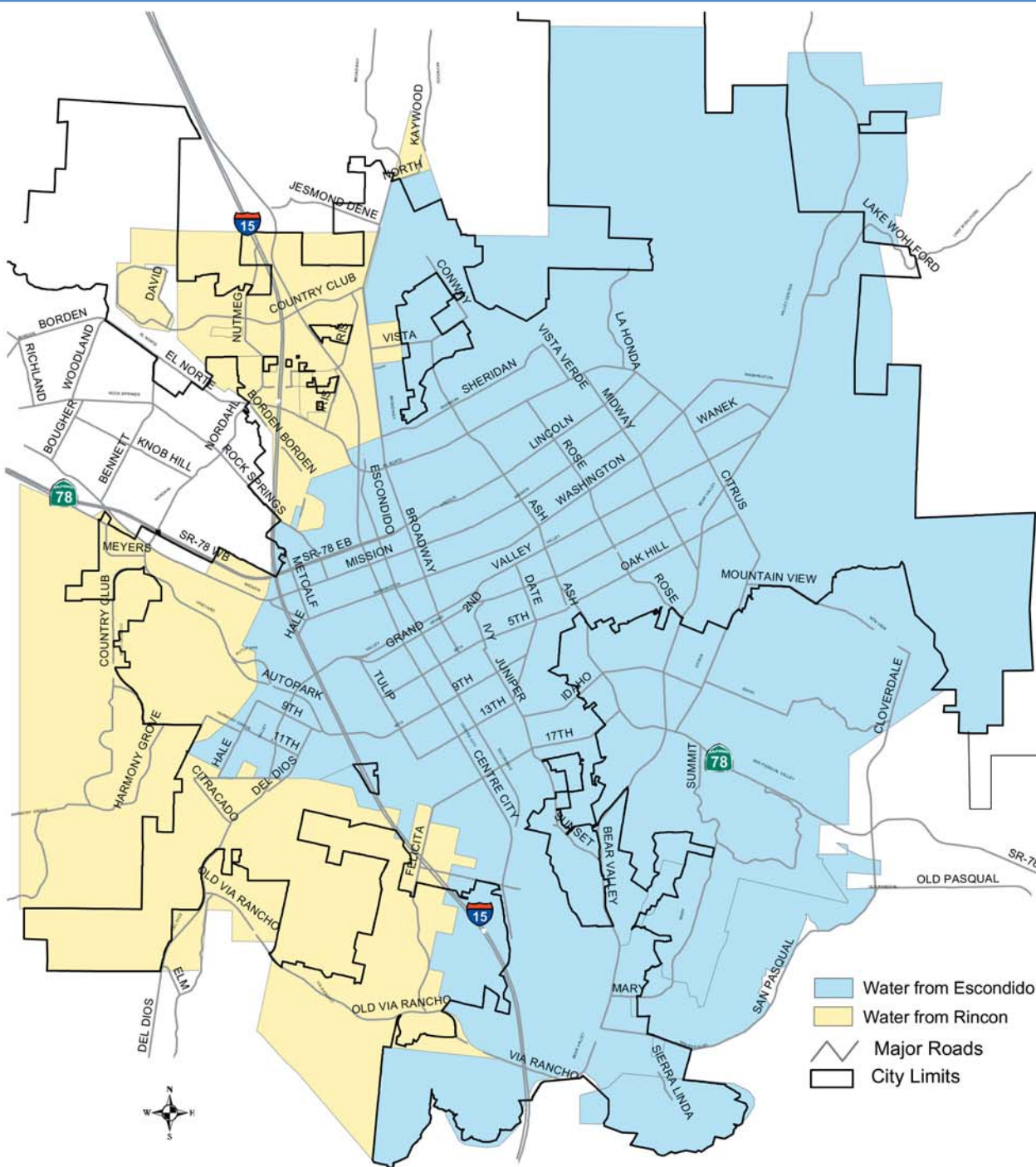


2003 Consumer Confidence Report

The City of Escondido Water Utilities (City) and the Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District (Rincon) are pleased to provide you with this year's Consumer Confidence Report. During 2003, both agencies' drinking water met or exceeded all state and federal government drinking water standards. This report is to inform you about the quality of water that is delivered to you every day.

