

# 2013 Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report

## Del Oro Water Company – Strawberry District

### Public Water System Number 55-10007

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by State and Federal Regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

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

Water for the Del Oro – Strawberry District originates from surface water from Herring Creek. The California Department of Public Health conducted source water assessments on our surface water sources in March 2003. Our sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: 1. Automobile body shops, 2. Automobile repair shops, 3. Automobile gas stations, 4. Fleet/truck/bus terminals, and 5. Low density septic systems. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed by call the District office at 1-877-335-6764. You will be notified with your billing of any public meetings concerning your drinking water. For additional information concerning your drinking water, contact Community Relations at P.O. Drawer 5172, Chico, CA 95927 1-877-335-6764.

#### 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 level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS):** MCLs or 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 which 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)

**ppt:** Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

**MFL:** Million fibers per liter

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

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

**ppq:** Parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units

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, agriculture livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that 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, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- 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, 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.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 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 requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

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

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest Number of Detections	Number of months in violation	MCL	MCLG (MPN/mL)	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 E. Coli	0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or E. Coli	0	Human and animal fecal waste

**TABLE 2 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER for 2011**

Lead and Copper (units)	Number of samples collected	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile level detected	Number of sites exceeding AL	AL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	5	ND	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper (ppb)	5	ND	0	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

**TABLE 4 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS IN WATER SOURCE WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

Chemicals or Constituent (reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCLG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Specific conductance (micromhos) *	07/23/2012	39.8	1600	Substance that forms ions in water, runoff/leaching of natural deposits

**TABLE 5 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

Chemical or Constituent (units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Calcium (mg/L)	07/23/2012	4.3	None	None	Naturally Occurring

**TABLE 6 – SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS**

Chemical or Constituent (units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (mg/L)	07/23/2012	2.5	None	None	Generally found in ground and surface water
Hardness (mg/L)	07/23/2012	16	None	None	Naturally Occurring

**TABLE 7 – DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS, and DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT PRECURSORS**

Chemical or Constituent (units)	Sample Date	Running Annual Average	MCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes (ppb))	2013	43.3	100	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb)	2013	37.8	60	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine Residual (mg/L)	2013	0.74	4.0	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

**TABLE 8 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING TREATMENT OF SURFACE WATER SOURCES - 2012**

Treatment Technique (Type of approved filtration technology used)	Polymer, Flocculation and 4 layer filter media
Turbidity Performance Standards (that must be met through the water treatment process)	<u>Turbidity of the filtered water must:</u> 1 – Be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month. 2 – Not to exceed 1.0 NTU for more than eight consecutive hours. 3 – Not exceed 5.0 NTU at any time.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1.	100%
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year (April 2013)	0.109
The number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements	0

\* If any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked additional information regarding the violations will be provided later in this report.

**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 at 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 individuals, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The USEPA/Center 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 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. Del Oro Water Company 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 for the Safe Drinking water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.