

# 2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## City of Long Beach Water Treatment Plant

Report Period: January 1 – December 31, 2019

This annual quality report is designed to inform you about the quality of the water we provide. We strive to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We continually make improvements to the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring quality water.

As you can see from the table below, the City water system violated the MCL for levels of Total Trihalomethanes. This violation has currently existed for the fourth quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2020. In response, the City replaced all filter modules at the water treatment plant in early March. The City is also currently taking steps to limit algae growth in its raw water reservoirs by controlling phosphorus levels. Even if these efforts result in a reduction of TTHM below the MCL in the spring of 2020, the MCL violation is likely to continue at least through the third quarter of 2020. This is due to the annual running average of the TTHM concentration still being affected by elevated levels measured in the second half of 2019. The City will continue to work with its engineers and the state Office of Drinking Water to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

Our raw water reservoirs are spring and run-off fed (Dohman and Main Impoundment), and our other source (Matticks Creek) is pumped to the Main Impoundment as a supplement during the drier and busier summer months. This water is pumped to the treatment facility, filtered to a clear well, injected with chlorine, and then pumped to storage for the distribution system.

The City of Long Beach routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

**MCL's are set at very stringent levels.** To put them in perspective, the Environmental Protection Agency sets MCLs at levels where a person would have to drink 2 liters of water everyday at the MCL level for many years to have an elevated chance of developing the described health effects.

**Total Coliform – Bacteria** that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

**Fecal Coliforms & E. Coli** – are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these waters can cause short term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and headaches. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

**Turbidity** – has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms.

**THMs and HAA5 (Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids – Byproducts of chlorination)** – The MCL's for these compounds are based off the average of four quarterly samples. Some people who drink water containing THMs or HAA5s in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**Lead and Copper** – These contaminants tend to originate from plumbing fittings inside the customer's home. If the water supplied to a particular home is below pH 7.0 (acidic), it can cause lead and copper to dissolve from these fittings into the water. To combat this, all water is pH adjusted to around 7.5 before it is pumped to our storage tanks.

**Asbestos** – Measured in Million Fibers per Liter (MFL), asbestos in drinking water comes from decay of asbestos-cement water mains. Long term exposure to asbestos in drinking water may result in increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contaminants that are naturally occurring or man made. Those contaminants can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals or radioactive materials. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA'S Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk of infection. 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform & E. Coli	N	0	0	0	Animal & Human fecal waste
Turbidity	N	0.091 NTU on October 2	N/A	1.0 NTU	Soil Runoff
TTHM Trihalomethanes	Y	<b>Highest annual average: 83.5 ug/L</b> High: 130 ug/L Low: 29 ug/L	0 ug/L	<b>80 ug/L Annual average</b>	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids	N	Highest annual average: 34.75 ug/L High: 71 ug/L Low: 13 ug/L	0 ug/L	60 ug/L Annual average	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Lead	N	High: 0.012 mg/L Avg: 0.00119 mg/L (2017)	0 mg/L	0.015 mg/L	Plumbing fixtures exposed to low pH water
Nitrate	N	0	10 mg/L	10 mg/L	Septic tanks or fertilizers
Copper	N	High: 0.27 mg/L Avg: 0.0582 mg/L (2017)	1.3 mg/L	1.3 mg/L	Plumbing fixtures exposed to low pH water
Asbestos	N	<0.117 MFL	7 MFL	7 MFL	Degradation of asbestos-cement water mains
VOC	Volatile Organic Chemicals are a subcategory of organic chemicals. These are termed volatile because they evaporate easily. Most commonly found in drinking water as a byproduct of chlorination.  <b><u>No Violation</u></b>				

The City of Long Beach is committed to providing top quality water to every tap. We ask our customers to help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call the water plant if you have any questions at 360-642-3163 or email us at [jbinion@longbeachwa.gov](mailto:jbinion@longbeachwa.gov). Ask for Jake Binion or Matt Wood.

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