

- water discharges; oil and gas production; mining or farming.
- 3). Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
  - 4). 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 storm water runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.
  - 5). Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Lake Casitas has no urban or industrial water runoff and very few residents still live in the watershed. There is no oil, gas or mining production in our watershed.

### Chloramine Disinfection

All public drinking water must be disinfected to prevent water-borne diseases. Casitas disinfects the water by adding chlorine and a small amount of ammonia to the water to form chloramines. Chloramine disinfection is approved by the California Department of Public Health and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Many United States and Canadian cities have used chloramines for decades to disinfect water. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California supplies water to nearly 18 million people and has been successfully using chloramines for disinfection since 1984. Chloramines reduce the level of unwanted disinfection by-products in our water. Disinfection by-products are formed when chlorine mixes with naturally occurring organic material in water. Currently, regulated disinfection by-products include trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. Chloramines stop the formation of these by-products and the chloraminated water has less of a chlorine taste and odor than chlorinated water. Chloramines do not pose a health hazard to the general population. Chloraminated water is safe for drinking, bathing, cooking and other normal uses. Two specific groups of people, however, do need to take special care with chloraminated water - kidney dialysis patients and tropical fish hobbyists.

### Dialysis Patients Have Special Needs

Kidney patients are not harmed from drinking, cooking or bathing in chloraminated water. However, there is a problem that needs to be addressed for individuals who are undergoing dialysis treatment on artificial kidney machines. Chloramines must not be present in the water used in dialysis machines. Chloramines can be removed through a filtration system. We have worked with the California Department of Public Health to ensure that everyone involved with treatment of dialysis patients is alerted to the facts about chloraminated water.

### Chloramines and Your Aquarium or Fishpond

Chloramines are toxic to fish or animals that use gills to breathe. While chlorine will evaporate rather quickly from standing water, it may take weeks for chloramines to disappear. Thus it is necessary to dechlorinate water used for aquariums and fishponds. We suggest using a filter system or a dechlorinating agent sold at most pet stores for fresh and saltwater aquariums and fishponds. Another option is to install a high-quality granular activated carbon

(GAC) filter in your home. The chloramine residual in water used for fish should be kept below 0.1 parts per million. Contact your local pet store or fish shop for additional assistance.

### Chloramines Are Safe for Plants and Swimming Pools

Chloramines will not affect the chlorine balance in your backyard swimming pool. You still need to add chlorine to retard algae and bacterial growth. Chloramines have no effect on plants, vegetables or fruit trees. For more information on chloramines call 805-649-2251, ext. 120.

### Fluoride

Casitas does not add fluoride, but there is some fluoride in the water that is naturally occurring. This level was tested at 0.3 mg/L in the lake source during 2011. For more information on fluoride check the Department of Public Health's Fluoridation website for more information on fluoridation, oral health and current issues: [www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/Fluoridation.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/Fluoridation.aspx).

### Lead and copper

The latest results from Casitas' lead and copper testing were below the action levels. 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. Casitas 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>. Elevated levels of copper can occur when corrosive water causes leaching of copper plumbing. To prevent this Casitas has implemented a corrosion-control plan by adding a small amount of phosphate to the water to lower the corrosivity and reduce copper levels.

### Important Health Information

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. USEPA/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 Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.



# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## 2011 Data

### Casitas Keeps Your Water Safe

Casitas strives to provide you with water that meets or exceeds all federal and state standards for safe water. To ensure that you receive the highest quality drinking water, we test beyond what state and federal regulations mandate. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2011, or the most recent testing period required.

*Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Para la informacion llame por favor 805-649-2251.*

Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 3:00 p.m. at the district main office, 1055 Ventura Ave., Oak View, CA, 93022. For additional details on the subjects outlined here and for more information about Casitas Municipal Water District, visit us at our Web site: [www.casitaswater.org](http://www.casitaswater.org), or call Susan McMahon, Water Quality Supervisor, at 805-649-2251 extension 120.



Susan McMahon, Casitas Municipal Water District, Water Quality Supervisor.

### Your Tap Water Is Safe to Drink

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health set regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Health department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably 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).

### Do You Know the Source of Your Water?

The Casitas Municipal Water District is supplied by a blend of ground water and surface water that is treated before it is distributed to the public. The surface water comes from Lake Casitas, located near the junction of Highway 150 and Santa Ana Road, and the ground water is drawn from the Mira Monte Well. Most of the watershed is federally protected to limit contamination of the lake.

For additional protection we inspect the watershed on a regular basis.

For more information, you may review the 1995 Watershed Sanitary Survey and the 2011 update, which are available at our main office in Oak View.

Lake Casitas is considered to be most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: boat services (repair and refinishing), petroleum pipelines and recreation. There have been no contaminants detected in the water supply, although the lake is still vulnerable to activities located near this major source of our drinking water. The potential sources of contaminants include private sewage disposal systems; livestock and wildlife grazing; limited pesticide and herbicide use; activities in the surrounding recreation area; unauthorized dumping; limited growth of new homes or urban areas; traffic accidents; and spills.

