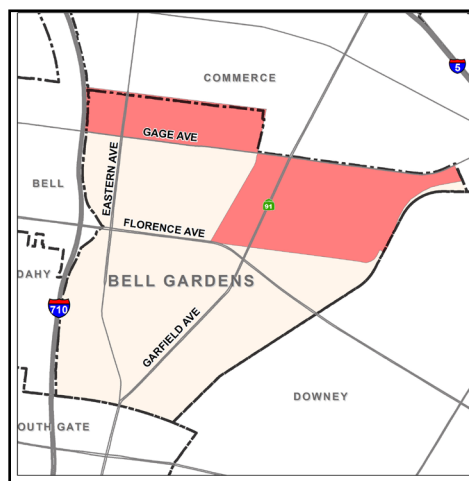


# CITY OF BELL GARDENS

## 2021 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Since 1991, California water utilities have been providing information on water served to its consumers. This report is a snapshot of the tap water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, how it is tested, what is in it, and how it compares with state and federal limits. We strive to keep you informed about the quality of your water, and to provide a reliable and economic supply that meets all regulatory requirements.



### Where Does My Tap Water Come From?

Your tap water comes from 2 sources: groundwater and surface water. We get 80% of our water from local groundwater wells. The remainder 20% of our

water are from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) surface water from both the Colorado River and the State Water Project in northern California. These water sources supply our service area shown on the adjacent map. The quality of our groundwater and MWD's surface water supplies is presented in this report.

### How is My Drinking Water Tested?

Your drinking water is tested regularly for unsafe levels of chemicals, radioactivity and bacteria at the source and in the distribution system. We test weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually or less often depending on the substance. State and federal laws allow us to test some substances less than once per year because their levels do not change frequently. All water quality tests are conducted by specially trained technicians in state-certified laboratories.

### What Are Drinking Water Standards?

The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) limits the amount of certain substances allowed in tap water. In California, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) regulates tap water quality by enforcing limits that are at least as stringent as the Federal EPA's. Historically, California limits are more stringent than the Federal ones.

There are two types of these limits, known as standards. Primary standards protect you from substances that could potentially affect your health. Secondary standards regulate substances that affect the aesthetic qualities of water. Regulations set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for each of the primary and secondary standards. The MCL is the

highest level of a substance that is allowed in your drinking water.

Public Health Goals (PHGs) are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency. PHGs provide more information on the quality of drinking water to customers, and are similar to their federal counterparts, Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs). PHGs and MCLGs are advisory levels that are nonenforceable. Both PHGs and MCLGs are concentrations of a substance below which there are no known or expected health risks.

### How Do I Read the Water Quality Table?

Although we test for over 100 substances, regulations require us to report only those found in your water. The first column of the water quality table lists substances detected in your water. The next columns list the average concentration and range of concentrations found in your drinking water. Following are columns that list the MCL and PHG or MCLG, if appropriate. The last column describes the likely sources of these substances in drinking water.

***Bell Gardens is proud to tell you that there have been no contaminants detected that exceed any federal or state drinking water standards. Hundreds of samples every month and thousands every year by Bell Gardens and MWD laboratories assure that all primary (health related) and secondary (aesthetic) drinking water standards are being met.***

### Why Do I See So Much Coverage in the News About the Quality Of Tap Water?

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, including 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 such as agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater 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.

*This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please contact Liberty at (800) 727-5987 for assistance in Spanish. Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor comunicarse con Liberty al (800) 727-5987 para asistirlo en Español.*

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). You can also get more information on tap water by logging on to these helpful web sites:

- <http://water.epa.gov/drink/standards/hascience.cfm> (USEPA's web site)
- [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Chemicalcontaminants.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Chemicalcontaminants.html) (State Board web site)

### **Important Health Information**

**Lead & Copper** Although Bell Gardens has not found lead or copper to be an issue in our water systems, the following information is required by State Water Resources Control Board. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problem, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with services lines and home plumbing. The City of Bell Gardens 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/lead>.

**Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), sometimes called PFCs, are a group of chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. PFAS have been classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as an emerging contaminant on the national landscape.

The U.S. EPA has not established enforceable drinking water standards, called maximum contaminant levels, for these chemicals. In February 2020, the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) updated the response levels for PFAS. A response level is a non-regulatory, precautionary health-based measure that represents a recommended level that water systems consider taking a water source out of service or provide treatment if that option is available to them. The new response level for PFOA is 10 ng/L; the new response level for PFOS is 40 ng/L.

PFOA and PFOS are readily absorbed but not readily eliminated from the human body. Health effects associated with long-term exposure include harmful effects to a developing fetus or infant; harmful effects to the immune system, thyroid, and liver; and cancer. In addition to water, humans can be exposed to PFOA and PFOS through a variety of sources, including food, dust in homes, and imported

consumer products. For information on PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS, including possible health outcomes, you may visit these websites: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

Sampling conducted in 2021 indicated the presence of PFOA and PFOS in the source water. *The City placed the well offline on September 10, 2021 after exceeding the response levels so no customers receive water from this source.* In addition, we are studying treatment options for the affected well to protect public health.

Who can I call if I have questions about PFAS in my drinking water?

If any resident has additional questions regarding this issue, Vanessa Lumley can be contacted at (800) 727-5987.

### **Should I Take Additional Precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. The USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection of Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **Source Water Assessment**

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

The City of Bell Gardens conducted an assessment of its groundwater supplies in 2003. Groundwater supplies are considered most vulnerable to automobile gas stations, chemical/petroleum processing/storage, known contaminant plumes, and metal plating/finishing/fabricating. A copy of the approved assessment may be obtained by mailing a request to the City of Bell Gardens, 8327 Garfield Avenue, Bell Gardens, CA 90201 Attention Veronica Sanchez, Administrative Specialist.

### **How Can I Participate in Decisions On Water Issues That Affect Me?**

The public is welcome to attend City Council meetings the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at 7100 South Garfield Avenue, Bell Gardens, CA 90201.

### **How Do I Contact My Water Agency If I Have Any Questions About Water Quality?**

If you have specific questions about your tap water quality, please contact Vanessa Lumley at (800) 727-5987.

## **Some Helpful Water Conservation Tips**

- Fix leaky faucets in your home – save up to 20 gallons every day for every leak stopped;
- Save between 15 and 50 gallons each time by only washing full loads of laundry;
- Adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn/garden, not the sidewalk/driveway – save 500 gallons per month;
- Use organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation –save hundreds of gallons a year;
- 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.
- Visit <http://www.epa.gov/watersense> for more information.

**For a direct link to this report, visit us on the web at: [www.LibertyUtilities.com/ccrbg](http://www.LibertyUtilities.com/ccrbg)**

**Visit the City of Bell Gardens on the web at: [www.bellgardens.org](http://www.bellgardens.org)**

# CITY OF BELL GARDENS 2021 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Results are from the most recent testing performed in accordance with state and federal drinking water regulations  
The State allows monitoring for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.  
Some of the data, though representative, are more than one year old.

<b>PRIMARY STANDARDS MONITORED AT THE SOURCE-MANDATED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH</b>							
INORGANICS	GROUNDWATER		MWD'S SURFACE WATER		PRIMARY MCL	MCLG or PHG	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE			
Sampled from 2019 to 2021 (b)							
Aluminum (mg/l)	ND	ND	0.14	ND - 0.24	1	0.6 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (µg/l)	2.2	2.2	ND	ND	10	0.004 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits; glass/electronics production wastes; runoff
Barium (mg/l)	ND	ND	0.11	0.11	1	2 (a)	Oil drilling waste and metal refinery discharge; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/l) (i)	0.3	0.3	0.70	0.6 - 0.9	2.0	1 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (mg/l as N)	2.0	2.0	ND	ND	10	10 (a)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use/septic tanks/sewage, natural erosion
<b>RADIOLOGICAL - (pCi/l) (Sampled from 2017-2021) (b)</b>							
Gross Alpha	ND	ND	ND	ND - 3.0	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	NA	NA	5.0	4.0 - 6.0	50	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium 226	ND	ND	ND	ND	5 (c)	0.05	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	0.1	0.1	ND	ND - 1.0	20	0.019	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	ND	ND	2.0	1.0 - 3.0	20	0.43 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits

