It's the water you drink... now it comes with a list of ingredients. According to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), anything in water that is not H2O is considered a contaminant without regard to whether it is harmful or not. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the regulatory process has set limits, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for certain harmful contaminants that may be found in drinking water. But, there are many potential contaminants that, although not common, may find their way into source waters. For this reason, drinking water regulations require monitoring for many possible contaminants. Not all contaminants are regulated. MCLs have not been developed for all contaminants that are monitored. The presence of a particular contaminant does not necessarily pose a health risk.

This report explains where our water comes from, what it contains, and any known health risks that may exist for the level of contaminants in our drinking water. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) monitors up to 121 potential contaminants at every well in the City's Municipal Water Supply System at least once every three years. This report presents the results for all potential contaminants of drinking water during the 2015 calendar year or the most recent year sampled by EPA approved methods and certified analytical laboratories in accordance with the SDWA.

Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP)
The Municipal Water Supply System is well maintained and operated, and sources of drinking water are generally protected from potential sources of contamination based on well construction, hydro-geologic settings, and system operation and management. The susceptibility rank of the entire water system is moderately high because of our urban setting.

Please contact the City Water Resources Section of Utilities to discuss the findings of the SWAPP report.

The Source of Your Drinking Water
Water Resources provides about 7 billion gallons of drinking water to customers in Las Cruces each year. The source of our drinking water is ground water from the Mesilla and Jornada Bolsons. The City has a distributed system of 29 wells within or near the City Limits to supply our community with drinking water of high quality. These wells withdraw water from depths between 300 to 1000 feet. Small amounts of naturally occurring minerals from rock in the aquifer, however, dissolve into the water and account for moderate levels of calcium, manganese, and iron. Their presence can affect the aesthetic quality of the water by increasing hardness and by altering the color and taste slightly. The Source Water Assessment by NMED Drinking Water Bureau provides baseline data about the quality of our water before it is treated and distributed to consumers. This is important because it identifies the origins of potential contaminants, and indicates the susceptibility of our water system to contamination. Because we pump water from deep aquifers the likelihood of this kind of contamination is low, but it can occur under some circumstances and must be evaluated.

Learn More about Your Drinking Water
Amendments to the SDWA in 1996 require all public water supply systems to provide an annual “Consumer Confidence Report” to their customers. We encourage public interest and participation in our community’s water quality and decisions affecting drinking water. Water Resources of Utilities holds public meetings as needed when specific issues concerning drinking water affect our community. Otherwise, the most effective way to make comments or suggestions is to telephone or write directly to the Administrator of Water Resources (528-3515). Concerns may also be brought before the City Council in their biweekly public meeting or the Las Cruces Utilities Board in their monthly public meeting. Water Resources does not, at this time, conduct regular public meetings, which are devoted to drinking water issues. Water quality data for the Municipal Water Supply System and more information about the Water Resources are available at www.las-cruces.org. The Administrator and her staff will be happy to answer any questions, or discuss suggestions you may have, about our drinking water.

Contacts for Information:
ADRIENNE L. WIDMER, P.E., ADMINISTRATOR
WATER RESOURCES, LAS CRUCES UTILITIES
Utilities Department: 575-528-3515
P.O. Box 20000, Las Cruces 88004 • www.las-cruces.org
NMED DRINKING WATER BUREAU
(575) 524-6300, 1170 N. Solano, Las Cruces 88005
www.nmenv.state.nm.us
EPA OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER
www.epa.gov/ogwdw
EPA SAFE DRINKING WATER HOTLINE: 800-426-4791
www.epa.gov/safewater/dwhealth.html (in Spanish)
www.epagov/cig唯widerl/agua/apsalud.html (in Spanish)
www.epa.gov/ogwdw
AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION: www.awwa.org
THE GROUNDWATER FOUNDATION: www.groundwater.org

This report can be made available in alternative formats upon request. To make a request call voice telephone 528-2012 or TTY 528-2441.

El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
Reduced Sampling Schedule

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Action Level goal (ALg):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum contaminant Level or McL:** The highest level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLs are set as close as possible to the MCLGs or acceptable levels of contaminants that are based on science.

**Maximum contaminant Level goal or McLg:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health, i.e. zero risk. The MCLG usually accepts a risk of 1 in 1,000,000 or 1 in 100,000 persons depending on the contaminant.

**Water Quality Test Results**

- **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 do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as possible to the MCLGs or acceptable levels of contaminants that are based on science.

**Definitions**

- **Monitoring and Reporting of compliance data violations:** A minor administrative violation occurred in 2015 when Las Cruces Utilities failed to provide written notice of the off-line wells in sufficient time for the State to adjust the Nitrate sampling line for repairs and were not supplying water to our customers and were not able to be sampled. The Las Cruces Utilities did not utilize these chemicals.

- **Utility failed to provide written notice of the off-line wells in sufficient time for the State to adjust the Nitrate sampling line for repairs and were not supplying water to our customers and were not able to be sampled.**

**Additional Information**

EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water products, including bottled water, which may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of certain contaminants. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water comes from materials and items consumed with associated service lines and home plumbing. Las Cruces Municipal Water System 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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Sources of drinking water for 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 radioactive material, as well as, substances arising from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

1. **Microbial contaminants:** such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoa (e.g. Cryptosporidium, Ecoli, Giardia) may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

2. **Inorganic contaminants:** such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mine drainage, or the uses of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

3. **Organic chemical contaminants:** including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff, Industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection are available from EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can also be obtained via the Hotline.

**Additional Compounds having zero detection for your information**

### Definitions

- **MCL:** Level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. As a rule of thumb, a margin of safety greater than 10 is generally used for setting MCLs. The MCLs are legally binding requirements for water systems, and a water system may not exceed the MCL for any contaminant.

- **MCLG:** Level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health, i.e. zero risk. The MCLG usually accepts a risk of 1 in 1,000,000 or 1 in 100,000 persons below which there is no known or expected risk to health, i.e. zero risk. The MCLG usually accepts a risk of 1 in 1,000,000 or 1 in 100,000 persons depending on the contaminant.

- **ALG:** Level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

### Key to Units:

- **ppm:** parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- **ppb:** parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- **pci/L:** trillions per cubic liter, or picocuries per liter
- **Na:** milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
- **Avg:** arithmetic average of all analytical data for a particular contaminant for a specific sampling location during the previous four calendar quarters.
- **Highest Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA):** Arithmetic average of annual means of samples taken at a specific monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.
- **Highest Detected Level:** The highest single amount found among all samples taken.
- **Highest Single Amount:** The highest single amount found among all samples taken.
- **MRDLG:** Maximum contaminant Level goal (or MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- **MRDL:** Maximum contaminant Level (or MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
- **Maximum contaminant level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as possible to the MCLGs or acceptable levels of contaminants that are based on science.
- **Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- **Expected sources of such contamination:** are available from EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can also be obtained via the Hotline.

### Monitoring and Reporting of Compliance Data Violations

- **Minor administrative violation occurred in 2015 when Las Cruces Utilities failed to provide written notice of the off-line wells in sufficient time for the State to adjust the Nitrate sampling line for repairs and were not supplying water to our customers and were not able to be sampled.**