



2023 Consumer Confidence Report

Annual Water Quality

Las Cruces Utilities Water Section

Las Cruces Municipal Water System (NM3511707)



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2023 Consumer Confidence Report

Is My Water Safe?

We are pleased to present this year's **Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report [CCR])** as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality provided by Las Cruces Utilities (LCU) to more than 100,000 residents.

Public Notice: LCU received a **Notice of Violation** in October of 2023 for failing to complete monitoring for Regulated Synthetic Organic Compounds (RSOCs) at Treatment Plant #70 (086) in 2022. This was due to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) Sampler failing to collect one of the two required RSOC samples. The RSOC samples have been collected as required and have brought the water system back into compliance with the required sampling for the 2023-2025 monitoring period.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the 2020-2022 compliance period, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for RSOC, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?

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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/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 Water Drinking Hotline** via phone at **800.426.4791**.

The Water We Drink

The Water Line of Business provides about 10.0 billion gallons of drinking water to customers in Las Cruces each year. The source of our drinking water is groundwater from the Mesilla and Jornada Bolsons. The City has a distribution system of 28 active wells, within or near the City Limits to supply our community with high quality drinking water. These wells draw water from depths of 300 to 1,000 feet below ground surface. While these deep groundwater sources provide for protection from many surface contaminants and drought resilience, small amounts of naturally occurring minerals dissolve into the water and account for moderate levels of calcium, manganese, and iron. This common "hard water" typical of groundwater sources in the Southwest can affect the aesthetic quality of the water by increasing hardness and may slightly alter the color and taste.

Source Water Assessment & Its Availability

The Source Water Assessment (SWA) by the NMED DWB 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. For additional information regarding the SWA please contact the **Drinking Water Bureau** at **505.476.8620** or toll free at **1.877.654.8720**.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Save...



...up to 1,000 gallons a month.

Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fix or replace it with a new, more efficient model.



...up to 1,000 gallons a month.

Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full.



...up to 750 gallons a month.

Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive and easy to install. Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.



...up to 500 gallons a month.

Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving.

Teach your kids about water conservation

to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

Watch water usage like a Hawk!

Register for free! LCUtilityHawk.com

The City of Las Cruces

encourages residents to water outdoor vegetation wisely to conserve for future demand. The restrictions below apply to all residential and commercial properties served by Las Cruces Utilities.

For more information, about watering restrictions, visit www.LasCruces.gov/WaterConservation.

Outdoor Watering Restrictions

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ODD ADDRESS	NO WATERING	EVEN ADDRESS	ODD ADDRESS	EVEN ADDRESS	ODD ADDRESS	EVEN ADDRESS

Between **April 1** and **September 30** all outdoor watering is prohibited between 10am and 6pm.

You Can Help Protect Our Source Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- **Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides** - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- **Dispose of chemicals properly**; take used motor oil and other Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) to the South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) Recycling Center at 2855 W. Amador Ave (open 7 days a week for disposal of residential amounts of used motor oil and HHW). Additional information can be found at www.SCSWA.net.
- **Pick up after your pets.**
- If you have your own septic system, **properly maintain your system** to reduce leaching to nearby drinking water sources or consider connecting to a public wastewater system.



How Can I Get Involved?

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's water quality and decisions affecting drinking water. The Las Cruces Utilities (LCU) Water Section holds public meetings as needed when specific issues concerning drinking water affect our community. The most effective way to make comments or suggestions is to telephone or write directly to **Charles Neligh, Hydrologist**. His contact information is provided under the "Information Contacts" section of this pamphlet.

Concerns may also be brought before the City Council in their bi-weekly public meetings, or the LCU Board of Commissioners in their monthly public meetings. Water Quality data for the Municipal Water Supply System, and other LCU operated water systems as well as more information about our water is available at www.lascruces.gov. Las Cruces Utilities will be happy to answer any questions, or discuss suggestions you may have about our drinking water.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels.

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this

type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

LCU actively participates in the EPA Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) water sampling and reporting. For information on UCMR5 please visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule. In 2023, for UCMR5, drinking water in the Las Cruces Municipal Water System (NM3511707) was sampled for lithium and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including 29 unique PFAS compounds. The UCMR results are available (40 CFR 141.207). LCU completed UCMR5 sampling during February 2023 and August 2023. Results were received August 28, 2023, and October 13, 2023. Of the 29 PFAS compounds sampled, none of the results were detected at or above the minimum reporting level (MRL). Lithium was detected above the MRL. The required Lithium reporting is shown in the **table at the bottom of page 6**.

Data Table

Contaminants	Units	ALG	AL	Your Water*	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.2	2021	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps	ppb	0	15	3	2021	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

*90th percentile concentration in your water

Contaminants	Units	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Detected In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
					Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)									
Chlorine (as Cl2)	ppm	4	4	1	0.6	1	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	NA	60	11**	8	11	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	NA	80	36**	30	36	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants									
Arsenic	ppb	0	10	5	1	5	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.071	0.029	0.071	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	ppb	100	100	2	0	2	2023	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide	ppb	200	200	6	0	6	2023	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; discharge from steel/metal factories
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	1.13	0.26	1.13	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	ppm	10	10	4.57	0	4.57	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage
Sodium	ppm	NA	NA	590	30	590	2023	No	Water softeners can contribute to the level of sodium in water
Radioactive Contaminants									
Alpha emitters	pCi/L	0	15	12	3.6	12	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters	pCi/L	0	50	13.6	5.7	13.6	2023	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Radium (combined 226/228)	pCi/L	0	5	0.86	0.14	0.86	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	ug/l	0	30	12	5	12	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants									
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	ppb	70	70	1.1	0	1.1	2023	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene	ppb	0	5	1	0	1	2023	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Synthetic Organic Contaminants									
Di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate	ppb	400	400	9.5	0	9.5	2023	No	Discharge from chemical factories

**The HAA5 and TTHM results for our water are reported as a highest locational running annual average (LRAA) which is the average of samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

MCLG	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest Number of Positive Samples	Total Number of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Typical Source
Microbiological Contaminants					
0	5% monthly samples are positive	1	0	No	Naturally present in the environment

Term	Definition
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
EC	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive and either is E. coli - positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average is the average of samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
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 allow for a margin of safety.
MFL	Million fibers per liter
MNR	Monitored Not Regulated
MRDL	Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.