<b>PRIMARY STANDARDS MONITORED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM - MANDATED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH</b>					
MICROBIALS	AVERAGE # POSITIVE	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		PRIMARY MCL (j)	MCLG or PHG
		RANGE # POSITIVE	RANGE		
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0 - 1		> 1 Positive per month	0
<b>Turbidity (NTU)</b>					
	AVERAGE	RANGE			
	0.1	ND - 0.8	TT		Soil runoff
<b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (d) AND DISINFECTION RESIDUALS</b>					
	HIGHEST RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE	RANGE	PRIMARY MCL	MCLG or PHG	
Trihalomethanes-TTHMS (µg/l)	23	1.2 - 33.5	80	-	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Halacetic Acids (µg/l)	4.2	ND - 9.0	60	-	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Chlorine Residual (mg/l)	1.6	0.23 - 2.54	4.0 (e)	4.0 (f)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
<b>AT THE TAP</b>					
<b>PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS</b>					
28 sites sampled in 2020	90%ile	# OF SITES ABOVE THE AL	ACTION LEVEL	MCLG or PHG	
Copper (mg/l)	0.23 (g)	0	AL	0.3 (a)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Lead (µg/l)	ND (g)	0	15 AL	0.2 (a)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, industrial manufacturer discharges

<b>SECONDARY STANDARDS MONITORED AT THE SOURCE-FOR AESTHETIC PURPOSES</b>						
Sampled from 2019 to 2021 (b)	GROUNDWATER		MWD'S SURFACE WATER		SECONDARY MCL	MCLG or PHG
	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE		
Aggressiveness Index (corrosivity)	11.8	11.8	12.4	12.4 - 12.5	Non-corrosive	-
Aluminum (µg/l) (h)	ND	ND	144.5	ND - 240	200	600 (a)
Chloride (mg/l)	47	47	96	95 - 97	500	-
Color (color units)	ND	ND	1.0	1.0	15	-
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	540	540	961	950 - 965	1,600	-
Odor (threshold odor number)	ND	ND	1.5	1.0 - 2.0	3	-
Sulfate (mg/l)	73	73	216.5	214 - 221	500	-
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)	320	320	600.5	597 - 609	1,000	-

**SECONDARY STANDARDS MONITORED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM-FOR AESTHETIC PURPOSES**

GENERAL PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		SECONDARY MCL or PHG
	AVERAGE	RANGE	
Color (color units)	ND	ND	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor (threshold odor number)	1.0	1.0 - 2.0	Naturally-occurring organic materials

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION - FOURTH UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS MONITORING REGULATION (UCMR4)**

Our water system is sampling for a series of unregulated contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify unregulated contaminants for potential regulation. Every five years, EPA identifies a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by the nation's water utilities over a three year period. This will occur in 2018 - 2020 with the fourth UCMR (UCMR4). Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. Once EPA has obtained the occurrence data nationally, they are required to determine if there is a meaningful opportunity for increased health protection of drinking water by regulating these contaminants. **In 2018-2019, the City of Bell Gardens began monitoring for a total of 30 chemical from its well along with a corresponding sample from the distribution system reflecting water the well.** The findings from this monitoring will be reported in the Consumer Confidence Reports through 2020.

**FOURTH UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING REGULATION (UCMR4)**

CHEMICALS PARAMETERS	AVERAGE	RANGE	Minimum Reporting Level	USE OR ENVIRONMENTAL SOURCE
Manganese (ug/l)	1.8	ND - 4.3	0.4 ug/l	Naturally-occurring element; commercially available in combination with other elements and minerals; used in steel production, fertilizer, batteries and fireworks; drinking water and wastewater treatment chemical; essential nutrient. Manganese is one of the metals to be monitored as part UCMR4. USEPA will use the data from the UCMR4 to determine future regulations to protect public health.

