

# 2014 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE 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 - December 31, 2013 and may include earlier monitoring data.

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

Name of Water Source: Groundwater

Name & Location of source: 3 Well sources, located in South Lake Tahoe, CA.

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: Contact Jennifer Lukins at (530) 541-2606.

Board Meetings held monthly, contact office for details.

## 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 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.

**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)

**ppq:** parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/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 by-products 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 provide the same protection for public health.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 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 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.

Last year, we conducted more than 84 tests for over 80 contaminants. In November, one of our routine monthly water samples detected a presence of Total Coliform. As we told you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards for Total Coliform Rule. For more information, see the paragraph marked Violation in this report. This report 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. We are committed to providing you with accurate information regarding your 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).

Lead-Specific Language for Community Water Systems: 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. Lukins Brothers Water Company, Inc. 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>.

**TABLE 1 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA**

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of Detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
*Total Coliform Bacteria	(In a mo.) 12	*1	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) None	None	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 (Test year 2011)	No. of samples collected	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	22	1	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	22	.067	0	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

\*Any violation of an MCL or AL is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

**TABLE 3 – SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting unit)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG) (MRDLG)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	2011	13	12-15	none	none	No	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	2011	5.28	7.95-8.13	none	none	No	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

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

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting unit)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG) (MRDLG)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Asbestos (MFL)	2013	<.2	0-.2	7	7	No	Internal corrosion of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2013	9.05	8.0-9.72	15	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	2013	2.05	1.54-2.32	50	0	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	2013	0.17	0-.388	5	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (mg/L N)	2013	0.42	.19-.58	45	45	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (mg/L N)	2013	<.05	0-.05	1	1	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (ppb)	2011	2.6	.75-5.0	5	0.06	No	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners and auto shops (metal degreaser)
Uranium (pCi/L)	2013	8.77	8.10-9.45	20	0.43	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Xylenes (ppm)	2011	<.50	0-.50	1.75	1.8	No	Discharge from Petroleum and chemical factories; fuel solvent

**SUMMARY INFORMATION FOR VIOLATION OF AN MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, OR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT**

Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct the Violation	Health Effects Language
In November 2013, Lukins Brothers Water Company Inc. failed to meet California Department of Public Health Total Coliform Rule.	As a result of positive total coliform sample tests, Lukins Water issued a boil water notice. The positive tests were located within the distribution system, <u>not our water sources</u> . Lukins Water tested <b>negative for E. coli</b> . Lukins acted quickly to resolve the problem by working closely with CDPH.	11/14/13 – 11/20/13	At the time of the event, Lukins Brothers Water Company ran an extensive chlorination program to disinfect water lines, and thoroughly flushed service lines. We have continued to maintain a chlorine residual throughout the water system since November 2013.	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

**TABLE 7 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING FECAL INDICATOR-POSITIVE GROUND WATER SOURCE SAMPLES**

Microbiological Contaminants	Total No. of Detections	Sample Dates	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
<i>E. coli</i>	(In the year) 0	Monthly	0	(0)	Human and animal fecal waste
Enterococci	(In the year) 0	Monthly	TT	n/a	Human and animal fecal waste
Coliphage	(In the year) 0	Monthly	TT	n/a	Human and animal fecal waste