplies when needed as well as annually, usually the first week of December, for approximately one week during the time that Canal A is shut down for cleaning and inspection by the Yuma Mesa Irrigation Drainage District.

## Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and sent through approximately six miles of pipe to get to our treatment facility. The water then goes into our header system, where we add aluminum sulfate and cationic polymer to initiate the coagulation and flocculation process. The addition of these substances causes small particles to adhere to one another (called "floc"), making them large enough to catch in our filtration system, which enables us to remove the sediment in the next portion of the process. At this point, the water is filtered through layers of anthracite coal, coarse sand, and fine garnet. As the water passes through each layer, smaller and smaller suspended particles are removed, turbidity is removed, and clear water emerges.

Chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water.) Then water is pumped to sanitized reservoirs and stored until it is needed at your home or business.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



**QUESTIONS?** For more information about this report, or for any questions related to your drinking water, please call William Ferro at (928) 342-1238.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material; and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban storm-water 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 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 may also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems;

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

More information about contaminants in tap water and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visit online at [www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline). Information on bottled water can be obtained from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

## Tip Top Tap

The most common signs that your faucet or sink is affecting the quality of your drinking water are discolored water, sink or faucet stains, a buildup of particles, unusual odors or tastes, and a reduced flow of water. The solutions to these problems may be in your hands.



### Kitchen Sink and Drain

Hand washing, soap scum buildup, and the handling of raw meats and vegetables can contaminate your sink. Clogged drains can lead to unclean sinks and backed up water in which bacteria (i.e., pink and black colored slime growth) can grow and contaminate the sink area and faucet, causing a rotten egg odor. Disinfect and clean the sink and drain area regularly. Also, flush regularly with hot water.

### Faucets, Screens, and Aerators

Chemicals and bacteria can splash and accumulate on the faucet screen and aerator, which are located on the tip of faucets, and can collect particles like sediment and minerals resulting in a decreased flow from the faucet. Clean and disinfect the aerators or screens on a regular basis. Check with your plumber if you find particles in the faucet screen as they could be pieces of plastic from the hot water heater dip tube. Faucet gaskets can break down and cause black, oily slime. If you find this slime, replace the faucet gasket with a higher-quality product. White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and shower heads may be caused by hard water or water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.

### Water Filtration/Treatment Devices

A smell of rotten eggs can be a sign of bacteria on the filters or in the treatment system. The system can also become clogged over time so regular filter replacement is important. (Remember to replace your refrigerator filter!)

“  
We remain vigilant in  
delivering the best-quality  
drinking water  
”

## Test Results

We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. And, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the 4th stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Arsenic</b> (ppm)	2019	0.01	0	3.3	1.7 - 3.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production waste
<b>Barium</b> (ppm)	2019	2	2	0.11	0.09 - 0.11	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Chromium</b> (ppm)	2019	0.1	0.1	3.2	0 - 3.2	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Di(2-ethylhexyl) Adipate</b> (ppb)	2020	400	400	ND	ND	No	Discharge from chemical factories
<b>Di(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate</b> (ppb)	2020	6	0	ND	ND	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
<b>Fluoride</b> (ppm)	2019	4	4	0.49	0 - 0.49	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]</b> (ppb)	2020	60	NA	20	2.8–26	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Nitrate</b> (ppm)	2020	10	10	2.8	0.26–2.8	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Selenium</b> (ppm)	2019	0.05	0.05	2.5	1.5 - 2.5	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
<b>TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]<sup>1</sup></b> (ppb)	2020	80	NA	50	36–61	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Turbidity<sup>2</sup></b> (NTU)	2020	TT	NA	0.210	0.030– 0.210	No	Soil runoff
<b>Turbidity</b> (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2020	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100%	NA	No	Soil runoff

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**AL (Action level):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a community water system shall follow.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**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 allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL (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 (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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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

### Tap Water Samples Collected for Copper and Lead Analyses from Sample Sites throughout the Community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.3	1.3	0.016	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2019	15	0	1.6	0/30	No	Lead services lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

### UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Sodium (ppm)	2020	120	100–170	Released naturally through mineral deposits in ground and surface water

<sup>1</sup> Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

<sup>2</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the quality of water. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

#### What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, don't use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing "7 PC" (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

#### How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, one gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for three days. Humans can survive without food for one month but can only survive one week without water.

#### How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

#### How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

#### Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40 percent of total water use). Toilets use about 4 to 6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

## Missed Deadlines

Below are minor reporting violations for missing or late data:

- QTR 1 2020 EPDS005 - late submittal of DI(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate results
- QTR 2 2020 EPDS005 - late submittal of DI(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate results
- February 2020 - late submittal of RTCR monitoring results

All violations were brought back into compliance upon notification by ADEQ.