**ADDITIONAL CHEMICALS OF INTEREST**

	GROUNDWATER		MWD'S SURFACE WATER	
	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE
Sampled from 2019 to 2021 (b)				
Alkalinity (Total as CaCO3) (mg/l)	130	130	126	123 - 128
Boron (µg/l)	NA	NA	130	130.0
Calcium (mg/l)	49	49	66.5	64 - 70
Chlorate (ug/l)	NA	NA	57	55 - 59
Magnesium (mg/l)	8.7	8.7	25.5	24 - 26
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (ng/l)	NA	NA	2.1	ND - 4.2
pH (standard unit)	7.6	7.6	8.1	8.1
Potassium (mg/l)	3.2	3.2	4.5	4.2 - 4.7
Sodium (mg/l)	45	45	96	93 - 101
Total Hardness (mg/l)	160	160	275	270 - 276
Total Organic Carbon (mg/l)	NA	NA	2.4	1.8 - 2.8

PERFLUOROBUTANESULFONIC ACID (PFBS) (ng/l)	5.8	5.5 - 6.3	ND	ND
PERFLUOROHEPTANOIC ACID (PFHpA) (ng/l)	5.3	4.6 - 6.7	ND	ND
PERFLUOROHXANE SULFONIC ACID (PFHxS) (ng/l)	4.1	3.7 - 4.5	ND	ND
PERFLUOROHXANOIC ACID (PFHxA) (ng/l)	9	8.0 - 10.0	ND	ND
PERFLUORONANOIC ACID (PFNA) (ng/l)	2.9	2.8 - 3.1	ND	ND
PERFLUOROOCANE SULFONIC ACID (PFOS) (ng/l) NL=6.5 ng/L	32.3	29 - 37	ND	ND
PERFLUOROOCANOIC ACID (PFOA) (ng/l) NL=5.1ng/L	14	13 - 15	ND	ND

**FOOTNOTES**

- (a) California Public Health Goal (PHG). Other advisory levels listed in this column are federal Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs).
- (b) Indicates dates sampled for groundwater sources only.
- (c) Combined Radium 226 = Radium 228 has a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 5 pCi/L.
- (d) Running annual average used to calculate average, range, and MCL compliance.
- (e) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)
- (f) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)
- (g) 90th percentile from the most recent sampling at selected customer taps.
- (h) Aluminum has primary and secondary standards.
- (i) Starting June 1, 2015, the fluoride levels at the treatment plants were adjusted to achieve an optimal fluoride level of 0.7 ppm and a control range of 0.6 ppm to 1.2 ppm to comply with the existing State's Water Fluoridation Standards. Metropolitan was in compliance with all provisions of the State's Fluoridation System Requirements.
- (j) This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements during 2021. These revisions add the requirements of the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule, effective since April 1, 2016, to the existing state Total Coliform Rule. The revised rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbials (i.e., total coliform and E. coli bacteria). The U.S. EPA anticipated greater public health protection as the rule requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, these must be corrected by the water system. The State Revised Total Coliform Rule became effective July 1, 2021.

## ABBREVIATIONS

< = less than	SI = saturation index	pCi/l = picoCuries per liter	NS = No Standard	mg/l = milligrams per liter or parts per million (equivalent to 1 drop in 42 gallons)
NA = constituent not analyzed		NTU = nephelometric turbidity units		µg/l = micrograms per liter or parts per billion (equivalent to 1 drop in 42,000 gallons)
µS/cm = microSiemens per centimeter		ND = constituent not detected at the reporting limit		ng/l = nanograms per liter or parts per trillion (equivalent to 1 drop in 42,000,000 gallons)

## DEFINITIONS

**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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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 disinfectant to control microbial contaminants.

**Notification Level (NL):** The level at which notification of the public water system governing body is required. A health-based advisory level for an unregulated contaminant.

**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.

**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 that a water system must follow.

**Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect the aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, or appearance) of drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

**Variances & Exemptions:** State Board permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.