CITY OF VENTURA

– 2011 –

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

— FEATURING CALENDAR 2010 WATER QUALITY RESULTS —

Dear Valued City of Ventura Customer,

This report presents important information on the City of Ventura's drinking water quality. It also discusses our local water supplies as well as our commitment and methods to deliver drinking water that you can trust – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Since 1923, our municipal water system has been providing essential water services to keep our community healthy and vital. In January 2011, the City Council created a separate Water Department to focus on Ventura's increasingly complex water, wastewater and stormwater responsibilities. This strategic action recognizes that integrated management of our water resources will best position us to meet current challenges and benefit from new opportunities. On behalf of the entire staff, we look forward to continuing to serve you.

Sincerely,

Mary Walsh

Mary Walsh
Acting Ventura Water Director

For More Information

If you would like more information regarding the City's water quality, facility improvements, or studies, please contact Yasser Abouaish, Water Utility Manager at 652-4500. This Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report is available in Spanish, alternate formats and on the City's website at www.cityofventura.net

You are also invited to express your opinions at City Council meetings held most Monday evenings in the Council Chambers at Ventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street. Please visit www.cityofventura.net for a complete schedule.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Para más información o obtener copias del informe de agua en espanol llame 652-4500.

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Our Continuing Commitment to You

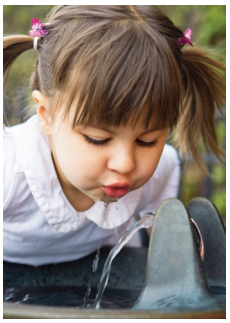
Ventura Water Department's trained, State-licensed water professionals are committed to:

- High-quality drinking water meeting or exceeding all regulatory standards
- A proactively maintained and reliable water system
- A customer-focused organization that anticipates future community needs

We know that our customers value their tap water. We appreciate your support and investment that is critical to achieving our service, operations and infrastructure improvement goals.

Water Quality Report Highlights

This year's Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report shows:



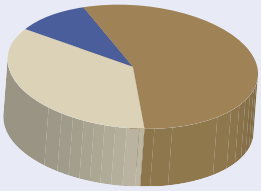
- Ventura's drinking water quality and its monitoring program successfully met all State and Federal regulatory standards
- Water staff members conduct routine tests beyond those presented in this report to monitor and optimize water quality
- The Ventura Water Department actively monitors the quality of its water supplies and collaborates with others to maintain and improve them
- The City's drinking water treatment systems employ multiple barriers to protect our water from disease-causing microorganisms and other contaminants
- Vulnerable populations should pursue additional information about their drinking water because no municipal or bottled drinking water is 100% "pure"

Ventura's Water Sources & Treatment

	Ventura River	Casitas	Groundwater Wells
Supply Type	Surface Water & Groundwater	Surface Water	Groundwater
Fraction of Total Supply	10-30%	35%	35-55%
Location	At Foster Park	Lake Casitas	Victoria & Saticoy
Service Area	West & Midtown	West	Midtown & East

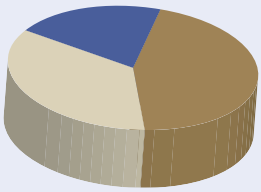
Ventura is one of the largest cities in California that relies exclusively on local water supplies. We manage our water portfolio of three distinct sources based on the flow of our Ventura River supply. When more river water is available, the City uses less groundwater and during dryer conditions, groundwater or Lake Casitas supplies a greater percentage of your drinking water (based on your service area).

