

# City of Surprise Desert Oasis

PWS ID: 04-07-523

## 2010 Annual Water Quality Report



### **Dear City of Surprise Water Customer,**

*The city of Surprise is pleased to present to you this year's water quality report.*

*Each year, the city of Surprise publishes reports on the quality of your drinking water. We are pleased to report that investment in our water treatment plants and equipment, as well as the expertise and dedication of our employees, allows us to deliver drinking water that meets state and federal drinking water requirements. In addition to ensuring we are following current standards, we work closely with federal agencies to anticipate future water quality treatment requirements and regulations.*

*We encourage you to review this report either in this printed form or on our website at [www.surpriseaz.gov](http://www.surpriseaz.gov). If you ever have any questions, please reach out to our customer service representatives at 623-222-7000.*

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. 623-222-7000.

## What is a Water Quality Report?

To comply with state and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, City of Surprise issues an annual water quality report which describes the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and your awareness of the need to protect your drinking water sources. This report includes details about where your water comes from and what it contains. This data presented in this report is from a state of Arizona Department of Health Services certified laboratory. If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call the City of Surprise Public Works Department at 623-222-7000.

## Share This Report

Landlords, businesses, schools, hospitals and other groups are encouraged to share this important water quality information with water users at their location who are not billed customers of City of Surprise and therefore do not receive this report directly in their billing statement.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

All of the water provided by the City of Surprise comes from groundwater pumped from the West Salt River Valley (WSRV) Sub-Basin.

The WSRV Sub-Basin is a broad, gently sloping alluvial plain that is bounded on the north by the Hieroglyphic Mountains and Hedgpeth Hills and on the west by the White Tank Mountains. Along the eastern boundary of the WSRV Sub-Basin are the Union Hills, Phoenix Mountains, and Papago Buttes. South Mountains, Estrella Mountains, and Buckeye Hills define the southern limits of the WSRV Sub-Basin. Depth to groundwater in this area is typically between 350 to 500 feet below the land surface.

Sources of groundwater include natural recharge from flood flows in streams and along mountain fronts and incidental recharge from agricultural and urban irrigation, canals, effluent, and artificial lakes.

## Notice of Source Water Assessment

Although the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has not performed a Source Water Assessment for this system, we are in the process of working with ADEQ on Wellhead Protection for all of our systems, which would include the initial assessment of the Desert Oasis system. Once an assessment is completed by ADEQ, we will include a summary of the report in our CCR. If you have questions regarding the Source Water Assessments, please contact ADEQ at 602-771-4641.

The complete assessment is available for inspection at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, 1110 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Electronic copies are available from ADEQ at [dml@azdeq.gov](mailto:dml@azdeq.gov). For more information, call ADEQ's Source Water Assessment and Protection Unit at 602-771-4641 or visit their website at [www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/swap.html](http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/swap.html).

### What we do to protect groundwater:

We protect drinking water sources by ensuring proper well construction and system operations and management. Arizona Department of Environmental Quality prescribes regulations to the

city of Surprise limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

### What you can do to protect groundwater:

Residents can help by taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous material collection days and limiting pesticide and fertilizer use. For information on household hazardous material collection days in Surprise, please contact the city of Surprise at 623-222-7000.

## How Did We Do?

Our water quality report is intended to provide you with valuable information on your water. Call the city of Surprise Public Works Department at 623-222-7000 or call 623-222-CARE if you have any comments or suggestions. You can also fill out an online service request at [www.surpriseaz.gov](http://www.surpriseaz.gov).

## Home Water Treatment Units

If you install a home treatment system such as a water softener or reverse osmosis system to improve taste or odor, remember to follow the manufacturer's instructions on operation and maintenance. Failure to perform maintenance can result in poor water quality. We recommend contacting the manufacturer of your treatment system for maintenance instructions or assistance. Additional information about home treatment systems is available from the Arizona Water Quality Association at 480-947-9850 or by writing to 6819 E. Diamond St., Scottsdale, AZ 85257.

## Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water but can also save you money by reducing your water bill.

### Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, and other plumbing fixtures in need of maintenance.
- Replace old fixtures with high-efficiency faucets, toilets and other plumbing appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers 5 minutes or less.
- Turn the water off while lathering and only turn on the water for rinsing in the shower.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

### You can conserve outdoors as well:

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water-saving nozzles.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.

## How to Read This Table

The city of Surprise conducts extensive monitoring to guard against contaminants in your water. The results of our monitoring are reported in the adjacent tables. For help with interpreting this table, see the "Table Definitions" section.

Starting with a **Substance**, read across. **Year Sampled** is usually in 2010 or prior. **MCLG** is the goal level for that substance (this may be lower than what is allowed). **MCL** shows the highest level of substance (contaminant) allowed. **Highest Amount Detected** represents the highest result that was found. **Range of Detections** tells the highest and lowest amounts found. A **Yes** under **Compliance Achieved** means the amount of the substance is below regulatory limits. **Typical Source** tells where the substance usually originates.

Unregulated substances are measured, but maximum contaminant levels have not been established by the government.

## Definitions of Terms Used in This Report

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

**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.

**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.

**MFL (Million fibers per liter):** A measure of the presence of fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

**MREM (Millirems per year):** A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**NA (Not Applicable):** Sampling was not completed by regulation or was not required.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** A measure of water clarity.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration.

