

Lead Monitoring

Testing Protocol Ensures Safe Regional Supplies



RELIABILITY
Providing Safe,
Secure Supplies

The delivery of safe water to the San Diego County Water Authority's 24 retail member agencies and their customers is the top priority for the Water Authority.

The Water Authority regularly tests for the presence of lead and other potential contaminants in its supply sources and in the water it delivers to member agencies as part of its water quality monitoring program, using a range of techniques from real-time monitoring to laboratory testing. Tests show no detectable levels of lead in any potable water from any treatment plant for the Water Authority's supplies. Regular water quality monitoring and the use of online monitoring equipment ensure that the Water Authority is delivering high-quality, safe water to its member agencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Water Authority's Protocols for Testing for Lead in its Supplies

Potable water supplied by the Water Authority to its member agencies comes from three primary sources: the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant, the Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant in Riverside County – owned and operated by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California – and the

Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant north of San Marcos.

The source water for the Carlsbad desalination plant is seawater from the Agua Hedionda Lagoon, while the source water for the Skinner and Twin Oaks Valley treatment plants are from the State Water Project in Northern California and the Colorado River. Each of these source waters is tested for lead at least annually in accordance with regulations from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water. These agencies generally require that water agencies in California sample and test their source waters annually, and conduct additional samples at multiple established locations in their distribution systems every three years. Local reservoirs are tested at least annually in accordance with state and federal water quality rules.

Special lead sampling was required when desalinated seawater from the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant was added to the Water Authority's supplies. Results from this sampling showed that all systems receiving the desalinated water were in compliance with state and federal regulations.



Each week, 20 water samples are collected and analyzed at Olivenhain Reservoir in North County.

Lead Monitoring

Data compiled January through December 2016 from the testing of water output by the three facilities treating Water Authority source water show no detectable levels of lead in any potable water from any treatment plant for the agency's supplies.

Test results for the following facilities from 2018 are at www.sdcwa.org/lead-testing:

- Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant
- Robert A. Skinner Treatment Plant in Riverside County
- Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant

Water Authority member agencies are required to perform lead testing for their own systems in accordance with federal and state regulations. For consumer confidence reports specific to each member agency, go to www.sdcwa.org/water-quality-reports.

Lead Testing at California's K-12 Schools

The Division of Drinking Water, in collaboration with the California Department of Education, has established requirements for testing for lead in drinking water at all public K-12 schools.

California Assembly Bill 746 of 2017, required community water systems to test lead levels in drinking water at all public K-12 school sites built before January 1, 2010. The bill required testing to be complete by July 1, 2019.

If schools built after January 1, 2010, make a written request, local retail water agencies (such as any of the Water Authority's 24 member agencies) must collect the samples and report results to the school within prescribed time limits.

The requirements of California's rule include:

- Community water systems (local retail agencies) are responsible for the costs associated with collecting drinking water samples, analyzing them and reporting results.



- Sampling locations may include drinking fountains, cafeteria and food preparation areas, and reusable water bottle filling stations.

Additional Information

When lead is detected at homes, businesses and institutions, the most common cause is internal corrosion of plumbing systems and service lines that are the responsibility of the property owner.

Consumers who are concerned about lead in drinking water can learn more by visiting the EPA's website at www.epa.gov and selecting "Water" under the Environmental Topics tab, or by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Bilingual service, including recorded messages, is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. ■



**San Diego County
Water Authority**
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4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, California
921 23-1233
858.522.6700

sdcwa.org



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