# Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

# *2019 Water Quality Report*

## *for water treated in 2018*

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.*

### 'Your drinking water meets state and federal regulations for health and safety

Last year (2018) EAWSD conducted 282 tests for over 33 drinking water contaminants. This report presents a snapshot of the quality of the water that was provided in 2018. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. EAWSD is committed to providing you with this information because we want you to be informed about your drinking water quality. For more information about your water, call (505)466-1085 to speak with a member of the EAWSD operations staff.

### Special population advisory

Immunocompromised persons such as those 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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

*Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*, two organisms commonly linked to water-borne illness, are found primarily in surface waters. EAWSD is an all groundwater system. Wells in the EAWSD system are generally well constructed and maintained. The construction of the wells along with the area geology, protects the groundwater from surface water contamination.

### Drinking water sources

Your drinking water comes from groundwater in the Rio Grande basin. A network of local production wells pumps water from underground aquifers. The water is disinfected and either distributed directly to the customer or pumped to storage tanks from which the water is sent through the distribution system to you. Source water assessment information may be obtained from the New Mexico Environment Department by calling (505) 476-8620

### Public participation opportunities

The EAWSD Board of Directors schedules public meetings twice a month at which public attendance and participation is welcome and encouraged. EAWSD provides information and communication to customers through its website, monthly newsletter, and postings on community bulletin boards, email communications and direct mailings, as needed. Customers are also invited to call or visit the EAWSD office with questions or to obtain information about the water system.

Telephone: (505) 466-1085
Address: 2 North Chamisa Road
Website: http://www.EAWSD.org

### Contaminants in 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 (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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- *Pesticides & herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential use.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

### Water quality

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. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

### Lead-Specific Information

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. EAWSD 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

## TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| Term & Abbreviations | |
|---|---|
| µg/L - micrograms per liter, or parts per billion (ppb) | mg/L - micrograms per liter, or parts per billion (ppb) |
| 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 nanogram per liter (ng/L) | pCi/L - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) |
| NA – Not applicable | ND – Not detected |
| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |
| AL - Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. | RAA - Running Annual Average: calculated quarterly using monthly average for the last 12 months |

## DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2018 calendar year of this report. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The data presented in this table are from testing done in 2018 and years prior. The New Mexico Drinking Water Bureau requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. For this reason, some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL or MRDL | Detected in your water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| **Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products** (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) | | | | | | | | |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) | NA | 80 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 2017 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) | NA | 60 | 1 | ND | 1 | 2017 | No | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 1.4 (0.8 RAA) | 0.28 | 1.4 | 2018 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| **Inorganic Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 0 | 10 | 4 | ND | 4 | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production waste |
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 2 | 0.2 | 0.09 | 0.2 | 2017 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0.4 | 1 | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. *(EAWSD does not add fluoride to its drinking water)* |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 3 | ND | 3 | 2018 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Selenium (ppb) | 50 | 50 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2017 | No | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines |
| Zinc (ppm) | NA | 5 | 0.2 | ND | 0.2 | 2017 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes. |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sodium (optional) (ppm) | NA | NA | 26 | 15 | 26 | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching |
| **Radioactive Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L) | 0 | 5 | 0.7 | NA | | 2018 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Uranium (combined) (µg/L) | 0 | 30 | 2 | NA | | 2018 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Gross Alpha (pCi/L) | 0 | 15 | 4 | NA | | 2018 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/L) | 0 | 50 | 4 | NA | | 2018 | No | Decay of natural and manmade deposits |

| Contaminants | MCLG | AL | 90th Percentile | Sample Date | # Samples Exceeding AL | Exceeds AL | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Lead & Copper** | | | | | | | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.25 | 2018 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | 0 | 15 | 3.9 | 2018 | 1 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits |

**The following regulated contaminants were monitored for but not detected in your water:**

| **Inorganic Contaminants (IOCs)** | | |
|---|---|---|
| Antimony | Cadmium | Mercury |
| Asbestos | Chromium | Nickel |
| Beryllium | Cyanide | Thallium |

| **Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs)** | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1,1- dichloroethylene | Carbon tetrachloride | Styrene |
| 1,1,1- trichloroethane | Chlorobenzene | Tetrachloroethylene |
| 1,1,2- trichloroethane | cis-1,2 dichloroethylene | Toluene |
| 1,2-dichloroethane | Dichloromethane | trans-1,2 dichloroethylene |
| 1,2-dichloropropane | Ethylbenzene | Trichloroethylene |
| 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene | o-dichlorobenzene | Vinyl Chloride |
| Benzene | p-dichlorobenzene | Xylene (Total) |

| **Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs)** | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane | di(2-ethylhexly)phthalate | Hexachlorocyclopentadiene |
| 2,4-D | Dinoseb | Lasso |
| 2,4,5-TP | Diquat | Methoxychlor |
| Atrazine | Endothall | Oxamyl |
| Benzo[a]pyrene | Endrin | Pentachlorophenol |
| BHC-Gamma | Ethylene dibromide | Picloram |
| Carbofuran | Glyphosate | Polychlorinated byphenyls |
| Chlordane | Heptachlor | Simazine |
| Dalapon | Heptachlor epoxide | Toxaphene |
| di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate | Hexachlorobenzene | Hexachlorocyclopentadiene |

## Monitoring and Reporting Violations

In February 2019, we received a Notice of Violation due to a failure to collect Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) samples required by the Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened, and what we are doing to correct the situation. 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 our drinking water meets health standards. These samples are required to be collected each year in August thus we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the compliance period of 2018.

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

We have initiated an enhanced internal review process to ensure that all monitoring and reporting requirements are met in the future.

## 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.

- Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- 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. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- 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 www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

## SOURCE WATER PROTECTION TIPS

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.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's *How to Start a Watershed Team*.

*This water quality report was prepared by Jacobs Engineering Group, as a service to the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District.*