Dry Year



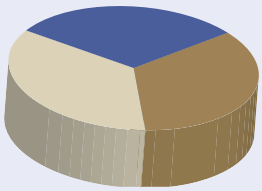
Ventura River	10%
Groundwater Wells	55%
Lake Casitas	35%

Normal Year



Ventura River	20%
Groundwater Wells	45%
Lake Casitas	35%

Wet Year



Ventura River	30%
Groundwater Wells	35%
Lake Casitas	35%

Ventura River

The City's oldest water supply is provided from the Ventura River at Foster Park from a surface diversion and subsurface collector, and pumped from shallow wells. This water drains from the lower watershed in the Ojai and Ventura River Valleys that includes the tributaries of the San Antonio and the Coyote Creeks. In 2007, the Avenue Water Treatment Facility was modernized to treat this water source with membrane ultrafiltration (UF). An effective and reliable process, thousands of hollow fiber filtration membranes create a physical barrier to remove pathogens and particles larger than the 0.02 micron pore size, including bacteria, viruses, Giardia, and Cryptosporidium. Chloramines are added for disinfection prior to delivery into the water system as well as a corrosion inhibitor to help protect the distribution pipes and the plumbing in your home.

Casitas

Treated water is purchased from the Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas), the operator of Lake Casitas. Lake Casitas' water drains from the upper watershed and is federally protected to limit contamination of the lake. Casitas treats the water from Lake Casitas with direct media filtration and with chloramines for disinfection prior to delivery into the City's system. The City works closely with Casitas through a minimum purchase agreement of 6,000 acre-feet (1,955,106,000 gallons) per year.

Groundwater Wells

Water is also pumped from groundwater wells located in the City's east side near Olivas Park Drive and Victoria Avenue, Victoria Avenue and Highway 126 and in the Saticoy area. Water quality from the Oxnard Plain, Mound, and Santa Paula groundwater basins are similar, but compared to water from the Ventura River or Lake Casitas, this water contains about two times the amount of total dissolved solids (TDS) or minerals (hardness). The groundwater sources are treated at either the Bailey or Saticoy Water Conditioning Facilities with prechlorination and direct media filtration to remove iron, manganese, and turbidity particles, and disinfected with chloramines. A corrosion inhibitor is also added to protect the distribution pipes and the plumbing in your home.

Important Water Treatment Information

The City and Casitas use chloramines -- chemicals that contain chlorine and ammonia -- for continuous disinfection of the drinking water. Chloramines are preferred because of their ability to provide disinfection over a longer period of time, and improve taste and odor as compared to using chlorine alone. Chloramines have been proven to effectively kill microorganisms while producing lower levels of disinfection byproducts such as trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs), which are potentially harmful contaminants. Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the regulated maximum contaminant level (MCL) may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of cancer.

Treatment plants are continuously monitored for specific water constituents by special automated instrumentation to ensure that the process is always producing water of high quality. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. Both the City and Casitas measure turbidity every 15 minutes as a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration processes, especially for surface waters. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants and may indicate the presence of contaminants.

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

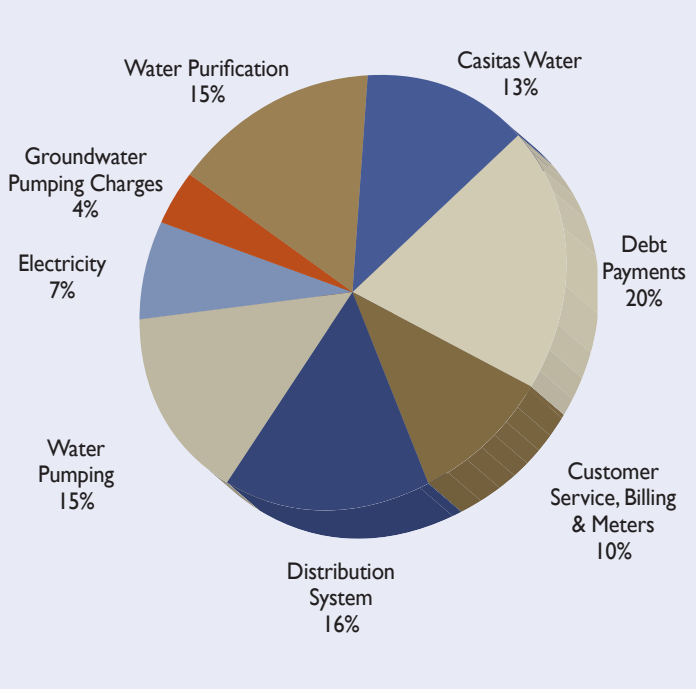
- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture and livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that may be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, 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 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 provide the same protection for public health.

