

Bishop Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Annual Water Quality Report

Public Water System #090600122

2020

This report is a snapshot of your water quality. Included 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.

Message from the Public Works Director

It is our mission to provide you with safe, reliable drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your drinking water by maintaining an excellent maintenance, operations, and monitoring program for the community drinking water supply. Staff works hard to provide safe drinking water with a minimum cost to the Tribe by doing much of the work in-house. Staff is on-call 7 days a week, 24 hours a day to take care of complications that come about. We have ongoing programs to monitor the drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis according to an EPA defined schedule in order to ensure that your drinking water is safe. We are committed to providing information about the drinking water and are happy to answer any questions you may have about your drinking water system.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and 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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The water you receive at your tap comes from the groundwater aquifer within the Reservation exterior boundaries. After your water is pumped from the aquifer, it is disinfected with chlorine to kill any bacteria that is in your water. The amount of chlorine left when it gets to your tap is equal to 3 pennies out of 1,000,000 pennies. Water is pumped from three sites including Pa Me, Winuba, and Siebu from 5 groundwater wells.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 Environmental Protection Agency'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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity including:

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, which 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, 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

Other Information

Bishop Public Works Emergency Call List

In the event of a residential area water leak or wastewater problem (outside of the home) the on-call operator can be notified by phone or through the administrative office. Any tribal member or Tribal Police who may see a major problem during normal working hours should call the Public Works Department (Monday-Friday 8:00AM to 5:00PM). On weekends and holidays, you may call the Public Works Department office and let it ring through to a cell phone.

Public Works - Utilities office 760-873-6638

Peter Bernasconi, PE Public Works Department Director, Mobile Phone 760-920-7109

Garrett Bryan, Office Technician, Phone 760-873-6638

Dan Stone, Water Operator II, Mobile Phone 760-937-1289

Chase Witman, Water Operator I, Mobile Phone 760-920-2457

For interior residential home plumbing problems, contact Community Development Department (CDD) CDD Office Phone 760-872-4356 or Tennille Torres, Housing Management Officer 760-872-4356 ext.2340

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? Locally our community uses over 900 GPD in the summer and 600 GPD in the winter. 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 are 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 water use.
- Sometimes community members wonder, why conserve water when there has been a heavy winter? Water conservation and alternating irrigation days helps to reduce the treatment cost, reduce electrical cost, and reduce wear on the pumps and motors of the system. Alternating irrigation days helps to level out the water demand to

keep the storage tanks within operational limits and maintain water storage reserves for fire flows and other emergencies such as having no power for two or three days.

- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below, please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection, and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Fire Sprinkler system
- On –site treatment plant with automatic backflushing
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

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.
- For those few homes that still have their own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system. Contact the Public Works Department and we can assist with the evaluation of sewer connection options. Our groundwater is about 5 feet deep and subject to pollution from septic systems.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in the community to protect the watershed. The public Works Department (PWD) or Environmental Management Organization (EMO). 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.

WATER QUALITY TABLE

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants	MRDLG	MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	MRDL Exceeded	Typical Source
				Low	High			

Disinfectants

Chlorine Units: ppm	4	4	0.1783	0.04	0.35	2020	No	Drinking water additive used for disinfection
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Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			

Inorganic Contaminants

Arsenic Units: ppb	0	10	4	ND	4	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
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Nitrate [reported as Nitrogen] Units: ppm	10	10	0.9	ND	0.9	2020	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
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Sodium Units: ppm			14	6	14	2019	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; salt water intrusion
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Contaminants	MCLG	Action Level	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	A.L. Exceeded	Typical Source
				Low	High			

Lead and Copper Rule

Copper Units: ppm - 90th Percentile	1.3	1.3	0.022	0 sites over Action Level		2019	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
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Radiological Contaminants

Adjusted Alpha (Excl. Radon & U) Units: pCi/L	0	15	3	ND	3	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (combined) Units: ppb	0	30	3	ND	3	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Special Education Statements

Additional Information for Lead

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. PWS system 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

Microbiological Testing

We are required to test your water regularly for signs of microbial contamination. Positive test results could lead to follow-up investigations called assessments and potentially the issuance of public health advisories. Assessments could lead to required corrective actions. The information below summarizes the results of those tests.

Sampling Requirements	Sampling Conducted (months)	Total E.Coli Positive	Assessment Triggers	Assessments Conducted
3 Samples due monthly	12 out of 12	0	0	0

Definitions

Term	Definition
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	parts per billion, or microgram per liter (ug/L)
positive samples	the number of positive samples taken that year
% positive samples/month	% of samples taken monthly that were positive
pCi/L	picocuries per liter
ND	Not detected
N/A	Not applicable
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.
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, trigger treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
90th Percentile	Statistical value used to determine if Action Level is exceeded. Determined by calculating the value at which 90% of the samples tested were below that value.

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How can I get involved?

Please feel free to contact the number provided below for more information or for a translated copy of the report if you need it in another language.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information please contact:

Garrett Bryan, Office Technician, 50 Tu Su Lane, Bishop, California 93514

Email: garrett.bryan@bishoppaiute.org

Phone: (760) 873-6638 **Fax:** (760) 873-0018

**Or Peter Bernasconi,
Public Works Director**

Peter.bernasconi@bishoppaiute.org