

# VALENCIA WATER COMPANY-GREATER BUCKEYE DIVISION SONORAN RIDGE SYSTEM 2012 WATER QUALITY REPORT

This report contains information about the drinking water our utility provides to your home. Please take a moment to review this information and call us if you have any questions about our water service to you.

Valencia Water Company - Greater Buckeye Division – A subsidiary of Global Water Resources (623) 518-4000

## Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua para beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## Is my water safe?

The Sonoran Ridge water system, public water system number AZ04-07-732, which is part of the Valencia Water Company-Greater Buckeye Division, is dedicated to providing customers with water that meets all Federal and State drinking water standards. Unless otherwise indicated, this report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included in this report are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

In 2012, your drinking water met all State and Federal drinking water standards.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, or who have undergone organ transplants, or those 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 / Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial organisms. This information is available from the Federal Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) and on the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

## Where does my water come from?

Sonoran Ridge water is produced from a well located within its service area. The well is approximately 850 feet deep with a total production capacity of 180 gallons per minute (gpm).

Water from the well is treated for arsenic removal and chlorinated for disinfection and stored in a 250,000 gallon storage tank. Five booster pumps and a hydropneumatic tank maintain constant pressure throughout the distribution system.

## Source water assessment, and its availability

In 2002 the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) completed a Source Water Assessment for the well used by the Sonoran Ridge water system. The assessment reviewed the hydrogeologic conditions and adjacent land uses that may pose a potential risk to the water sources. These risks include, but are not limited to, gas stations, landfills, dry cleaners, agriculture, wastewater treatment plants, and mining activities. Once ADEQ identified the adjacent land uses, they were ranked as to their potential to affect the water sources. The results of the assessment were that the well had a **low risk** of contamination due to adjacent land use.

\*continued overleaf

## Water quality data table

Unless otherwise indicated, the table below lists all of the contaminants that we detected in the drinking water during the 2012 calendar year. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Substance	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT or MRDL	Lowest Level	Highest Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b> (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial organisms)						
Chlorine [as Cl <sub>2</sub> ] (ppm)	4	4	0.4	1.1	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb) 2010 Data	NA	60	NA	1.3	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM's] (ppb) 2010 Data	NA	80	NA	11	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Chemicals</b>						
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	5.0	8.8	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm) 2010 Data	2	2	NA	0.13	Yes	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb) 2010 Data	100	100	NA	1.8	Yes	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm) 2010 Data	4	4	NA	1.3	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	NA	1.4	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Unregulated Substances</b>						
Sodium (ppm) 2010 Data	NA	NA	NA	54	Yes	Naturally occurring mineral
<b>Microbial Organisms</b>						
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	NA	0	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Radionuclides</b>						
Alpha emitters (pCi/L) 2010 Data	0	15	0.8	2.0	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L) 2010 Data	0	0	0.9	1.1	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead and Copper</b>						
Copper— action level at consumer taps (ppm) 2010 Data	Action Level		Your Water	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source	
	90% of homes tested must have copper levels less than 1.3 ppm		90% of the homes tested had copper levels less than 0.58 ppm	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
Lead— action level at consumer taps (ppb) 2010 Data	Action Level		Your Water	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source	
	90% of homes tested must have lead levels less than 15 ppb		90% of the homes tested had lead levels less than 4.7 ppb	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	

\*Continued from front page

The water is currently protected by well construction and system operations and management. Residents can help protect the water by taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous material collection days and limiting pesticide and fertilizer use. The complete assessment is available for inspection at ADEQ, 1110 W Washington St, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Electronic copies are available from ADEQ. For more information, call ADEQ's Source Water Assessment and Protection Unit at 602-771-4644 or visit their website at [www.azdeq.gov](http://www.azdeq.gov).

Water conservation is everyone's responsibility. You can directly impact the availability of water in your community through judicious use of water by: irrigating at night, employing timers for irrigation systems, maximizing xeriscape, fixing leaky faucets, etc.

Please visit our website at [www.gwresources.com](http://www.gwresources.com) for additional information on water conservation practices.

## General information about drinking water

To ensure your tap water is safe to drink, the EPA issues regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for substances in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about these contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials, and can pick up contaminants resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- Microbial organisms including viruses, bacteria or parasites (such as Cryptosporidium or Giardia), which may come from agricultural or livestock operations and wildlife.

- Inorganic chemicals such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm 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, storm water runoff and residential uses;
- Organic chemicals including synthetic and volatile organic compounds, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic tanks;
- Radioactive chemicals which occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

## How can I get involved ?

Sonoran Ridge customers may get involved in their water system through such activities as well-head protection (activities around wells to prevent the contamination of the ground water source that provides water to our community) and attendance at public meetings to ensure that the community's need for safe drinking water is considered in making decisions about land use.

Water resources throughout the state are under extreme pressure from development and drought and must be conserved to ensure adequate supplies for the future. Avoiding water waste, employing smart water-use practices and reducing consumption are key elements of life in the desert. All consumers can do their part to conserve water.

In addition, reporting unauthorized entry or access to the well sites or booster stations is a critical component to ensuring continued safety and security of our community water sources. Should you notice any unusual activity in or around wells or tank sites, please contact law enforcement officials by dialing 911.

## Additional information for arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

### Unit Descriptions

ppm:	parts per million; milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb:	parts per billion; micrograms per liter (ug/L)
pCi/L:	picrocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
Positive samples/month:	number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA:	not applicable
ND:	not detected

### Important drinking water definitions

MCLG:	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
MCL:	Maximum Contaminant Level - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT:	Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL:	Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.	
MRDLG:	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's 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 disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

For over a hundred ways to save water, visit: [www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com)



## For more information please contact:

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