Water System, Supply & Planning

Water rates support an annual operations and maintenance budget of $22 million to treat and deliver clean drinking water to our residents daily. Revenues from rates also fund a wide range of less visible expenses: planning, environmental compliance, capital projects, and long-term debt payments (similar to mortgage payments for your home). Over the years, the City has reliably planned, developed and managed our local water supply portfolio. With continued years of drought and tightening water restrictions and environmental responsibilities, Ventura's future supply availability is being impacted. Due to concerns for the health of the Ventura River ecosystem, the quantity of water and when we can pump the water may be limited. City allocations from two groundwater basins, Oxnard Plain and Santa Paula Basins, are increasingly regulated and monitored, which may potentially limit the quantity from these sources. Also, as a major supplier, the environmental challenges facing Casitas could result in both supply restrictions and higher costs.

Water Operating Expenses $22M




Lincoln Neighborhood Waterline Replacement

As one of California's oldest cities, our extensive water system is aging. The City owns and operates 11 groundwater wells, three water treatment plants, two treated water connections from Lake Casitas, 23 booster pump stations, 31 water storage reservoirs, more than 3,700 fire hydrants and 380 miles of distribution pipelines. Ventura's hilly terrain and varying elevations require management of 14 separate pressure zones. As the City expanded East in the 1950s and 60s, existing water infrastructure was joined, creating the complex infrastructure system in operation today. Based on these factors, the California Department of Public Health has categorized the City's water system as a "grade 5," indicating the highest degree of treatment and distribution complexity.

The draft Water Master Plan indicates that an aggressive capital program will be necessary over the next 30 years to keep our system reliable. Our customers, as stockholders in Ventura's water business, will play an important role as we plan for major capital water infrastructure replacement, which will require significant long-term financial investment by the community. Capital projects recently completed include replacement of aging water mains in the Lincoln area and Ash Street and water tank storage facility upgrades to improve water quality. Planned for construction in the near term are waterline replacements in the Market Street area and Fairview Drive. Engineering plans are in design for a new well, rehabilitation of a critical pump station, and waterline replacements in the Harbor Blvd and Montalvo areas.

Water pumped from groundwater wells contains higher levels of dissolved solids, minerals and sulfur than Ventura's other two sources of water. Its mineralized content results in deposits on plumbing fixtures and less aesthetically pleasing water quality. While treated groundwater meets all health requirements, a draft Water Quality Improvement Report, studying the most feasible options to lower the mineral levels in the future, is currently being evaluated for system and financial impacts.

Water Quality Monitoring

Ventura owns and operates a full-scale, State-certified laboratory and also uses outside State-certified labs to monitor water quality. Water quality constituents that were detected by the laboratories during 2010 are listed on the Water Quality Summary Table. As reflected, we are proud that our drinking water successfully met all State and Federal requirements and did not have any violations during the reporting period.

The City submits monthly, quarterly and annual reports to the State for review that summarize treatment and distribution operations and drinking water quality. The State annually inspects the City's water system and reported in December 2010 that the City's water sources, facilities, and operations are capable of producing safe and reliable water quality.

In 2008, the City met the triennial lead and copper corrosion monitoring requirements by sampling 50 locations to test consumers' tap water. The test results, provided in the Water Quality Summary Table, indicated that no additional corrosion control treatment is required. The next testing will be conducted in Summer 2011.

Early detection of threats from potential contaminants is important to sustaining a healthy water supply. A five-year update to the Sanitary Survey of the Lower Ventura River Watershed is currently being conducted to identify potential sources of water contamination. The study will also offer recommendations to reduce possible risks to the water supply and adjust the ongoing watershed-monitoring program accordingly. In addition, the City has voluntarily tested for specific contaminants along the Ventura River and San Antonio Creek since 2002 to aid in early identification of emerging water quality concerns.

