

## WATER QUALITY INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC – 2009

### CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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<http://www.agriculturedefensecoalition.org/>

Drinking water quality is of primary importance to every citizen in the United States. In California all water test records are available from the California State Department of Health Drinking Water Division in the State of California (free of charge). All public drinking water tests are available to the public under federal and state laws (EPA).

Recently the Agriculture Defense Coalition obtained information regarding water quality in the City of West Sacramento, California, from the California State Department of Health, Drinking Water Division, in Sacramento, California.

Stunned by the results of this inquiry it became very important that the public using this water for drinking and irrigation be informed of the startling results of this ongoing investigation. Clearly, even from the data in the 2008 West Sacramento "Consumer Confidence Report", it is imperative that everyone who receives this water be informed of the alleged dangers in using this water for drinking, cooking, bathing, crop irrigation, and yard watering.

**The following quote, written in microscopic size in their brochure, is from the 2008 West Sacramento Water Quality Report:**

#### **'IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR IMMUNO-COMPROMISED PERSONS'**

**"Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population, immune-compromised persons such as person with cancer and 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..."**

#### **"DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS"**

**"All 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..."**

\*Please note: The water tests results in their 2008 report are not current, but represent 2007 water test results. Thus, the public is notified about contaminants in drinking water almost one year after the testing results are known to the district. This does not enable the public to protect themselves from any current or ongoing adverse water test results in real time. It means that any exposure to chemicals is not being reported to hospitals, doctors, the press or the public in real time so that they can protect themselves or their children.

- 1) It should be noted that vast majority of our health care providers are not experts in drinking water contaminants or what contaminants are found in the thousands of drinking water sources in the State of California. Thus, they would be unable, at any given time, to access these contaminants and any threats to public health or their patients from these contaminants.
- 2) The majority of doctors would not know which well, water district, winery, bottled water or other drinking water sources are being used by their patients.

- 3) The majority of doctors are not aware of the vast array of chemicals found in drinking water sources in the State of California or the health effects from these chemicals unless they specialize in this field.
- 4) When should water providers advise the public that all drinking water may be expected to contain contaminants? Is the public advised when these contaminants pose a health risk in real time in order to take precautions? The City of West Sacramento consumer confidence report does not address these issues.
- 5) It should also be noted that older and new rice pesticides have the possibility of filtering into this drinking water system at City of West Sacramento raw water intakes. The City of West Sacramento has expressed concern about these pesticides and also about agriculture drainage as being potentially contaminating of surface water which is used by the water district customers. It does not address all of the precautions that they are using to protect the public or if their water treatment plant can remove these pesticides.

The City of West Sacramento receives its water from one of the most polluted sources in the State of California. The staggering number of positive readings for agriculture herbicides, pesticides, industrial waste products, uranium, hexavalent chromium, PCBs, etc., is beyond comprehension. No water treatment plant can address the synergistic impacts of combinations of these chemicals nor hope to remove all of them from your drinking water sources.

In addition, the water is used for irrigating backyard garden, agriculture food crops, lawns, public lands, landscape watering, etc. Billions of gallons are used on soils and could contaminate local wells and other water sources in the area.

When various types of contaminants are, and are not, totally removed from water in the treatment process? The City of West Sacramento does not specify how these contaminants are collected or where these contaminants are disposed of after being removed during the treatment process. Where does the contaminated water go along with the toxic particulates and sludge after removal?

There are many questions and few answers for the public. We have graphed the water test results obtained from the California State Department of Health, Drinking Water Division, from the City of West Sacramento, to make it easier to understand the number of contaminants and scope of their test findings. (The policy of most water districts has been to average their test findings over a one year period and then to report those results approximately one year later.)

- This means that unusual spiking of drinking water tests over state and federal standards are not reported in real time to the public and they may not be removed by the treatment process.
- Since the water testing process is usually not completed instantaneously, due to the type of testing protocols, the time it takes to complete the tests, and the time it takes to evaluate the hundreds of tests, the water may be in your tap before spikes above state and federal standards are detected.
- It should also be noted that the City of West Sacramento does not specify what they would do with contaminated water after intake if it is found to be contaminated, above state and federal standards, and their treatment process cannot remove the contaminants.
- Does the City of West Sacramento have a way to release contaminated water so that it does not go directly to the consumer and is their system adequate to redirect this water to a site that

can isolate this contaminated water so that it does not contaminate any other drinking water sources or soils?

- There are synergistic combinations of the individual water contaminants found by the City of West Sacramento. How many tests are conducted on these contaminant combinations to determine if they can be removed by the water treatment plant?
- Does the City of West Sacramento treatment plant have the ability to remove arsenic from drinking water?

There are many issues to be addressed at this time and immediate public hearings should be conducted on the many contaminants found in City of West Sacramento water supplies. These contaminants are from a variety of sources, (including airborne sources – see the California Air Resources Board reports.)

**The protection of our drinking water supplies and the health of the public is of great concern to everyone and it is time to take additional action to protect the public.**

**\*It should be noted that the Sacramento Bee Newspaper, once made aware of this information, did not, to my knowledge, investigate or notify the public about these tests.**

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<p><a href="http://www.calepa.ca.gov/">http://www.calepa.ca.gov/</a> Type in the name of the chemical and the words “health effects” and the site will bring up the requested information.</p>
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**\*The California State Department of Health Water Quality CD (1984-2006) may be obtained free of charge by contacting the California State Department of Health, Drinking Water Division.**

**Upon request the Water Quality CD containing all water quality data, consisting of DBF tables will be created and mailed to you. You should receive it in approximately one week; there will be a Word document that will explain the contents of each table on the CD. The website address requested for Drinking Water and Environmental Management Division is:**

<http://ww2.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/DDWEM.aspx>

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**ALERT:**

**\*\*We now know that the lining of canned goods, bottled water and baby bottles contain bisphenol-A or BPA which leaches out of the container and into the food product or water. Thus, it is questionable whether bottled water is safe for infants, children or adults. Researchers have found that BPA could cause memory or learning problems and depression.**

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