



**City of Exeter**  
 PWS ID# CA5410003  
 PO Box 237  
 Exeter, CA 93221

## How can I learn more about our drinking water?

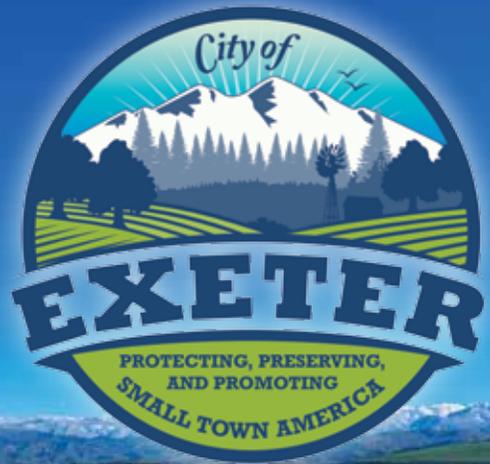
If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Daymon Qualls, Director of Public Works, by one of the following methods:

- Call the office at (559) 592-3318
- Write to PO Box 237 Exeter, CA 93221
- Send email: [mibarra@exetercityhall.com](mailto:mibarra@exetercityhall.com).

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

# 2016

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



PWS ID# CA5410003



# 2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Exeter is pleased to share this report with you. This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis covers January 1 through December 31, 2016, and was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

## Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The City of Exeter receives its water from underground aquifers that flow in a southwestern direction from the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

## Source Water Assessment

Assessments of the drinking water sources for the City of Exeter have been completed on the following wells: E-6W, E-9W, and E-11W in September 2001, E-12W in June 2004, E-13W in August 2007, and E-14W in February 2010 in compliance with local and state regulations. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: fertilizer/pesticide/herbicide applications. In addition, the sources are considered most vulnerable to these activities not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: septic systems in high-density areas, agricultural/irrigation wells, injection wells/dry wells/sumps, metal plating/finishing fabricating, and automobile gas stations.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at City Hall, 137 N. F St., Exeter, Ca 93221. You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting the Public Works Department at (559) 592-3318.

## Substances that Could be in Water

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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## All Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (Department) prescribe 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 contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. In order for the City of Exeter to ensure it supplies a safe product for its consumers we continually test our water to ensure we exceed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health standards.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## 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 (1-800-426-4791).

## Lead and Drinking Water

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. The City of Exeter 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>.

## Nitrate in Drinking Water

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

## What can I do to conserve water?

There are many things you can do to conserve water. Running your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full can save up to 1,000 gallons a month. Watering your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler will help minimize evaporation. Shortening your shower by a minute or two can save up to 150 gallons per month.

Turning off the water while you are brushing your teeth can save up to 25 gallons per month. Also, take time to review your water bill on a regular basis as this can help you quickly realize if there are leaks in your system.

# Monitoring Results

## Definitions

In the table, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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 or 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.

**NA:** not applicable

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ND (Not Detected):** indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NS:** no standard

**Parts Per Million (ppm) or Milligrams Per Liter (mg/l):** one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

**Parts Per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms Per**

**Liter (µg/l):** one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

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

**PHG (Public Health Goal):** 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 EPA.

**Picocurie per liter (pCi/L):** measure of the radioactivity in water.

**TON (Threshold Odor Number):** a measure of odor in water.

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

**µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter):** a unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

## Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (Units)	Violation Y/N	Average	Range	Sample Date	PHG (MCLG)	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic (ppb)	N	2.75	2.6-2.9	2016	0.004	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	N	0.036	ND-0.072	2016	2	1	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	N	0.13	0.12-0.14	2016	1	2.0	Erosion of natural deposits; wa-ter additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	N	3.1	3.1-3.1	2016	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

## Coliform Bacteria

Collection Date	Highest # Positive	MCLG	MCL	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Monthly 2016	1*	0	1 positive monthly sample	N	Naturally present in the environment

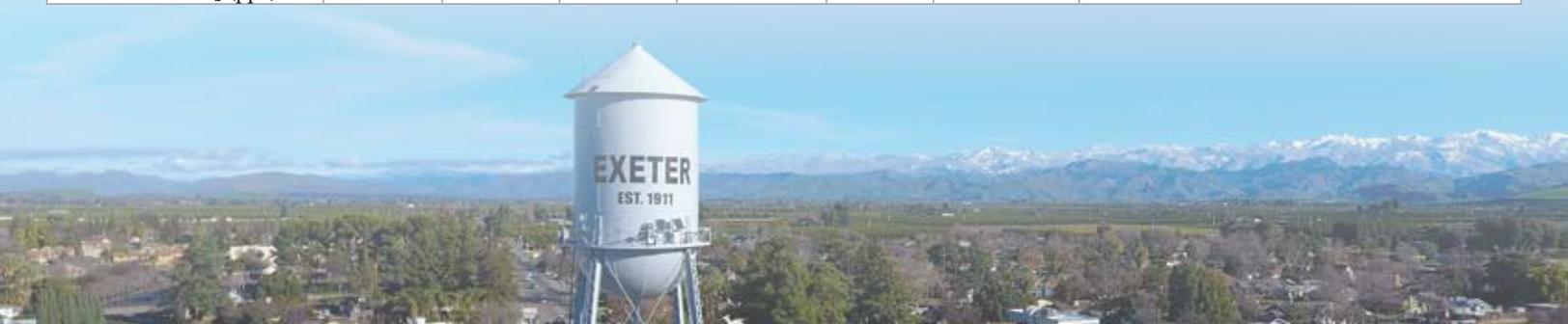
\* One positive sample in November 2016. All other samples were negative.

## Lead and Copper Tap Monitoring

Contaminant (Units)	Number of Sites over Action Level	90th Percentile Result	PHG (MCLG)	Action Level	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	4/52	0.29	0.3	1.3	2014	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	0/52	0.0025	0.2	15	2014	

## Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Highest Level Detected	Range	PHG (MCLG)	MCL	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	N	2.5	ND-2.5	NA	80	2016	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection



## Secondary Contaminants and Unregulated Constituents

Contaminant (Unit)	Secondary MCL*	Average	Range	Sample Date	Likely Source of Contamination
Bicarbonate (mg/L)	NA	110	110-110	2016	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone
Calcium (ppm)	NA	27.5	21-34	2016	Abundant naturally occurring element
Chloride (mg/L)	500	77.5	66-89	2016	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	15	5	5-5	2016	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	NA	535	500-570	2016	NA
Hardness (mg/L)	NA	98	76-120	2016	Hardness is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring.
Iron (mg/L)	0.3	0.395	0.59	2016	
Magnesium (mg/L)	NA	6.6	5.4	7.8	Abundant naturally occurring element
Manganese (µg/L)	50	10	ND-20	2016	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (units)	6.5-8.5	8.25	8.1-8.4	2016	Measure of corrosivity of water
Potassium (mg/L)		3	2.7-3.3	2016	
Sodium (mg/L)	NA	72	70-74	2016	Sodium refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring.
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	16.5	16-17	2016	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	NA	110	110-110	2016	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1,000	305	280-330	2016	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (units)	5	2.15	1.5-2.8	2016	Soil runoff

\* Secondary MCLs are non-mandatory water quality standards that are not enforced by the EPA. They are established only as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the Secondary MCL.

The City of Exeter is not required to test for all contaminants on an annual basis. Some of our data, while accurate, is more than one year old.

