



# Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

## Water Quality Report for Water Treated in 2021

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.*

### Your drinking water meets state and federal regulations

Last year (2021) EAWSD conducted 122 tests for over 8 drinking water contaminants. This report presents a snapshot of the quality of the water that was provided in 2021. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. EAWSD is committed to providing you with this information because we want you to be informed about your drinking water quality. For more information about your water, call (505) 466-1085 to speak with a member of the EAWSD operations staff.

### Special population advisory

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those 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. EPA/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 at (800) 426-4791.

*Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*, two organisms commonly linked to water-borne illness, are found primarily in surface water (SW). EAWSD is an all groundwater system. Wells in the EAWSD system are generally well constructed and maintained. The construction of the wells along with the area geology, protects the groundwater from SW contamination.

### Drinking water sources

Your drinking water comes from groundwater in the Rio Grande basin. A network of local production wells pumps water from underground aquifers. The water is disinfected and either distributed directly to the customer or pumped to storage tanks from which the water is sent through the distribution system to you. Source water assessment information may be obtained from the New Mexico Environment Department by calling (505) 827-7536 or (505) 476-8620

### Public participation opportunities

The EAWSD Board of Directors schedules public meetings twice a month at which public attendance and participation is welcome and encouraged. EAWSD provides information and communication to customers through its website, monthly newsletter, and postings on community bulletin boards, email communications and direct mailings, as needed. Customers are also invited to call or visit the EAWSD office with questions or to obtain information about the water system.

Telephone: (505) 466-1085  
Address: 2 North Chamisa Road  
Website: <http://www.EAWSD.org>

### Contaminants in 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- *Pesticides & herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential use.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

### Lead-Specific Information

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 EAWSD 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Additional Information for Arsenic

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.

## TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term & Abbreviations	
µg/L: micrograms per liter, or parts per billion (ppb)	mg/L: milligrams per liter, or parts per million (ppm)
ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt: parts per trillion or nanogram per liter (ng/L)	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA: Not applicable	ND: Not detected
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.	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.
MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfection 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.	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.
AL - Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.	RAA - Running Annual Average: Calculated quarterly using monthly average for the last 12 months

## DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2021 calendar year of this report. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The data presented in this table are from testing done in 2021 and years prior. The New Mexico Drinking Water Bureau 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. For this reason, some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Detected in your water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b> (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	7.6	3.6	7.6	2021	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	1.9	1.2	1.9	2021	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	1.17 (0.45 RAA)	0.03	1.17	2021	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	3.1	ND	3.1	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production waste
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.2	0.08	0.2	2020	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.9	0.4	0.9	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. (EAWSD does not add fluoride to its drinking water)
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	3.8	2.0	3.8	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	2.6	ND	2.6	2020	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines

Zinc (ppm)	NA	5	0.06	ND	0.06	2020	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA	NA	27	14	27	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	2.5	0.8	2.5	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (combined) (µg/L)	0	30	6	3	6	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	0	15	4.8	2.5	4.8	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	5.3	2.6	5.3	2020	No	Decay of natural and manmade deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Lead &amp; Copper</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.15	2021	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.1	2021	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

The following regulated contaminants were monitored for but not detected in your water:

<b>Inorganic Contaminants (IOCs)</b>		
Antimony	Cadmium	Mercury
Asbestos	Chromium	Nickel
Beryllium	Cyanide	Thallium

<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs)</b>		
1,1- dichloroethylene	Carbon tetrachloride	Styrene
1,1,1- trichloroethane	Chlorobenzene	Tetrachloroethylene
1,1,2- trichloroethane	cis-1,2 dichloroethylene	Toluene
1,2-dichloroethane	Dichloromethane	trans-1,2 dichloroethylene
1,2-dichloropropane	Ethylbenzene	Trichloroethylene
1,2,4-trichlorobenzene	o-dichlorobenzene	Vinyl Chloride
Benzene	p-dichlorobenzene	Xylene (Total)

<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs)</b>		
1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane	di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene
2,4-D	Dinoseb	Lasso
2,4,5-TP	Diquat	Methoxychlor
Atrazine	Endothall	Oxamyl
Benzo[a]pyrene	Endrin	Pentachlorophenol
BHC-Gamma	Ethylene dibromide	Picloram
Carbofuran	Glyphosate	Polychlorinated byphenyls
Chlordane	Heptachlor	Simazine
Dalapon	Heptachlor epoxide	Toxaphene
di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	Hexachlorobenzene	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene

## Monitoring and Reporting Violations

There were no violations in 2021.

## **WATER CONSERVATION TIPS**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler

parts of the day to reduce evaporation.

- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## **SOURCE WATER PROTECTION TIPS**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's *How to Start a Watershed Team*.

*This water quality report was prepared by Jacobs Engineering Group, as a service to the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District.*