Over the many years that both water utilities have served the City and greater Escondido Valley, geographic characteristics of the area have led to unique agency boundaries. And, with water exchange agreements between both agencies, some customers may actually be billed by one agency although receiving water from the other. For this reason, the City and Rincon have joined together to provide you with a snapshot of the water you receive.

The map below is an indicator of the **source** of your drinking water. Once you have determined where your service address is located on the map, please refer to the corresponding color-coded chart located inside this report for information on how your drinking water compared to the State of California standards. **If you have any questions regarding this information, please be certain to call the agency that regularly bills you for water service.**



2003 Consumer Confidence Report for customers located within the yellow area of the map (see yellow columns below):

Surface Water Source: As a member agency, Rincon purchases 100% of this water supply from the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). The SDCWA in turn purchases its water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD is a wholesaler that provides water to over 17 million people living in Southern California. MWD imports its water from two sources: a 242 mile-long aqueduct which transports Colorado River water from Lake Havasu to southern California and a 444 mile-long aqueduct that transports water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in northern California to Lake Skinner located in Riverside County. The water is treated at the Robert A. Skinner Filtration Plant at Lake Skinner before delivery into our distribution system. *This chart shows the water quality for 1/01/03- 12/31/03.*

Parameter (a)	State MCL	PHG	DLR	ESCONDIDO		RINCON		DESCRIPTION
	MRDL	MCLG		Range	Avg	Range	Avg	
CLARITY (b)								
Turbidity: (NTU %) (c)	TT < 0.3 96% of the time			Highest		Highest		Soil runoff
Combined Filter Effluent		NS		0.10		0.09		
Lowest monthly percentage samples meeting the standard		NS		Percentage 100%		Percentage 100%		
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS (d, e)								
Total Coliform Bacteria (%)			-		highest single month			Naturally present in the environment
Monthly positives in DSYS	5	0		0 - 1.59	1.59%	0	0	
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (Distribution System)								
Total Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	80	0	0.5	30 - 53	42	18.8 - 61.1	43.6	By-product of drinking water chlorination; sampled quarterly (f)
Running Annual Average				40 - 42	41	33.7 - 43.6	43.6	
Highest Running Average					42			
Haloacetic Acids (ug/L)	60	0	-	12 - 22	17	4 - 26	13.7	By-product of drinking water chlorination; sampled quarterly (g)
Running Annual Average				14 - 17	16	7.9 - 20	13.7	
Highest Running Average					17		20	
Total Chlorine Residual (mg/L)	4.0	4.0	-	0.11 - 2.7	2.1	1.5 - 1.8	1.65	Addition of chlorine & ammonia as combined disinfectant, chloramine
Running Annual Average				2.04 - 2.14	2.09	1.6 - 1.8	1.75	
Highest Running Average					2.14		1.8	
Chlorite (mg/L)	1	0.8	-	0.1 - 1.0	0.62	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Monthly Average				0.2 - 0.9	0.64	NA	NA	
Chlorate (ug/L)	NS	NS	-	70 - 240	150	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Monthly Average				90 - 220	160	NA	NA	
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - Copper/lead in Residential Taps (Escondido - 2003, Rincon - 2003) (h)								
	AL			90th Percentile of 52 samples		90th Percentile of 30 samples		Corrosion of home plumbing systems
Copper (mg/L) (i)	1.3	1.3	0.05	0.37	0.23	0.17	0.231	
Lead (ug/L)	15	0	5	ND	0	<5	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosions of natural deposits
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - PRIMARY STANDARDS (WTP Effluent)								
Fluoride (mg/L)	2	1/NS	0.1	0.20 - 0.27	0.23	0.15 - 0.27	0.22	Erosion of natural deposits
MTBE (ug/L)	13	13	-	ND	ND	ND - 0.5	ND	Underground leakage
Barium (mg/L)	1	2	0.1	ND - 0.1	0.1	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits

Is the water safe to drink?

Since your water comes from a natural source and has met the federal and state standards, it is considered safe or "potable" (rhymes with "floatable"). In accordance with state regulations, your drinking water is routinely monitored for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include inorganic contaminants, lead, copper, nitrates, volatile contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants, disinfection by-products, and microbiological contaminants.

