

# Lake Alpine Water Company

## 2015 Water Quality Report



Since 1964

*This report shows the results of water monitoring for the period of January 1 - December 31, 2015.*

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**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).

**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.

**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 disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**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 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 (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.

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

**ND:** not detectable at testing limit

**ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

**ppt:** parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

**pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

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

**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*, such as 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* that 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* can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent.** The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows LAWC to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

If you have questions about your water quality, service or the information in this report, please call us at 209-753-2409 Mon-Thurs from 9 am to 2 pm.

*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. Lake Alpine Water Company 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, call our office to add your home to the sample site list. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.*

### How are your payments distributed?

In addition to the fees we collect to keep the plant operating and the water flowing, there are fees that we collect and pass on to other entities.

PUC fees are based on 1.17% of the basic and metered water fees. These fees were established by the California State Legislature in 1982 to fund the regulation of public utilities by the California Public Utilities Commission. 100% of these surcharges collected by LAWC are paid to the CPUC.

SDWSRF fees are directed to retire the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. This low interest loan was issued to LAWC in 2004 to pay for the new treatment plant and building. 100% of these surcharges collected by LAWC are paid to the fiscal agent for the state's Department of Water Resources.

The service fees and metered water charges are used to pay for all operations and capital improvements to the treatment and distribution system. Here is a breakdown of how the fees are used:

26%	Capital improvements
20%	System operators
11%	Customer service & office management
8%	Government Fees and Taxes
6%	Electricity, fuel and vehicles
5%	Treatment chemicals and lab testing
5%	General Supplies
5%	Insurance, Dues, Interest
2%	Accountants & Consultants
1%	Directors fees

### Improvements to the Lake Alpine Water System

- **Plant Upgrades and Maintenance** Serviced the power generator, air compressors and chlorine generator. Upgraded the SCADA computer and added programming for multiple systems.
- **Water Quality Management** Experimented with a lake aerator for control of iron, manganese and turbidity.
- **Distribution System** Repaired two sections of a leaking 12 inch main, a blown out 4 inch lateral and a leaking service lateral.
- **Water Conservation** Worked with two commercial customers to fix leaks and reduce water use by over 30%.
- **Tanks** Trimmed branches and removed trees from around all three tanks.
- **Meters** Rebuilt 6 meter boxes with rodent-proof wiring, pre and post meter valves, insulation and sturdy box lids.
- **Bear Lake** Installed a SCADA controlled valve and meter to monitor and log the required lake discharges to the stream for fish & wildlife.
- **Customer Service** LAWC responded to 4 pipe breaks at homes and assisted 19 customers with leak alerts and detection. Enrolled 14 more customers in the ACH payment program.

The water source for LAWC is the Bear Lake Reservoir contained by an earthen dam in the town of Bear Valley. A source assessment was completed in October 2000 and is available at the LAWC office for review.

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

**TABLES 1, 2, 3- SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS**

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of Detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria*	3 (In a mo.)	1	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0 (In a year)	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0	Human and animal fecal waste

  

Lead and Copper (and reporting units)	Sample Date	No. of samples collected	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	August	20	6.3	2	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	August	20	0.17	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

  

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	8.12.15	1.7		none	none	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	8.12.15	18		none	none	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

**TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppm)	8.12.15	0.64		1	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Chlorine (ppm)	12.30.15	1.5	1.71-0.20	4	4	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Haloacetic Acids HAA5 (ppb)*	12.08.15	55.0	47.5-65.8	60	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes TTHM (ppb)	12.08.15	52.9	46.2-53.7	80	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Xylene (ppm)	08.03.10	0.00071		1.750	1.8	Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories, fuel solvent

**TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Color (units)	12.03.15	11	2-30	15		Naturally-occurring organic materials
Manganese (ppm)	12.03.15	0.04	0.02-0.08	0.050		Leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	8.12.15	52		1000	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	8.12.15	54		1600	NA	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence

**TABLE 6 - UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS - NONE DETECTED**

**Summary Information for Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement**

Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct the Violation	Health Effects Language
*Exceeded MCL for total coliform	In Sept, 3 of 11 samples tested positive for coliform bacteria. All samples were negative for fecal coliform and <i>E. coli</i>	1 day	The effected tank was disinfected with chlorine and the distribution lines were flushed.	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.
*Exceeded MCL for haloacetic acids	In the second quarter, the locational running annual average was over the MCL.	1 quarter	Treatment with chlorine was monitored to balance disinfection with low water use.	Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**TABLE 8 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING TREATMENT OF SURFACE WATER SOURCES**

Treatment Technique <sup>(a)</sup> (Type of approved filtration technology used)	Membrane microfiltration system
Turbidity Performance Standards <sup>(b)</sup> (that must be met through the water treatment process)	Turbidity of the filtered water must: 1 - Be less than or equal to <u>0.1</u> NTU in 95% of measurements in a month. 2 - Not exceed <u>1.0</u> NTU for more than eight consecutive hours. 3 - Not exceed <u>1.0</u> NTU at any time.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1.	100 % All months met TPS#1
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year	0.110 NTU
Number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements	0

(a) A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

(b) Turbidity (measured in NTU) is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Turbidity results which meet performance standards are considered to be in compliance with filtration requirements.

**Additional General Information on Drinking 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 the 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).

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 (1-800-426-4791).