

# MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT WATER QUALITY REPORT - 2007

This brochure summarizes Mammoth Community Water District water quality data collected during the year 2007. Last year, we conducted over 1000 tests for over 80 constituents that are regulated by the California Department of Public Health. We only detected 18 of these constituents, and found only lead and copper at a level higher than the State allows. We notified the public at the time that our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. For more information, see educational information located below the lead and copper sampling results. This brochure is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State Standards.

## Water System Information

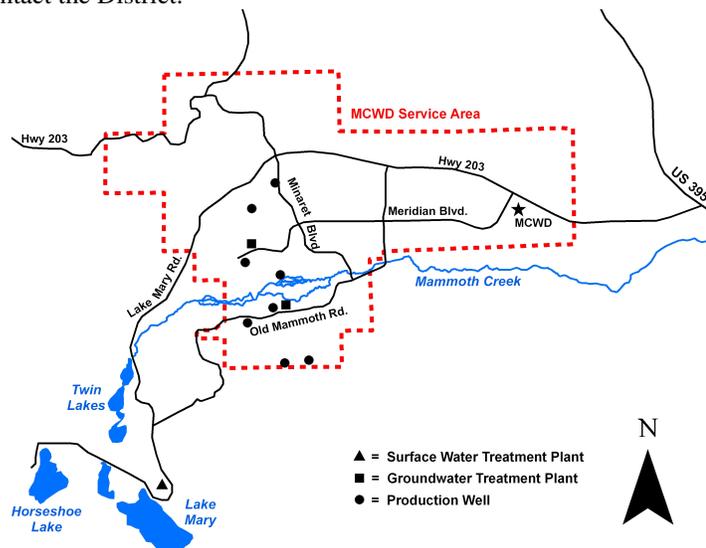
This water quality report contains important information about your drinking water supplied by the Mammoth Community Water District Water System, serving the residents of the Town of Mammoth Lakes. *Este informe contiene informacio'n muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradu'zcalo o' hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Si usted necesita ayuda para traducir este rerpote en español por favor contacte el Distrito al numero (760) 934-2596.*

Questions about this water quality report may be addressed by mail to the Mammoth Community Water District, attention Gary Sisson, P.O. Box 597, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546; by telephone at (760) 934-2596 x 238; or by e-mail at [gssisson@mcwd.dst.ca.us](mailto:gssisson@mcwd.dst.ca.us). This report may also be seen on the District's web site at [www.mcwd.dst.ca.us](http://www.mcwd.dst.ca.us).

Members of the public have the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect drinking water quality by attending any of the District's regularly scheduled Board of Directors meetings. These meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month and are located at the Mammoth Community Water District offices on 2315 Meridian Boulevard across from the Industrial Park.

## Sources of Water

Water provided to District customers comes from both surface water and groundwater sources. Surface water is collected, filtered, and disinfected, and groundwater is pumped from seven wells located within the community in the Mammoth Basin watershed. An eighth production well is utilized for irrigation water and does not contribute to the drinking water supply. Water from all but one of the wells is treated with chlorine and ferric chloride and filtered to remove iron, manganese, and arsenic prior to delivery to customers. Depending on the location where you live in the community, you may receive all surface water, all well water, or a combination of the two. The source of your water may also change depending on the season. If you are interested in which water source is being supplied to you at any time, please contact the District.



A Source Water Assessment was conducted for the wells and surface water supplies of the Mammoth Community Water District Water System in March 2002. Results from the source water assessment shows that the District's groundwater production wells are considered most vulnerable to contamination from the sewer collection system. In addition, raw surface water supplies are considered most vulnerable to recreation activities and the sewer collection system. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at Mammoth Community Water District office or at CDPH San Bernardino District Office, 464 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 437, San Bernardino, CA 92401. You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting the CDPH District Engineer at (909) 383-4328 or by contacting Gary Sisson, General Manager, (760) 934-2596 x 238, (760) 934-4080 (fax), or [gssisson@mcwd.dst.ca.us](mailto:gssisson@mcwd.dst.ca.us). In 2006, the District also updated its Watershed Sanitary Survey, which identifies potential sources of contamination to the surface water supplies and is available at the District offices.

