



2014

# Drinking Water Quality REPORT



OUR FUTURE  
IS CLEAR

  
LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO



# Important Information About Your Drinking Water

## WHAT IS THIS REPORT?

We are pleased to present the Year's Annual Drinking 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 the regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of 2014's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## WHAT WE DO

The Utilities Department provides adequate, reliable and high quality water, sewer, natural gas and solid waste services in an open, responsible, environmentally sound manner at the lowest practical cost.

The City of Las Vegas Water System has approximately 6,439 residential and commercial accounts. Therefore, we provide water for over 4,657 customers in the City of Las Vegas, as well as 1,072 customers in the county.

As mandated by the Safe Drinking Water Act, this Consumer Confidence Report informs all City water users on our water sources, results of water tests and other important information.

## YOUR WATER IS SAFE

Our Water Exceeds Drinking Water Standards and is safe to drink.

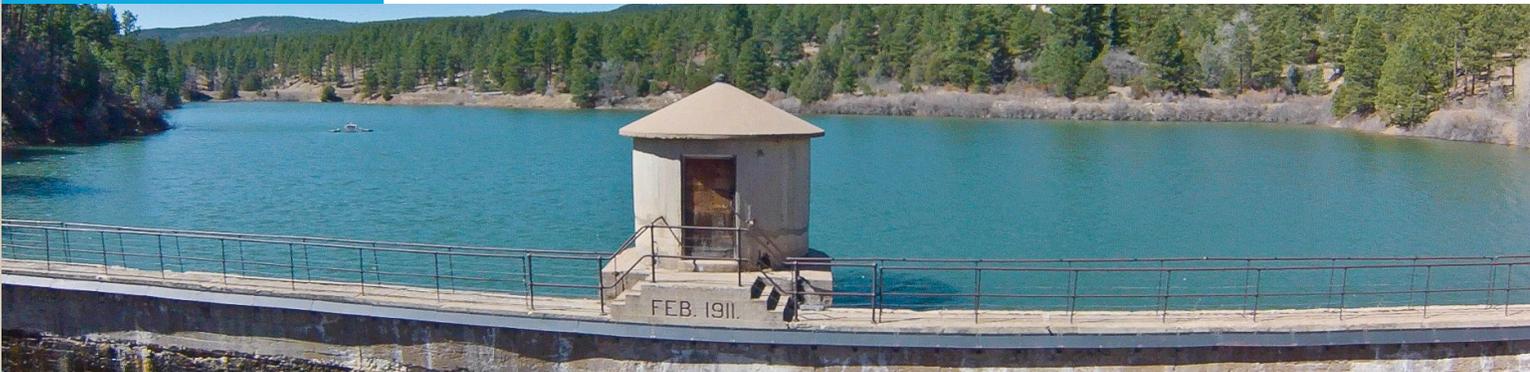
Last year we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants and zero contaminants were detected. Flushing the distribution system reduced the level of those contaminants below the level EPA allows. Disinfection By-Products average over the entire year were below Maximum Contaminant Level.

## WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

Our water source is primarily surface water drawn from the Gallinas River and stored in Peterson and Bradner Reservoirs. Groundwater is utilized from the City of Las Vegas' Taylor Well Field.

## 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.



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**TIP**

Take short showers. A 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water; a bath uses up to 50 gallons.

# Is My Water Safe?

## WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain 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 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.

Examples 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 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, the 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.

## 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 minerals and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Las Vegas 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 to lead is available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791, or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND ITS AVAILABILITY

A Source Water Assessment has been performed by the New Mexico Environment Department. That information is available to the consumer upon request at NMED (877) 654-8720



City utility customers can pick up FREE low flow water saving kits at 905 12th Street. They are easy to install and can save up to 750 gallons a month.

750

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# Water Quality Table

## DESCRIPTION

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 the 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 on the opposite page.



# \$100

The City offers up to a \$100 rebate on high efficiency toilets and FREE 1.28gpf high efficiency toilets to income qualifying customers. Call for more details.

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## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT: 2014 DRINKING WATER QUALITY DATA

### Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG
Chlorine	2014	0.5	0.4 - 0.5	MRDLG = 4
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG
Arsenic	2014	4	0 - 4	0
Chromium	2014	2	0 - 2	100
Fluoride	2014	0.3	0.31 - 0.71	4
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2014	1	0.14 - 1.02	10
Selenium	2014	3	0 - 3	50
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG
Beta/Photon emitters	2014	1.3	1.3 - 1.3	0
Combined Radium 226/228	2014	1.05	0.06 - 1.05	0
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2014	13.6	1.6 - 13.6	0
Uranium	2014	7	0 - 7	0
Volatile Organic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG
Dichloromethane	2014	0.35	0 - 0.35	0

### Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG) : The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile
Copper	2014	1.3	1.3	0.053
Lead	2014	0	15	1.7

### Turbidity

	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.252 NTU	N
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	N

Information Statement: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles.

We monitor it because it is a good indication of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

### Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation occurred.

### Violations Table

#### Microbiological Samples

The City of Las Vegas is required to take 20 total coliform samples each month and submit to the Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) within the first 10 days following the sampling date. DWB received 19 of the 20 monitoring results within the required timeframe for the month of December, 2014.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING (TCR), ROUTINE MINOR	12/1/2014	12/31/2014	We failed to complete all the required tests.



## IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS

**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.

**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.

**TT:** Treatment technique – a required process intended to reduce the level of a 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.

**Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal – the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**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.

**MNR:** Monitored Not Regulated

**MPL:** State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
4	mrem/yr	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
30	ug/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
5	ppb	N	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories.

# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Likely Source of Contamination
Soil runoff.
Soil runoff.

Violation is noted in the violations section.

Following the end of the required monitoring period.
Number of samples of our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated.



## UNIT DESCRIPTION

**ug/L:** number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water

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

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

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

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of effectiveness of our filtration system.

**NA:** not applicable

**ND:** not detected

**NR:** monitoring not required, but recommended.



CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
WATER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

# OUR FUTURE IS CLEAR

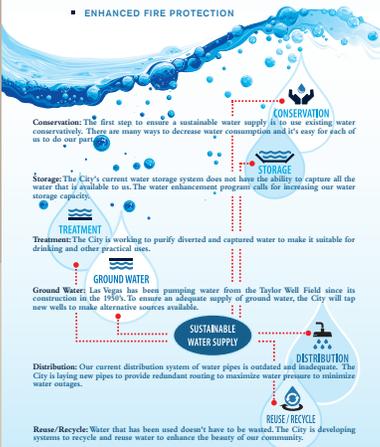


CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
WATER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

ensuring a sustainable water supply for our community

## BENEFITS OF Sustainable Water

- BETTER QUALITY AND TASTE
- BEAUTIFICATION OF HOMES AND COMMUNITY
- REDUCED WATER RESTRICTIONS
- ENHANCED FIRE PROTECTION



[www.lasvegasnm.gov](http://www.lasvegasnm.gov)  
(505) 454-3832



The first step to ensure a sustainable water supply is to use existing water conservatively. There are many ways to decrease water consumption and it's easy for each of us to do our part.



The City's current water storage system does not have the ability to capture all the water that is available to us. The water enhancement program calls for increasing our water storage capacity.



The City is working to purify diverted and captured water to make it suitable for drinking and other practical uses.



Las Vegas has been pumping water from the Taylor Well Field since its construction in the 1950's. To ensure an adequate supply of ground water, the City will tap new wells to make alternative sources available.



Our current distribution system of water pipes is outdated and inadequate. The City is laying new pipes to provide redundant routing to maximize water pressure to minimize water outages.



Water that has been used doesn't have to be wasted. The City is developing systems to recycle and reuse water to enhance the beauty of our community.

## DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorder, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA and 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 at (800) 426-4791.

## 2014 VIOLATION INFORMATION

Violation: The City of Las Vegas did not submit all microbiological samples for the month of December 2014. The monitoring and reporting requirements for the Total Coliform Rule (TCR). The City of Las Vegas is required to take 20 total coliform samples each month and submit the results to the Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) within the first 10 days following the end of the required monitoring period. DWB received 19 of the 20 monitoring results within the required timeframe. The City of Las Vegas was in violation of the monitoring and reporting requirements for the TCR.

## CORRECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE CITY:

When data is being entered in the EDI File, we will ensure that the numbers are not entered twice or duplicated. The file will be reviewed by the supervisor after being entered to ensure accuracy.

## OUR FUTURE IS CLEAR

For more information about **Our Future is Clear—Water Enhancement Program** or to schedule a presentation by our staff with your business or organization on how the City is developing a long-term, sustainable water supply, please contact the City of Las Vegas Utilities Department at (505) 452-3832.



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# TIP

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!



**CLEAN WATER**  
healthy life

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The Las Vegas City Council meets regularly. Information on meeting dates is available through the City Clerk's Office at (505) 454-1401 or online at [www.lasvegasm.gov](http://www.lasvegasm.gov).

City utility customers can pick up FREE low flow water saving kits at 905 12th street. They are easy to install and can save up to 750 gallons a month.

The City offers up to a \$100 rebate on high efficiency toilets and FREE 1.28gpf high efficiency toilets to income qualifying residential customers. Call for more details.

The City offers rain barrels to customers at \$64 each. Also available are 250 gallon water tanks for \$100. Available at 905 12th Street.

For more information on Las Vegas' conservation programs please feel free to contact the city's conservation specialist at (505) 454-3832.

## THANK YOU!

The City of Las Vegas' Water Department personnel would like to thank the community for their efforts to conserve water. Thank you for your continued support in conserving our precious resource.

**KENNETH L. GARCIA**, Utilities Director

**DON W. COLE**, Water Systems Manager

**RAMON VIALPANDO**, Water Treatment Plant Manager

**BERNADETTE GOLD**, Water Quality Technician

**JAMES PEREA**, Water Operator 4

**MATT TAFOYA**, Water Operator 4

**DOMINIC MARES**, Water Operator 1

**VANESSA MARQUEZ**, Water Conservation Specialist



### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

**Don W. Cole**

Water System Manager

City of Las Vegas

905 12th Street

Las Vegas, NM

87701

(505) 426-3314

The City offers rain barrels to customers at \$64 each. Also available are 250 gallon water tanks for \$100. Available at 905 12th Street.

**\$64**

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NEW ADVENTURES DOWN OLD TRAILS

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM  
PERMIT NO. 1888

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**City of Las Vegas**  
Utility Service Department  
905 12th Street  
Las Vegas, NM 87701  
505.454.3832

[lasvegasnm.gov](http://lasvegasnm.gov)