Note: All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline** at 1-800-426-4791.

Questions about this report?

If you are **billed** by the **City of Escondido**, call **Timothy Kwak**, Supervising Chemist at (760) 839-6274. If you are **billed** by **Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District**, staff will be happy to answer your questions at (760) 745-5522.

How Much is That?

With the development of sensitive scientific instruments, it is possible to measure water characteristics in precise and minute quantities. The measurements used in this report are in **parts per million**, which is equivalent to **mg/L (milligrams per liter)**. Also used is **parts per billion**, which is equivalent to **ug/L (micrograms per liter)**. For perspective purposes, consider the following:

1 part per million is:	1 part per billion is:
1 cent in \$10,000	1 cent in \$10,000,000
1 minute in 2 years	1 minute in 2,000 years
1 inch in 16 miles	1 inch in 16,000 miles

2003 Consumer Confidence Report for customers located within the blue area of the map (see blue columns below):

Surface Water Source: This water is provided by the City of Escondido (City). The City has two sources for its drinking water. The first is local water, which originates from Lake Henshaw in the San Luis Rey Watershed. Water from Lake Henshaw is transferred to Lake Wohlford to the Escondido/Vista Water Treatment Plant. The second source is water purchased from the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). This water in turn is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD imports its water from two sources: a 242 mile-long aqueduct which transports Colorado River water from Lake Havasu to southern California and a 444 mile-long aqueduct that transports water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in northern California to Lake Skinner located in Riverside County. *This chart shows the water quality for 1/01/03 - 12/31/03.*

Parameter	State MCL	PHG	DLR	ESCONDIDO		RINCON		DESCRIPTION
	MRDL	MCLG		Range	Average	Range	Average	
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - SECONDARY STANDARDS (WTP Effluent)								
Color (units)	15	NS	-	1 - 1	1	1 - 3	2	Naturally occurring organic materials
Chloride (mg/L)	500	NS	-	77 - 90	82	76 - 92	81	Runoff/leach- deposits; seawater
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	NS	0.5	160 - 190	178	147 - 206	171	Runoff/leach- deposits; indsty waste
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1000	NS	-	480 - 590	523	436 - 563	487	Runoff/leach- deposits; seawater
Specific Conductance (umho/cm)	1600	NS	-	786 - 881	831	745 - 922	816	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
pH (units)	6.5 - 8.5	NS	-	7.41 - 7.62	7.54	8.04 - 8.08	8.06	
Zinc (mg/L)	5.0	NS	0.05	0.45 - 0.50	0.48	ND	ND	Corrosion control additives
Corrosivity (SI) <small>SI = Saturation Index</small>	Non-Corrosive	NS		Non-Corrosive		0.20 - 0.36 (Non-Corrosive)	0.30	Natura/industrial balance of H, C, & O in water; influenced by temp., etc.
Foaming Agents (ug/L)	500	NS	50	ND - 51	50	ND	ND	Municipal/industrial waste discharge
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - UNREGULATED (WTP Effluent) SAMPLED - City: Boron in '01, Vanadium in '02; Rincon: Both in '03								
Boron (mg/L)	AL = 1	NS	0.1	0.12 - 0.15	0.13	0.11 - 0.14	0.13	State regs require monitoring of this contaminant while considering a limit
Vanadium (ug/L)	AL = 50	NS	3	ND - 3.9	3.9	ND	ND	State regs require monitoring of this contaminant while considering a limit
ADDITIONAL ANALYZED (WTP Effluent)								
Total Alkalinity (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	94 - 121	108	100 - 124	112	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
Hardness as CaCO ₃ (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	229 - 259	242	209 - 264	227	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
Calcium (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	53 - 61	57	49 - 64	54	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
Magnesium (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	23 - 26	25	21 - 26	22.5	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
Sodium (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	71 - 84	77	66 - 89	76	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
Potassium (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	3.8 - 4.2	4.0	3.6 - 4.3	3.9	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
Total Chlorine Residual (mg/L)	4	4	-	2.3 - 2.8	2.5	2.1 - 2.4	2.4	Addition of chlorine & ammonia as a combined disinfectant chloramine
Total Organic Carbon (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	2.2 - 3.1	2.4	2.0 - 2.7	2.4	TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfectant by-products. These by-products include TTHMs and HAAs
Total Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	80	NS	0.5	30 - 46	39	32 - 61	45	By-product-drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ug/L)	60	NS	-	12 - 18	15	11 - 20	16	By-product-drinking water chlorination
Bicarbonate (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	115 - 147	131	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
Carbonate (ug/L)	NS	NS	-	24 - 57	40	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
Hydroxide (ug/L)	NS	NS	-	5 - 10	8	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
Phosphate (mg/L)	NS	NS	-	0.21 - 0.33	0.27	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
RADIONUCLIDES (Analyzed every four years, four consecutive quarters) SAMPLED - City: '00; Rincon: '02-03 (WTP Effluent)								
Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/L)	15	0	1	ND - 3.5	3.1	2.99 - 3.96	3.41	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Activity (pCi/L)	50	0	4	ND - 6.6	5.1	ND - 4.08	ND	Decay of natural/man-made deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L) (i)	5	0	0.5	ND - 1.7	1.2	ND - 0.51	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0	2	ND - 2.7	2.4	ND - 2.39	ND	Erosion of natural deposits