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).

Potential Concerns For Vulnerable Populations

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).

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. The City of Ventura 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.

The City and Casitas use chloramines for continuous disinfection of the drinking water and its presence requires additional precautions for some water uses. If a member of your household requires dialysis, you should contact your physician or dialysis service provider to assure proper protective equipment is used during the treatment. If you use tap water for fish or other aquatic animals that use gills for breathing, you need to test and be sure the chloramines are completely removed before use. Setting water in an open container for 24 hours prior to use will not remove all chloramines in the water. Your local pet store can provide information and products for the proper removal of chloramines.

Public Health Goals Reporting

As a water supplier, the City must evaluate its drinking water supply every three years with respect to Public Health Goals (PHG). The goals are advisory only and are not mandatory limits, but do require public notification. To fulfill this requirement, a report will be made available and a public meeting will be scheduled for late Spring 2011. Please visit www.cityofventura.net for more details.

Water Quality Terminology

The Water Quality Summary shows constituents measured in Ventura's water and reported to the State Department of Health Services, and in some cases the USEPA. Some of the terminology used is described below:

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

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to one's health. MCLGs are set by the USEPA.

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

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

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

Footnotes

[1] Process and source variations.

[2] Erosion of natural deposits.

[3] Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production waste.

[4] Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

[5] Discharge from refineries or manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.

[6] Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

[7] Leaching from ore-processing sites, discharge from electronics and glass factories.

[8] Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems.

(a) Average is maximum reading. Avenue Plant Surface Filtration (TT) = 95% of samples equal or below 0.1 NTU.

(b) Average is maximum reading. CMWD Direct Filtration (TT) = 100% of samples equal or below 0.2 NTU

(c) Highest running average cannot exceed the MCL.

(d) Samples were taken at selected households on a first draw in August 2008.

(e) Monitoring completed in 2007 and 2008.

Legend

ppm:	Parts per million or milligrams per liter.
ppb:	Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.
pCi/l:	Picocuries per liter, a measure of radioactivity in water.
CMWD:	Casitas Municipal Water District
TT:	A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water
NA:	Not applicable
ND:	Not detectable
NS:	No standard
NTU:	Turbidity, a measure of the clarity or cloudiness of the water.

Ventura's Water Quality Summary 2011

Only water quality constituents detected by laboratory testing appear in the chart.

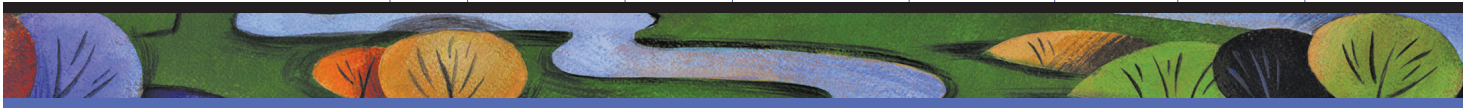
— USING DATA COLLECTED IN 2010 UNLESS NOTED —

PRIMARY STANDARDS (PDWS)	Units	Maximum Level MCL	State Goal PHG	Ventura River Average	Ventura River Range	Ground Water Average	Ground Water Range	CMWD Average	CMWD Range	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water (Footnotes)
Water Clarity										
Treated Turbidity	NTU	TT	NA	0.02 (a)	0.02	0.33	0.1 - 0.7	0.06 (b)	0.01-0.06 (b)	1
Radioactive Contaminants (e)										
Gross Alpha particle activity	pCi/l	15	NA	3.6	1 - 5.5	8.2	6.3 - 10.2	1.1	0.3 - 2.1	2
Radium 226	pCi/l	5	NA	0.13	ND - 0.3	0.2	0.1 - 0.2	NA	NA	2
Uranium (c)	pCi/l	20	0.5	2.5	1.5 - 4.9	4.9	3.4 - 6.4	NA	NA	2
Inorganic Contaminants										
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	0.5	0.4 - 0.6	0.51	0.49 - 0.70	0.2	0.2	4
Selenium	ppb	50	NA	ND	ND	9.8	ND - 27.4	ND	ND	5
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	.61	ND - 1.2	1.5	ND - 3.5	ND	ND	6
Thalium	ppb	2	0.1	0.3	ND - 1.1	1.6	1.1 - 1.8	ND	ND	7

