

2007 Consumer Confidence Report

City of Fowler

128 S. 5th Street.
Fowler, Ca 93625

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by State and Federal Regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 - December 31, 2007.

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

The City of Fowler Public Works Department Water Division is pleased to present to you this year's Consumer Confidence Report (formerly Annual Water Quality Report). This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe, high quality and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Type of water source(s) in use: Well (Ground Water)

Name & location of source(s): Well #2 (North center of town), Well #3 (West center of town), Well #4 (Northeast side of town), Well #5A (Southeast side of town), Well #6 (Southwest side of town), Well #7 (East side of town) and Well #8A (West side of town)

Our water source is strictly ground water taken from wells. The wells pump water into an intricate network of water mains and services from aquifers deep beneath the city. The City of Fowler's system has 7 active well sources. A ground water protection assessment of our source water was completed June 2004. A copy of the complete assessment report is available for review at the California Department of Health Services, Southern California Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, 1040 E. Herndon Avenue, Suite 205, Fresno, CA or the Department of Public Works office, 128 S 5th Street, Fowler, Ca. You may request a copy of the assessment be sent to you by contacting the Public Works Superintendent at (559) 834-3113 x 121. In general, the city's sources were most vulnerable to the following activities "not associated with any detected contaminants": sewer collection/septic systems, agricultural/irrigation wells, and gas stations/auto repair processes. However the source may still be considered vulnerable to activities located near the drinking water sources. The City of Fowler's Public Works Department Water Division will continue to monitor the quality and integrity of its source water and distribution system in accordance with current federal and state regulations, and continue to utilize the most stringent regulations in the construction of new water wells to protect the source aquifers from any possible contamination.

The City of Fowler routinely monitors your drinking water for contaminants in conformance with Federal and State laws. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. The contaminants that were detected are listed in Tables 1 through 7 in this report.

The City Council of the City of Fowler meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 PM in the council chambers located at 128 S. 5th Street to discuss and/or take action on various matters that affect the community. At times issues regarding water system improvements or quality are on the agenda. Public input is also appreciated and is taken into consideration during the discussions and formal actions.

For more information, contact: David A. Weisser,

Phone: (559) 834-3113 x121

Public Works Superintendent.

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Variations and Exemptions: Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

ND: not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water 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*, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, that 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, the USEPA and the state Department of Public Health (Department) 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.

In accordance with the "Primary Drinking Water Standards", the following tables (tables 1 through 5) list contaminants that were detected during the most recent testing. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily

indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Department allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants (to be completed only if there was a detection of bacteria)	Highest No. of detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	(In a mo.) 0	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	(In the year) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0	Human and animal fecal waste

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (to be completed only if there was a detection of lead or copper in the last sample set)	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	20	2.5	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	20	0.085	0	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

TABLE 3 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	6/15/06	19.7	15 to 27	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water
Hardness (ppm)	6/15/06	42	26 to 78	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water

*Any violation of an MCL or AL is marked with an asterisk. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	6/15/06	2.35	ND to 4.0	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronic production waste
Fluoride (ppm)	6/15/06	0.01	ND to 0.10	2	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	9/20/07	11	ND to 12	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppb)	6/15/06	1.17	ND to 4.5	200	1.7	Banned mematocide that may still be present in soils due to runoff and leaching from former use of soybean, cotton, vineyard, tomatoes and tree fruit.

TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Iron (ppm)	6/15/06	11.0	0 to 37	30	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial Waste.
Calcium (ppm)	6/15/06	13.0	9.2 to 22	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
Magnesium (ppm)	6/15/06	2.37	0.39 to 5.7	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
PH (Units)	6/15/06	8.3	8.1 to 8.5	6.5 to 8.5	N/A	Inherent characteristic of water.
Odor (Ton)	6/15/06	1.0	1 to 1	3	N/A	Naturally occurring organic material
Turbidity (NTU)	6/15/06	0.64	ND to 2.0	5	N/A	Soil runoff.
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	6/15/06	109	87 to 160	1000	N/A	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits.
Specific Conductance (umho/cm)	6/15/06	161	120 to 250	1600	N/A	Substance that forms ions when in water, seawater influence.
Chloride (ppm)	6/15/06	5.4	2.0 to 12.0	500	N/A	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
Sulfate (ppm)	6/15/06	6.7	3.0 to 20.0	500	N/A	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste.

*Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

TABLE 6 – DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTMINATS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chromium VI (ppb)	9/24/03	0.5	ND to 1.4	N/A	N/A	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating erosion of natural deposits.
Boron (ppm)	4/25/03	0	ND	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring element found in soil and water
Vanadium (ppb)	4/25/03	27	8 to 40	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring element found in soil.
1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP) (ppb)	4/25/03	0	N/D	N/A	N/A	Discharge from Industrial uses and historic pesticide uses.

VIOLATION OF MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Our water system failed to complete initial monitoring requirements of the California Radionuclide Rule by December 31, 2007, and therefore, was in violation of the monitoring and reporting regulations. Even though this failure was not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what you should do, what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. By December 31, 2007, we did not complete all monitoring for radiological constituents and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

Initial monitoring requirements under the California Radionuclide Rule, requires four quarters on initial monitoring for gross alpha activity and radium-228 (or Total Radium) activity. The final two quarters of initial monitoring were never completed. The City of Fowler has schedule to have monitoring performed to get back into compliance.

ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS

WHAT ABOUT SAND IN THE WATER?

Sand and debris, which may appear in your faucet aerator screen, are most often caused by mineral deposits in your household system, plumbing repairs or sand produced by wells. There is no health impacts associated with this debris, but it can be a nuisance. A persistent sand or debris problem should be reported to the Water Division by call 559-834-3113.

WHAT CAUSES LOW WATER PRESSURE?

Low water pressure can be caused by either a home's gate valve not being fully opened, recent repairs to existing plumbing or too great a demand on the available water supply. The City's water pumping equipment is controlled by automatic pressure switches that operate between 40 and 60 PSI pressure. We try to hold a 50 PSI average.

WHY IS MY WATER SOMETIMES CLOUDY?

Cloudy or milky water at the top is caused by air in the water. When this occurs, let the water settle in a glass or pitcher for 10 to 20 seconds.

IS OUR WATER CHLORINATED?

No! Currently, no chemicals are used or added to the City water supply.

Additional General Information on 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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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. USEPA/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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Information On The Internet

The EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov>) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. Also, the California Department of Public Health hosts a Web site (<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/default.aspx>) that provides complete and current information on water issues in our own state.

As the City and valley population continues to grow the need for water conservation awareness is always with us. As with any program the cooperation and participation of everyone is the only way the program can work. From April to October, no outside watering shall occur between the hours of 10am and 7pm. As usual, the City of Fowler encourages water conservation both inside and outside the home. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe, high quality and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding. In order to ensure good clean water in all areas of the system, Water Division personnel will be flushing water lines at various times. Employees will request that young children not play in the water for safety reasons. If you have a problem or complaint regarding water quality, please call the City of Fowler at 834-3113 x121. All water delivered meets the primary drinking water standards established by the California Department of Public Health and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

We at the City of Fowler work provide top quality water to every residence and business. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Sincerely,
David A. Weisser
Public Works Superintendent

State Water System ID# 1010026