What Does it Cost?

With 10 gallons costing less than \$.03, your tap water is a quality product at an **exceptionally low** price. With high government standards for both tap and bottled water, tap water is *clearly* the better choice!

The Hard Facts on Hard Water

Water is considered "hard" when the two nontoxic minerals, calcium and magnesium, are present in substantial amounts. Because calcium and magnesium make lathering suds a difficult task or hard task to do, the water is labeled as "hard". These minerals are also the cause for the white scaling on pots, pans, and teas kettles. Colorado River water is naturally high in both minerals and is therefore considered "hard". Hard water does not impose any health risks.

Is the water safe for everyone?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons 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 from their health care providers about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Would it be safer to drink bottled water?

stringent government standards.

Additionally, bottled water does not typically have additional health benefits. People tend to purchase bottled water because they prefer a different taste. Although convenient, it is easy to forget that bottled water usually costs about a thousand times more than the water from your tap.

Why is this report so technical?

This is a “report card” of how we are doing in terms of providing our customers with safe, reliable, and high-quality drinking water. The federal and state governments require us to publish our annual testing results to reassure you that we are meeting strict government standards. Although the charts can be highly technical and somewhat confusing, the table content and a portion of the report language are mandated by federal law. We would be glad to assist you if you have any questions about our Consumer Confidence Reports.

Why does my water sometimes taste/smell funny?

When your water tastes or smells funny, the problem might be in the water or it might not. The odors may actually be coming from your sink drain where bacteria grow on food, soap, hair, and other things that get trapped. Gases in the drain that smell get stirred up when water goes down the pipe. Odor can also come from bacteria growing in water heaters - usually ones that have been turned off for a while or have the thermostat turned too low.

Chlorine is added to tap water to ensure that germs in the water are killed. When you can taste or smell a hint of chlorine, your water has been properly treated. There are regulations that limit the amount of chlorine added to tap water so that it keeps the water safe to drink. An easy way to get rid of the chlorine taste and smell is to let the water sit in a glass for a few minutes or put the water in a covered container and chill it in the refrigerator.

If there is an odor, check to see if the smell comes from only one of your faucets. Does the odor go away after running the water for a few minutes? If you answer yes to either situation, the source of the odor is probably within your plumbing system.





Public Works Department
 Utilities Division
 201 North Broadway
 Escondido, CA 92025

and



PRSRT STD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 ESCONDIDO, CA
 PERMIT NO. 390

Postal Customer



Printed on **Recycled and Recyclable Paper**

About the Watersheds...

Colorado River and State Water Project Supplies:

In December 2002, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) completed its source water assessment of its Colorado River and State Water Project supplies. Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to recreation, urban/storm water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting MWD by telephone at (213) 217-6850.

Local Supplies:

In December of 2000, the City of Escondido prepared a *Sanitary Survey* of the local watershed. While the survey identifies a number of activities that have the potential to adversely affect water quality, including residential septic facilities, highway runoff, and agricultural and recreational activities, no contaminants from these activities were detected in the local water supply in 2003.