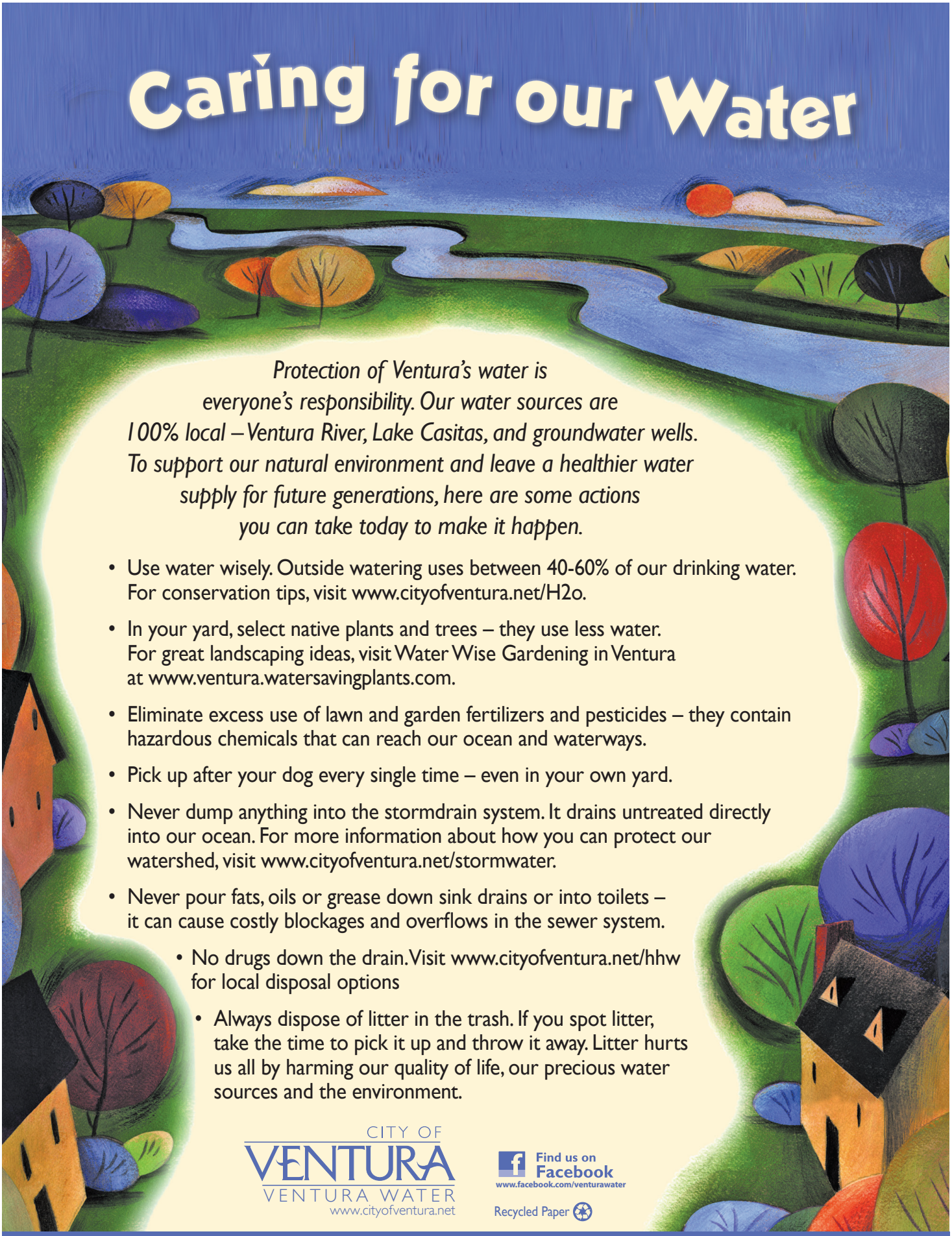
Lead and Copper Samples	Units	RAL	PHG	Samples Collected	Above RAL	90th Percentile	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Lead	ppb	15	.2	52 (d)	0	1	8
Copper	ppb	1300	300	52 (d)	2	970	8