The 2002 Drinking Water Source Assessment for the Mira Monte Well is also available to the public at our office. This well is considered to be most vulnerable to the use of fertilizers and animal grazing, which raise nitrate levels in the water. In addition, the Mira Monte Well may be vulnerable to activities associated with an urban environment. However, these activities have not resulted in contamination of the well.

### Nature and Man Influence Your Water Quality

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 human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- 1). Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- 2). Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff; industrial or domestic waste-

*Continued on page 6* ➤

# Casitas Water Quality Table 2012

## 2011 Data

### Primary Standards

CONSTITUENTS	MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MCLG)	LAKE CASITAS TREATED WATER		MIRA MONTE WELL		DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		Year Tested <sup>a</sup>		Source of Contamination
			LEVEL/AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	Lake or Distribution System	Well	
<b>Turbidity</b>	<b>Treatment technique (TT)<sup>b</sup></b>										
Filter Effluent Turbidity (NTU) <sup>b</sup>	1 NTU	NA	highest value = 0.06	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2011	NA	Soil runoff
	95% < 0.2 NTU		100% of measurements < 0.2								
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL<sup>c</sup></b>											
Total Coliform Bacteria	> 1 positive sample/month	(0)	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	2011	NA	Naturally present in the environment
E. Coli Bacteria	> 1 positive sample/month	(0)	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	2011	NA	Human and animal fecal waste
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>											
Barium (ppm)	1	2	ND	NA	0.1	NA	NA	NA	2011	2010	Discharges from oil drilling wastes and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	2.0	1	0.4	NA	0.5	NA	NA	NA	2011	2010	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate as NO3 (ppm) <sup>d</sup>	45	45	ND	NA	61.0	45.4-71.0	2.8	ND-3.8	2011	2010	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from tanks and sewerage; erosion from natural products
<b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS AND DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS</b>											
Chloramines (ppm)	4.0 (MRDL)	4.0 (MRDLG)	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.5	1.1-3.8	2011	NA	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	35.0	20.0-39.8	2011	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic acids (ppb)	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21	15-32	2011	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>INDIVIDUAL TAP MONITORING FOR: LEAD AND COPPER</b>	<b>Regulatory Action Level</b>	<b>PHG</b>	<b># of samples collected</b>	<b>Homes above AL</b>	<b>Level detected at 90th percentile</b>	<b>Year Tested<sup>a</sup></b>					
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	22	0		0.8			2011	NA	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural products
Copper (ppm) <sup>e</sup>	1.3	0.3	22	0		0.960			2011	NA	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

### Secondary Standards

CONSTITUENTS	MCL	LAKE CASITAS		MIRA MONTE WELL		Year Tested		Source of Contamination
		AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	Lake	Well	
Color (units)	15	ND	NA	ND	NA	2011	2010	Naturally occurring organic materials
Corrosivity (Langlier Index)	Non-corrosive	-0.1	NA	-0.7	NA	2011	2010	Natural or industrially influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon or oxygen in the water; affected by temperature or other factors.
Odor (units)	3	ND	NA	ND	NA	2011	2010	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Turbidity(NTU)	5	0.3	NA	0.2	NA	2011	2010	Soil runoff
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1000	330	NA	410	NA	2011	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (uS/cm)	1600	545	NA	677	NA	2011	2010	Substances that form ions in water; seawater influence
Chloride (ppm)	500	17	NA	61	NA	2011	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	500	130	NA	36	NA	2011	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Zinc (ppm)	5.0	ND	NA	0.06	NA	2011	2010	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
<b>ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENTS</b>								
Total Hardness (ppm)	NA	230 (13.5 grains/gal)	NA	208	NA	2011	2010	"Hardness" is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring.
Sodium (ppm)	HA=20 <sup>f</sup>	25	NA	55	NA	2011	2010	"Sodium" refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
<b>UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Boron (ppb)	N.L.=1000	200	NA	100	NA	2011	2010	

#### TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

**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 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.

**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 (USEPA).

**Notification Level:** Health based advisory levels established by California Department of Public Health for chemicals in drinking water that lack MCLs.

**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.

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

**Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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

**Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

#### Key To Table (ACRONYMS)

- HA = USEPA Drinking Water Health Advisory
- NA = Not Applicable
- ND = None Detected
- NL = Notification Level
- NS = No Sample
- NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of turbidity)
- ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
- pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- SMCL = Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
- TT = Treatment Technique
- uS/cm = Micro Siemens per Centimeter (ameasure of specific conductance)

#### Water Quality Table Footnotes:

- a) The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, through representative, are more than one year old.
- b) 100% of the samples tested for turbidity were below the required TT level of 0.2 NTU. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is a good measure of water quality and filtration performance.
- c) In 2011 we collected 156 samples for total coliform bacteria testing. Total coliform bacteria were not detected in any of these samples.
- d) Mira Monte Well is above the MCL for nitrates, however the well water is blended with Lake Casitas water with the resulting nitrate level being 2.8 ppm.
- e) Casitas has implemented a corrosion control plan by adding a small amount of phosphate to the water to lower corrosivity and reduce copper levels.
- f) For individuals on a 500 mg/day restricted sodium diet.