Term	Definition
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
Variances & Exemptions	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions
µg/L	Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected
NR	Monitoring not required, but recommended

Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

Contaminants	Units	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	ppb	200	200	ND	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	ppb	3	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene	ppb	7	7	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	ppb	70	70	ND	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,2-Dichloroethane	ppb	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	ppb	50	50	ND	No	Residue of banned herbicide
2,4-D	ppb	70	70	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Alachlor	ppb	0	2	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Antimony	ppb	6	6	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Atrazine	ppb	3	3	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Benzene	ppb	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from factories; leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Benzo(a)pyrene	ppt	0	200	ND	No	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
Beryllium	ppb	4	4	ND	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium	ppb	5	5	ND	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Carbofuran	ppb	40	40	ND	No	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
Carbon Tetrachloride	ppb	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlordane	ppb	0	2	ND	No	Residue of banned termiticide
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene)	ppb	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
Chromium	ppb	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Dalapon	ppb	200	200	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	ppb	0	6	ND	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP)	ppt	0	200	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, and orchards
Dichloromethane	ppb	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Dinoseb	ppb	7	7	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables
Diquat	ppb	20	20	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Endothall	ppb	100	100	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Endrin	ppb	2	2	ND	No	Residue of banned insecticide
Ethylbenzene	ppb	700	700	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Ethylene dibromide	ppt	0	50	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Glyphosate	ppb	700	700	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide use
Heptachlor	ppt	0	400	ND	No	Residue of banned pesticide
Heptachlor epoxide	ppt	0	200	ND	No	Breakdown of heptachlor
Hexachlorobenzene	ppb	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	ppb	50	50	ND	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Lindane	ppt	200	200	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens
Mercury (Inorganic)	ppb	2	2	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Methoxychlor	ppb	40	40	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Nitrite (measured as Nitrogen)	ppm	1	1	ND	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Oxamyl (Vydate)	ppb	200	200	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	ppt	0	500	ND	No	Runoff from landfills; discharge of waste chemicals
Pentachlorophenol	ppb	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram	ppb	500	500	ND	No	Herbicide runoff
Selenium	ppb	50	50	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; discharge from mines
Simazine	ppb	4	4	ND	No	Herbicide runoff
Styrene	ppb	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene	ppb	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Thallium	ppb	0.5	2	ND	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories
Toluene	ppm	1	1	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Toxaphene	ppb	0	3	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle
Vinyl Chloride	ppb	0	2	ND	No	Leaching from PVC piping; discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes	ppm	10	10	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories
o-Dichlorobenzene	ppb	600	600	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
p-Dichlorobenzene	ppb	75	75	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	ppb	100	100	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories

UCMR5 - Unregulated Contaminant	Minimum Reporting Level (MRL), ug/L	Annual Average, ug/L	Minimum Value, ug/L	Maximum Value, ug/L	Typical Source
Lithium	9	72.2	18.8	171	Naturally occurring element

Why are there contaminants in my 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791**.

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:

- **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 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 such as agriculture, urban stormwater 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, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and
- **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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.



Additional Information

for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic which results from erosion of natural deposits in the ground. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

for Lead

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. **Las Cruces Municipal Water System (NM3511707)** 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Information & Contacts



Las Cruces Utilities – Water Section

Charles Neligh, Hydrologist
P.O. Box 20000, Las Cruces, NM 88004
Utilities Department Phone: 575.528.3515
www.lascruces.gov

NMED Las Cruces District Office

2301 Entrada del Sol, Las Cruces, NM 88001
575.288.2050
www.env.nm.gov

NMED Drinking Water Bureau - Source Water Assessment

David Torres
505.259.5048
David.Torres@state.nm.us
[www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/
source-water-protection](http://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/source-water-protection)

EPA - Groundwater and Drinking Water

1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W. (Mail Code 4606M),
Washington, DC 20460
Drinking Water Hotline: 1.800.426.4791
www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water

EPA - CCR Information for Consumers

Drinking Water Hotline: 1.800.426.4791
www.epa.gov/ccr

EPA - Water Sense

Helpline: 1.866.987.7367
www.epa.gov/watersense

American Water Works Association

6666 W. Quincy Ave., Denver, CO 80235
1.800.926.7337
www.awwa.org

The Groundwater Foundation

3201 Pioneers Blvd., Suite 105, Lincoln, NE 68502
1.800.858.4844
www.groundwater.org

This document is available in alternative formats and languages by calling
575.528.3515 / TTY 711.

El informe contiene informacion importante sobre la calidad del agua en su
comunidad. Este documento está disponible en formatos e idiomas alternativos,
llame al **575.528.3515 / TTY 711** para su petición.



**CITY OF
LAS CRUCES**