## Definitions

The following are definitions of key terms that consumers will need to understand the data listed in the tables that shows the level of each detected contaminant.

- **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.
- **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 Standard (PDWS):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- **Treatment Technique:** 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.
- **N/A:** not applicable **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter **picl:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation) **NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units **µS/cm:** microsiemens per centimeter

## Detected Contaminants

Note: The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

**Sampling Results Showing Detection of a Contaminant with a Primary Drinking Water Standard**

Radioactive Contaminants	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	MCWD Water		Sample Date(s)	Violation?	Typical Source Of Contaminant
			Average	Range			
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (picl/l)	15	(0)	0.4	0 – 1.3	2006	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	MCWD Water		Sample Date(s)	Violation?	Typical Source Of Contaminant
			Average	Range			
Arsenic (ppb) <sup>(1)</sup>	10	0.004	9	0 – 19	2007	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	0.01	0 – 0.12	2005-07	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	50	(100)	0.1	0 – 1	2005-07	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2.0	1	0.4	0 – 0.6	2005-07	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	MCWD Water		Sample Date(s)	Violation?	Typical Source Of Contaminant
			Average	Range			
TTHMs [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	80	N/A	19	4 – 28	2007	NO	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	19	6 – 29	2007	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

<sup>(1)</sup>While your drinking water meets the current EPA standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

### Turbidity – Results of Direct Filtration Process of Surface Water

	MCL <sup>(2)</sup>	Highest single measurement in 2007	Lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting turbidity limits	Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Turbidity (NTU)</b>	5.0 NTU	0.14	N/A	NO	Soil Runoff
	95% of samples <0.5 NTU	N/A	100%	NO	

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

<sup>(2)</sup> The MCL for turbidity is based upon the effectiveness of the District’s treatment technique or TT, which is direct filtration

### Inorganic Contaminants - Lead and Copper in Residential Taps in 2007

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	PHG (MCLG)	Number of Samples Collected	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Level Detected	Number of Sites Exceeding AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Lead (ppb)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems</b>
<b>Copper (ppm)</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems</b>

During one sampling period in 2007, more than 10% of the samples exceed the regulatory action level for lead. During both sampling periods in 2007, more than 10% of the samples exceeded the regulatory action level for copper.

Health effects information for lead: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level may experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children may show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years may develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home 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 elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or by contacting the Mammoth Community Water District at (760) 934-2596

Health effects information for copper: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time may experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years may suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson’s Disease should consult their personal doctor.

### Sampling Results Showing Detection of a Contaminant with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard

Inorganic Contaminants	Secondary MCL	MCWD Water		Sample Date(s)	Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
		Average	Range			
Iron (ppb)	300	80	2 – 486	2007	NO	Leaching from natural deposits
Manganese (ppb)	50	14	0 – 72	2007	NO	Leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000	263	16 – 410	2005-07	NO	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1,600	376	44 – 660	2005-07	NO	Substances that form ions when in water
Chloride (ppm)	500	1.2	0 – 5.9	2005-07	NO	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Color (units)	15	0.3	0 – 3	2005-07	NO	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Sulfate (ppm)	500	15	4 – 52	2005-07	NO	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	32	1 – 76	2005-07	N/A	<sup>(3)</sup>
Hardness (ppm)	N/A	116	14 – 200	2005-07	N/A	<sup>(4)</sup>

<sup>(3)</sup> Sodium refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring.

<sup>(4)</sup> Hardness is generally the sum of magnesium and calcium cations present in the water, which are usually naturally-occurring.

### Educational Information

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 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).

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 natural-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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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.

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## 2007 Annual Water Quality Report