There have been no contaminants detected in the water supply, however the source is still considered vulnerable to activities located near the drinking water source. The primary activity of concern is the use of the lake for non-body contact recreational activities such as boating, fishing, picnicking, and camping. Boat oar and motor boat rentals are available. MTBE is a possible contaminant from motor boat fuel.

Dixon lake is owned and operated by the City of Escondido. Access to Lake Dixon is restricted in the vicinity of the dam and intake by in-water buoys and on-shore fences. The level is controlled by water imported from the aqueduct and any water released to the plant for treatment. Direct management and surveillance at the lake are provided by Park Rangers. No swimming or body contact is allowed. A copy of the *Watershed Sanitary Survey*, which is similar to a *Source Water Assessment Program*, is available for review at City Hall (760-839-4662).

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Si tiene preguntas favor de llamar al numero: 760-839-4662.

Getting Involved...

The City Council of the City of Escondido normally meets the first four Wednesdays per month at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The address is 201 North Broadway, Escondido. Call (760) 839-4631 for details.

Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District is a public agency governed by a five-member Board of Directors that normally meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. The address is 1920 North Iris Lane, Escondido. Call (760) 745-5522 for details.

Abbreviation Key

AL	Regulatory Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment, or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
DLR	Detection Limit for Reporting: A detected contaminant is any contaminant detected at or above its detection level for purposes of reporting.
DSYS	Distribution System.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to PHGs, MRDLGs, and maximum contaminant level goals as economically or technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
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 are set by the <i>United States Environmental Protection Agency</i> .
mg/L	Milligrams per liter: Parts per million (ppm).
NA	Not Applicable.
ND	None Detected. Parameters for detection limits available upon request.
NS	No Standard.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Limit: The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLs are set by the <i>United States Environmental Protection Agency</i> .
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units: A measure of the cloudiness in water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the WTP & DSYS.
Pci/L	PicoCuries per liter: A measure of radioactivity.
PDWS	Primary Drinking Water Standard: MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
PHG	Public Health Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the <i>California Environmental Protection Agency</i> .
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
ug/L	Micrograms per liter: parts per billion (ppb).
umho/cm	Micromhos per centimeter: A measure of a substance's ability to convey electricity.
WTP	Water Treatment Plant.

Symbol Key	
<	Less Than
>	More Than

(a) Data shown are annual averages and ranges. (b) Tests are performed on drinking water turbidity (clarity) at the Water Treatment Plant and in the distribution system. The turbidity tests are done continuously at the WTP. In addition, samples are taken each week at various points in the distribution system. This table reflects the clarity or turbidity produced at the WTP and in the distribution system. (c) The turbidity level of the filtered water shall be less than or equal to 0.5 NTU in 95% of the measurements taken each month and shall not exceed 1.0 NTU at any time. (d) Total coliform MCLs: No more than 5% of the monthly samples may be total coliform positive. These MCLs were not violated in 2003. (e) The City of Escondido Water Distribution System consists of approximately 350 miles of pipelines. Tests are performed each week at various points along the system for compliance with bacteriological and physical parameters. Of concern to all customers is the bacteriological quality of the drinking water. This table shows that drinking water leaving the WTP registered zero coliform bacteria. The distribution system table indicates the amount of positive samples found in the system. (f) Calculated from the average of quarterly samples. (g) Calculated from the average of quarterly filtration plant effluent samples (h) This table shows the levels of copper and lead found in the homes of selected customers. The Copper Lead Rule requires the collection of special samples from designated residents every three years. The amount of lead and copper found in the samples is an indication of the degree of leaching within the customer-owned copper plumbing and brass faucets. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that your home's level may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about the elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. (i) The Federal and State standards for lead and copper are treatment techniques requiring agencies to optimize corrosion control treatment. Average of the highest value is the 90th percentile value. (j) Standards are for Radium-226 and Radium-228 combined.

Cryptosporidium: Cryptosporidium ("crypto") is a microscopic organism found in rivers and streams, and comes from animal wastes in the watershed. When ingested by humans, it may result in a variety of gastrointestinal symptoms including diarrhea, nausea, and fever. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) has tested for crypto in its treated water supplies for years. In 2003, this organism has not been detected in either MWD or the City of Escondido's source water or treated water.

Notice - 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 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**, which may come from a variety of sources like 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, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

