

# **Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2013**

## **[Sierra Los Piños Home Owners Association, Accredited Report by NM Drinking Water Bureau]**

### **Spanish (Español)**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

### **Is my water safe?**

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 13 of those contaminants, and found none to violate a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) standard.

### **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 persons with cancer 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.

EPA/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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **Where does my water come from?**

Your water comes from three (3) ground water wells.

### **Source water assessment and its availability**

A copy of the source water assessment is available by contacting the New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau.

### **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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:

- 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, 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, 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 can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **How can I get involved?**

SLPPOA members can get involved by attending monthly board meetings that are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:15pm in the evening, at the association fire barn. Members are also encouraged to assist in special maintenance and planning meetings that are announced by the SLPPOA board.

### **Description of Water Treatment Process**

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

### **Water Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference -try one today and soon it will become second nature:

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

### **Source Water Protection Tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides -they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.

- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.

### **Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations**

**Drinking Water Watch** (<https://eidea.nmenv.state.nm.us/DWW/>) provides information on all of New Mexico's Public Water Systems, including water quality sampling data, sample schedules, drinking water regulation violations, and information on water system facilities. We use this site to insure we are compliant with the New Mexico Drinking Water Bureau sampling requirements for our own SLPPOA water system. A visit to this site will show you that while monthly samples are collected for Total Coliforms, the distribution system and our three wells are sampled for lead, copper, asbestos, and heavy metals every three years. Many other specific sampling schedules are shown here to evaluate our drinking water quality.

Last year we failed to provide you, our drinking water customers, with an annual report (CCR report ) on time that informs you about the quality of our drinking water and characterizes the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water. We were supposed to provide you the report no later than July 1, 2013 and we failed to do so. We provided the report in August and are now back in compliance with this rule.

In addition we failed to complete all the required tests of our drinking water for Total Coliform Routine sample. We obtained one (1) positive sample but later repeat samples indicated that we were in compliance with this rule.

### **Additional Information for Lead**

If present, 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. Sierra Los Piños Home Owners Association 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>.

## **Water Quality Data Table**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this

table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions after the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) [ppm]	4	4	0.3	0.2	0.3	2013	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) [ppb]	NA	60	0.179	NA		2010	No	Drinking water chlorination by-product
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) [ppb]	NA	80	2.63	NA		2010	No	Drinking water chlorination by-product
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Arsenic [ppb]	0	10	3	ND	3	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards or glass/electronic wastes
Chromium [ppb]	100	100	1	ND	1	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from steel and pulp mills
Fluoride [ppm]	4	4	0.29	0.15	0.29	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) [ppm]	10	10	2.24	0.57	2.24	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewerage
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total coliform [positive samples per month]	0	1	1	NA		2013	No	Naturally present in environment
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Beta/photon emitters [mrem/yr]	0	4	5.4	2.7	5.4	2013	Yes*	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium (combined 226/2280 [pCi/L]	0	5	0.1	ND	0.1	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha emitters [pCi/L]	0	15	0.9	0.3	0.9	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Additional Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date		# samples >AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Copper (action level at consumer tap) [ppm]	1.3	1.3	0.27	2012		0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (action level at consumer tap) [ppb]	0	15	3.1	2012		0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems

### Violations/Exceedances for Beta/photon emitters

\* Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation (photons and beta radiation). Some people who drink water containing beta/photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles, so no violation here.

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ppm	Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter [radioactivity measure]
mrem/yr	Millirems per year [measure of radiation absorbed by the body]
Positive samples per month	Number of monthly samples found to be positive
NA	Not Applicable
ND	Not Detected
NR	Monitoring Not Required but recommended
<b>Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The concentration of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCGLs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: the highest concentration 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.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the concentration of contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	State of New Mexico or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal: The concentration 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.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfection Level: The highest concentration of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	State of New Mexico assigned Maximum Permissible Level
<b>For more information</b>	
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