PRIMARY STANDARDS for Distribution System	Units	MCL MRDL	PHG (MCLG) MRDLG	Distribution System Average	Distribution System Range	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Disinfection						
Chloramine Residual	ppm	4	4	2.4	1.0 - 3.7	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.
Disinfection By Products						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	NA	26 (c)	1 - 58	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	NA	25 (c)	1 - 57	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Microbiological Contaminant Samples						
Total Coliform Bacteria	NA	5%	0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	NA	0	0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste.

	SECONDARY STANDARDS	Units	Maximum Level MCL	Ventura River Average	Ventura River Range	Ground Water Average	Ground Water Range	CMWD Average	CMWD Range
Aesthetic Standards	Color	Color	15	5	ND - 5	5	ND - 5	ND	ND
	Odor	Threshold	3	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Chloride	ppm	500	47	33 - 58	69	52 - 92	15	15
	Corrosivity	ppb	Non corrosive (+)	0.3	-0.1 - 0.6	0.3	-2.6 - 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.4
	Iron (TT)	ppb	300	ND	ND	ND	ND - 120	ND	ND
	Total dissolved solids	ppm	1000	666	487- 725	1260	1120 - 1401	340	340
	Specific conductance	umhos	1600	985	931 -1028	1637	1309- 2190	543	543
	Sulfate	ppm	500	242	182 - 273	572	477- 876	127	127
Additional Constituents	pH	pH units	6.5 - 8.5	7.5	6.9 - 7.7	7.3	7.1 - 7.6	7.3	7.3
	Hardness	ppm	NS	398	318 - 425	599	509 - 853	218	218
	Calcium	ppm	NS	114	109 - 122	157	131 - 224	51	51
	Magnesium	ppm	NS	29	28 - 30	51	41 - 71	22	22
	Manganese (TT)	ppb	50	ND	ND	ND	ND - 50	ND	ND
	Sodium	ppm	NS	45	38 - 48	131	98 - 206	26	26
	Phosphate	ppm	NS	ND	ND - 0.22	0.2	ND - 0.46	ND	ND
	Potassium	ppm	NS	2.1	2.0 - 2.2	4.9	3.9 - 7.4	3	3
	Total Alkalinity	ppm	NS	204	152 - 228	254	218 - 292	120	120



Caring for our Water



Protection of Ventura's water is everyone's responsibility. Our water sources are 100% local – Ventura River, Lake Casitas, and groundwater wells. To support our natural environment and leave a healthier water supply for future generations, here are some actions you can take today to make it happen.

- Use water wisely. Outside watering uses between 40-60% of our drinking water. For conservation tips, visit www.cityofventura.net/H2o.
- In your yard, select native plants and trees – they use less water. For great landscaping ideas, visit Water Wise Gardening in Ventura at www.ventura.watersavingplants.com.
- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach our ocean and waterways.
- Pick up after your dog every single time – even in your own yard.
- Never dump anything into the stormdrain system. It drains untreated directly into our ocean. For more information about how you can protect our watershed, visit www.cityofventura.net/stormwater.
- Never pour fats, oils or grease down sink drains or into toilets – it can cause costly blockages and overflows in the sewer system.
- No drugs down the drain. Visit www.cityofventura.net/hhw for local disposal options
- Always dispose of litter in the trash. If you spot litter, take the time to pick it up and throw it away. Litter hurts us all by harming our quality of life, our precious water sources and the environment.

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