2023 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Information

Water System Name: South Kern Mutual Water Company

Report Date: June 25, 2024

Type of Water Source(s) in Use: Groundwater

Name and General Location of Source(s): Well 01, Located in the Community

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: The Source Water Assessment was conducted in August 2001. The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with detected contaminants: septic systems – low density (<1/acre), sewer collection systems, irrigated and non-irrigated crops, and high-density housing. A complete copy of the source assessment may be viewed at the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water office at 265 W. Bullard Ave., Suite 101, Fresno, CA 93720 or call 559-447-3300 to request a copy.

Time and Place of Regularly Scheduled Meetings for Public Participation:

Quarterly meetings are held at the Old River MWC Well Site in Bakersfield. An invitation is sent to each resident prior to an upcoming meeting. All residents are encouraged to attend and participate.

For More Information, Contact: Hamish Kellam at 559-449-2700 ext. 183 or email southkernoldriver@ppeng.com

About This Report

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 to December 31, 2023, and may include earlier monitoring data.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse South Kern Mutual Water Company a 559-449-2700 ext. 183 para asistirlo en español.

Terms Used in This Report

Term	Definition
Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
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 (U.S. EPA).
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)	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.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)	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.
Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS)	MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
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.
Regulatory Action Level (AL)	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
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.
Variances and Exemptions	Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) 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 (µg/L)
ppt	parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
ppq	parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Sources of Drinking Water and Contaminants that May Be Present in Source Water

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.

Regulation of Drinking Water and Bottled Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

About Your Drinking Water Quality

Drinking Water Contaminants Detected

Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board 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. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

Table 1. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Lead and Copper

Complete if lead or copper is detected in the last sample set.

Lead and Copper	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	9/10/2020	5	7	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	9/10/2020	5	0.035	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Table 2. 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)	7/28/2021	40	NA	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	7/28/2021	220	NA	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

Table 3. 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
Nitrate (ppm)	7/4/2022 4/17/2022 2/18/2022 10/25/2021	5.1	3.6-6.1	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L) *	7/4/2022 5/23/2022 2/18//2022 10/25/2021	22	16-25	20	0.43	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	10/25/2021	16.1	NA	15 (excluding uranium)	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits

Table 4. Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	7/28/2021	44	NA	500		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Conductivity (uS/cm)	7/28/2021	662	NA	1600		Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate (ppm)	7/28/2021	75	NA	500		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	7/28/2021	450	NA	1000		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	7/28/2021	0.50	NA	5		Soil runoff

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 U.S. EPA'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. U.S. 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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Lead-Specific Language: 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. South Kern MWC 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. [Optional: If you do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.] 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/lead.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Summary Information for Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

Table 5. Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT or Monitoring Reporting Requirement

Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct Violation	Health Effects Language
Exceedance of uranium MCL	Uranium from the source ranges from 16 to 25 pCi/L which is over the acceptable amount (MCL) of 20 pCi/L.	2016 to present (ongoing).	On February 2, 2024, the Provost & Pritchard Administrator Team assumed administration of the South Kern Mutual Water Company. The Administrator Team will be developing a long-term solution.	Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have kidney problems or an increased risk of getting cancer.
Failure to submit public notices, proof of public notices and quarterly progress reports for the uranium MCL exceedance.	Because the uranium concentration in the drinking water is over the MCL, the system is required to submit quarterly public notices and progress toward compliance.	2017 to 2024.	The administrator will distribute quarterly public notices to customers and proof of public notices and progress reports to the Division of Drinking Water.	NA
Failure to submit public notices, proof of public notices and quarterly progress reports for the past 1,2,3-trichloropropane MCL exceedance.	Because the past 1,2,3-trichloropropane concentration in the drinking water has been over the MCL, the system is required to submit quarterly public notices and progress toward compliance.	2018 to 2024.	The administrator will distribute quarterly public notices to customers and proof of public notices and progress reports to the Division of Drinking Water.	NA
Missed monthly monitoring for total coliform bacteria	The system failed to collect the required sample.	2018-2024	A sample was collected in February 2024 and continues monthly.	NA

Missed quarterly monitoring for nitrate.	The system failed to collect the required samples.	2023	A sample was collected in February 2024 and continues quarterly.	NA
Missed triennial monitoring for lead and copper at customer taps.	The system failed to collect the required samples.	2023	Samples are required to be collected between June and September. The samples will be collected in 2024.	NA
Failure to employ or utilize a certified operator	The system did not have a certified operator to conduct sampling, operations and maintenance activities.	2018-2024	A certified operator was hired in Feb 2024	NA
Failure to submit electronic Annual Report to DDW.	Report was required by April 2023 but was not submitted.	2022 reporting year	A report was submitted to DDW for the 2023 reporting year	NA