



## **BORREGO WATER DISTRICT**

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# **2008 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, 2008.  
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó  
hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

Dated: July 1, 2009

The Borrego Water District (BWD) has prepared this report to inform its customers concerning the quality of water it supplies. In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act and added a requirement that water systems deliver to their customers a brief annual water quality report. This report, the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is more specific and detailed in content. The State of California, Department of Health Services (DHS), in order to implement state and national policy, oversees the issuance of this report. BWD is a community water system providing the public water supply service to most of the community of Borrego Springs. The following report provides information to BWD customers regarding test results available through December 31, 2008.

To receive more information about your water, to ask questions about this report or to receive additional copies of the report, you may call Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager or Richard Williamson, General Manager & District Engineer (760) 767-5806 Written questions should be addressed to the General Manager & District Engineer at P.O. Box 1870, Borrego Springs, CA 92004.

### **This report explains:**

- ❑ ***Where your water comes from***
- ❑ ***Information about water quality***
- ❑ ***How it compares with state and federal drinking water standards for safety, appearance, taste and smell***
- ❑ ***Regulations that protect your health***
- ❑ ***Where to go if you have questions***

**Water Source:** The District relies solely on groundwater pumped from deep underground wells. This aquifer is known as the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin. It is the only source of water available at this time. The District disinfects its well water to insure that it is free from bacteria that can

exist in warm climates. The District is not required to do any further treatment, as those agencies must do that use surface water. Surface water by definition is water from lakes and streams usually impounded in open reservoirs where the water is subject to the pollutants in the watershed of its origin. The Borrego Water District does not have surface water available to it.

### **Board of Directors Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors are held every fourth Wednesday at 9:15 a.m. at the District office, 806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs. Each agenda has a scheduled time for public comments and is available upon request.

**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.

### **Staff**

Richard Williamson, GM & District Engineer  
Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager  
Greg Holloway, Compliance Manager  
Kim Pitman, Administration Manager  
Allison Burns, District Counsel

### **Board of Directors**

Kathy King, President  
Steven Smiley, Vice President  
Rita Andersen, Secretary/Treasurer  
Eleanor Shimeall, Director  
Robert Mendenhall, Director



***EVERY DROP  
IS  
PRECIOUS***

**Contaminants that MAY be present** in source water before we treat it 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, agricultural application, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- ❑ *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**Additional General Information on Drinking Water**

All 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).

### Water Quality Data

The following tables 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 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, is more than one year old.

**TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:**

- ❑ **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCL's are set as close to the PHG's (or MCLG's) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCL's are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- ❑ **Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS):** MCL's for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- ❑ **Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS):** MCL's for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWS's do not affect the health at the MCL levels.
- ❑ **Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHG's are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.
- ❑ **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
- ❑ **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.
- ❑ **NA:** not applicable; **ND:** not detectable at testing limit; **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/l); **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l); **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA - 2008					
Microbiological Contaminants	Highest # of Detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria:	0	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i> :	0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform & either sample also detects fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0	Human & animal fecal waste

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD & COPPER - 08/08						
Lead & Copper (& reporting units)	No. of Samples Collected	90% Percentile level detected	No. sites Exceeding AL	AL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	13	ND	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water, plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits (same as above)
Copper (ppm)	13	0.10	0	13	0.17	

TABLE 3 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM & HARDNESS						
Chemical or Constituent (& reporting units)	Sample Date	Range of Detections	Average	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	April '07	50 - 140	82.9	None	None	Generally found in ground and surface water (same as above)
Hardness (ppm)	April '07	35 - 190	109	None	None	

TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD							
Chemical or Constituent	Units	Sample Date	Range of Detections	Aver.	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Volatile Organic Compounds:</b>							
Methyl-tert-butyl-ether (MTBE)	ppb	June '07	ND	ND	13	13	Leaking underground storage units & pipelines
<b>Inorganic Chemicals:</b>							
Aluminum	ppm	April '07	ND	ND	1	0.6/NA	Erosion natural deposits, surface water treatment residue
Arsenic	ppb	April '07	ND - 5.9	1.35	50	0.004	Erosion natural deposits, runoff f/orchards
Barium	ppm	April '07	ND - 0.36	0.042	1	NA/2	Discharge oil drilling wastes, erosion natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	April '07	0.20 - 1.10	0.56	2	1/NA	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive promotes strong teeth, discharge - fertilizer & aluminum factories
Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> )	ppm	June '08	ND - 12	5.02	45	45/NA	Runoff & leaching from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	ppb	April '07	ND - 17	1.54	50	NA/50	Discharge from petroleum, erosion of natural deposits
Radiological: Gross Alpha:	pCi/L	2006	0.99 - 5.92	2.14	15	NA/0	Erosion of natural deposits

TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD							
Chemical or Constituent	Units	Sample Date	Range of Detections	Aver.	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>General Mineral:</b>							
Sulfate	ppm	April '07	14 - 400	117.54	500	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Zinc	ppm	April '07	ND	ND	5	NA	
<b>General Physical:</b>							
Total Dissolved Solids: (TDS)	ppm	April '07	210 - 760	412.7	1000	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
pH	pH	April '07	7.6 - 8.4	8.08	NA	NA	
<b>Inorganic Chemicals: (Secondary Standards)</b>							
Iron	ppb	April '07	ND	ND	300	NA	Leaching from natural deposits

TABLE 6 - DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS							
Chemical or Constituent	Units	Sample Date	Range of Detections	Aver.	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Major Sources in Drinking Water Health Effects Language
Boron - AL: 1,000 ug/l	ppb	May '07	ND-204	81.8	NA	1000	Runoff/leaching of natural deposits
Chromium-6 (Hexavalent Chromium)	ppb	June '05	ND - 1.8	0.44	NA	NA	AL: N/A - natural erosion
Perchlorate - AL: 6 ug/l	ug/l	Dec.'02*	ND	ND	NA	6	Industrial waste discharge
Vanadium - AL: 50 ug/l	ug/l	May '07	8 - 69	29.5	NA	50	Leaching natural deposits
ETBE (Ethyl-tert-butyl ether)	ppb	Aug. '07	ND	ND	NA	NA	
*This data is presented from the most recent monitoring done in compliance with regulations.							

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the State Department of Health Services (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.

TABLE 7 - SUMMARY OF ALL DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENTS:		
The Borrego Water District completed a Source Water Assessment on all eleven wells during the year 2002. No contaminants have been detected in these sources of water. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the District office. The data presented is from the most recent monitoring done in compliance with regulations. The most vulnerable activities are as follows:		
Wells	Current Vulnerability	Possible Contamination
ID1-8, ID1-10, ID1-12, Wilcox Well, ID4-3	Location near transportation corridors, roads & streets	Fuels & lubrication, residue, which may enter the aquifer by percolation
ID4-2, ID4-11	Septic tank systems	Percolation of septic tank effluent
ID4-18	Irrigated crops	Percolation of return water from irrigation
ID4-4, ID4-10, ID1-16	None	None

TABLE 8 - SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS, INCLUDING PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES						
Contaminant	Units	Date	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detection	Typical Source of Contamination
Alachlor	ppb	Jan. '04	2	4	ND	Herbicide runoff - row crops
Atrazine	ug/l	Jan. '04	1	0.5	ND	Herbicide runoff - row crops
Simazine	ppb	Jan. '04	4	4	ND	Herbicide runoff

TABLE 9 - DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS & DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT PRECURSORS							
Chemical or Constituent	Units	Sample Date	Range of Detections	Average	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Major Source
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	Aug.'07	1.6 – 17	4.69	80	NA	Byproduct-Drinking Water Chlorination
Halocetic Acids (five) (HAA5)	ppb	Aug.'07	ND	ND	60	NA	Byproduct-Drinking Water Chlorination

## *Welcome Borrego Springs Park Community Services District to the Borrego Water District*

Conservation incentive/rebates are available for low flush toilets, low water use washing machines, irrigation audits, turf removal and irrigation retrofit assistance.

Please see the BWD website at [www.borregowd.org](http://www.borregowd.org) for further details