



Consumer Confidence Report 2023

LAGUNA ENCINAL

Public Water System# 063501111

Ensuring clean, safe drinking water is our top priority. As part of our commitment, the Pueblo of Laguna Utility Authority (POLUA) is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to provide you with an annual water quality report. This report for 2023 includes important information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it meets or exceeds the standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).

Where does your water come from?

Your drinking water comes from surface water at Rattlesnake Springs. The spring flow is captured and gravity fed to a treatment building where it is filtered, disinfected and subsequently piped to the drinking water distribution system.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be partially 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 Drink Water Hotline (1.800.426.4791)

Laguna Water Supply Treatment Process

Your water is treated by filtration and disinfection. Filtration removes particles suspended in the source water. Particles typically include clays and silts, natural organic matter, iron and manganese, and microorganisms. Your water is also treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectants to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Additional Information on Lead

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. [Name of PWS] 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 the 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>.

How can I help protect our water supply?

Stay Informed: Read annual water quality reports and stay up-to-date on any water quality issues.

Proper Disposal: Dispose of chemicals and pharmaceuticals properly to avoid contaminating water sources.

Conserve Water: Be mindful of your water usage to help preserve this valuable resource.

Water Conservation Tips:

- Take shorter showers.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead.
- Run your washer and dishwasher only when they are full.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered.
- Educate children about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely.
- Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill.

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a record of last years water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office. 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Source water assessment and availability.

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act authorizes a Source Water Assessment (SWA) to determine the susceptibility of a public drinking water supply to contamination. Sources of contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act are required to be inventoried during the assessment process. The physical integrity of the water source, the characteristics of the hydrologic system around the well, the characteristics of the contaminants inventoried and the likelihood of those contaminants to reach the source of the drinking water supply all impact the susceptibility of the water source to contamination. The EPA completed a Source Water Assessment for the Laguna Encinal in 2001. The overall susceptibility to contamination for the system was rated as Medium susceptibility. A copy of the 2001 SWA report is available for review at the Utility Authority office. 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 can dissolve naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contact Us

For more information or if you have any questions about this report or the safety of your drinking water, please contact POLUA Acting Operations Manager, Ryan Aragon at 505.552.9631 or come by our office located at 6 Arrowhead Road, Laguna, NM 87026

The POLUA is committed to providing you with the safest and highest quality water possible. Your informed participation helps us achieve this goal. Thank you for being a valued customer of the Pueblo of Laguna Utility Authority.



How is my water tested & monitored?

Each year our staff of trained and certified water operators collects and tests hundreds of water samples from wells, storage tanks, customer taps, and the surface water treatment; making sure that treatment processes are working correctly on a daily basis. The US EPA sets stringent standards for drinking water quality to protect public health, some of the testing is required by the US EPA and some of it is voluntary. These standards limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by the POLUA.

In 2023, POLUA conducted regular testing of our water supply. We tested for a wide range of potential contaminants, including:

- ◇ **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 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- ◇ **Radioactive Contaminants:** Which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The table below shows the most recent data regarding the Laguna Encinal Water Supply.

Laguna Encinal 2023 Water Quality Data Table								
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT or MRDL	In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	0.95 AVG	0.049	1.21	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	0	80	2.99	2.99	2.99	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	1.4	1.4	1.4	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.013	0.013	0.013	2020	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.13	0.13	0.13	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	1.6	1.6	1.6	2020	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA	NA	12	12	12	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching.
Radioactive Contaminants								
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	3.53	3.53	3.53	2018	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.172	0.172	0.172	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants		ALG	AL	90th Percentile	Sample Date	# Samples Above AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)		1.3	1.3	0.045	2021	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead—action level at consumer taps (ppm)		0.0150	0.0150	ND	2021	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Unit Descriptions								
Abbreviation		Definition			Abbreviation		Definition	
ppm		parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)			NA		Not applicable	
ppb		parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)			ND		Not detected	
pCi/L		picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)			NR		Monitoring not required, but recommended.	
Important Drinking Water Definitions								
Term	Definition				Term	Definition		
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.				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.		
MCL	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.				MNR	Monitored Not Regulated		
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.				MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level		
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.				90th Percentile	A value at which 90% of all samples collected tested at or below this value		
Variances and Exemptions	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.				Action Level Goal	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.		
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.							