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppt (parts per trillion):** One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

**ppq (parts per quadrillion):** picograms per liter.

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

**gpg (grains per gallon):** Used to describe the dissolved hardness minerals contained in water and is a unit of weight that equals 1/7000 of a pound.

**ND:** None detected.

## Substances Expected to be in Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants 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 the water poses a health risk.

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 acquire naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

### Substances that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife.

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Lead & Copper

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 Surprise is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in your home's 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The city of Surprise monitored the water for lead and copper in 2009 at 25 residences throughout the community and met the federal lead and copper standards. These 25 samples were collected at representative types of houses throughout the system. If your house was sampled, you would have received the analysis results. If you were not a part of the representative sampling and are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water or opt to have your water tested.

## Special Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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.

## What's In My Water?

The data presented in this report is a combination of analysis results from our nationally recognized water quality laboratories and commercial laboratories certified in drinking water testing by the state of Arizona Department of Health Services. For your information, we have compiled a list in the table below showing what substances were detected in our drinking water during 2010 or the last sampling period. If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call the city of Surprise at 623-222-7000.

## Water Quality Results

The city of Surprise routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The state of Arizona requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination.

Regulated Substances Measured on the Water Leaving the Treatment Facilities.								
Substance	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Highest Amount Detected	Range of Detections	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source	
Arsenic (ppb) <sup>1</sup>	2010	NA	10	8.50	4.8 - 8.5	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits	
Barium (ppb)	2009 <sup>4</sup>	2000	2000	0.18	0.18	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits	
Chromium (ppb) <sup>*</sup>	2009 <sup>4</sup>	100	100	25	25	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride (ppm) <sup>**</sup>	2010	4	4	0.84	0.66 - 0.84	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrate (ppm) <sup>2</sup>	2010	10	10	0.69	0.62 - 0.69	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer, leaching from septic tanks or sewage, erosion of natural deposits	
Styrene (ppb)	2010	100	100	ND	ND	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2009 <sup>4</sup>	0	15	1.7	1.7	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits	
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	2009 <sup>4</sup>	700	700	0.5	ND - 0.5	Yes	Industrial or agricultural sources	
Xylenes (ppm)	2009 <sup>4</sup>	10	10	0.0015	ND - 0.0015	Yes	Discharge from petroleum refineries; discharge from chemical factories	
Other Compounds Measured in the Distribution System								
Substance	Year Sampled	MCLG/MRDLG	MCL/MRDL	Average Amount Detected	Range of Detections	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source	
TTHMs (ppb) <sup>3</sup>	2010	NA	80	8.7	6.4 - 11.9	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
HAA5 (ppb) <sup>3</sup>	2010	NA	60	2.3	ND - 2.3	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Chlorine residual (ppm)	2010	4.00	4	1.12	0.63 - 1.8	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes	
Tap Water Samples: Lead and Copper Results								
Substance	Year Sampled	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	Number of Samples	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Compliance Achieved	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2009 <sup>4</sup>	1.30	1.3	0.11	25	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2009 <sup>4</sup>	15.00	15	3.2	25	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Substances Measured on the Water leaving the Treatment Facility								
Substance	Year Sampled		Range of Detections		Typical Source			
Alkalinity (ppm)	2010		118		Erosion of natural deposits			
Calcium (ppm)	2010		13		Erosion of natural deposits			
Calcium Hardness (ppm)	2010		33		Erosion of natural deposits			
Magnesium (ppm)	2010		2		Erosion of natural deposits			
Magnesium Hardness (ppm)	2010		10		Erosion of natural deposits			
Total Sodium (ppm)	2010		68		Erosion of natural deposits			
Total Hardness (ppm)	2010		40 - 42		Natural calcium / magnesium content			
pH (standard units)	2010		8.21 - 8.77		pH is a measure of acid / base properties			
<p><sup>*</sup> The Chromium that is detected in the city of Surprise is the Total Chromium number. The city of Surprise currently meets the National Drinking Water Standard for Chromium. For more information about Chromium, call Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426 4791 or visit EPA's webpage <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ttnatw01/hlthef/chromium.html">http://www.epa.gov/ttnatw01/hlthef/chromium.html</a>.</p> <p><sup>**</sup>The Fluoride that is detected in the city of Surprise is naturally occurring in our well water. The city of Surprise does not dose any additional fluoride into your drinking water.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> Arsenic - The City is committed to meeting all Safe Drinking Water Act Requirements (SDWAR). There are arsenic treatment facilities that are in place to meet the state and federal standards. The City's treatment facilities meet compliance standards with the SDWAR. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Nitrate - Nitrate in drinking water at levels above the 10ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> TTHM/HAA5 - Although there is no collective MCLG for this contaminant group, there are individual MCLGs for some of the individual contaminants: Trihalomethanes: bromodichloromethane (zero); bromoform (zero); chloroform (zero); dibromochloromethane (0.06 mg/L). Haloacetic acids: dichloroacetic acid (zero); trichloroacetic acid (0.3 mg/L). Monochloroacetic acid, bromoacetic acid and dibromoacetic acid are regulated with this group but have no MCLGs. RAA is for the average of the monitoring results for TTHM's, HAA5's and Chlorine Residuals.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> The state of Arizona requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations in our system have not been vulnerable to this type of contamination. Therefore, some water quality data in this table may be older than one year since the City follows the state and federal required compliance sample cycles.</p>								