



**2023 Water Quality Report**  
Del Oro Water Company – Ferndale District  
Public Water System Number CA1210007

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

Del Oro Water Company  
is firmly committed to producing and delivering a safe,  
dependable supply of quality water in an efficient, cost effective manner,  
with service that exceeds the expectations of our customers.

Getting to know Del Oro Water Company (DOWC).....

DOWC was established in 1963 to meet the water needs of the Paradise Pines area in Magalia, California. Since then, the company has expanded throughout California, and currently provides service to over 16,000 customers in ten counties: Shasta, Humboldt, Tehama, Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Tuolumne, Fresno, Tulare and Kern. DOWC is a Class B water utility under the direction of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

DOWC works diligently upgrading and improving each of its twenty districts. Because of their diverse geology, each district requires unique water quality testing (hundreds of water quality tests each year) and maintenance. DOWC completes CPUC-approved projects to replace and maintain over 700,000 feet of distribution piping; 96 pumps, booster pumps, and wells; and 32 storage tanks with over 8 million gallons of storage capacity. Five of DOWC's districts utilize surface water (springs, lakes, rivers or canals) to provide drinking water to their customers.

DOWC is proud to offer its customers excellent service provided by well trained field service technicians, many of whom are certified as treatment plant operators and water distribution operators. DOWC field technicians work earnestly to maintain the individual water systems as the cost to provide water service continues to increase, not just for DOWC customers, but throughout the United States.

DOWC tests the drinking water quality for all constituents as required by the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency – Federal Regulations (EPA). This report shows the results of our most current monitoring for the period of January 1 - December 31, 2023 including results which are current but were taken in previous years.

DOWC tests for both “Regulated and Unregulated” contaminants. This consumer confidence report provides results for only contaminants which were detected in your district’s system.

Water for Del Oro Water Company, Ferndale District (DOWCFD) originates from ground water sources known as the High Line Springs, Low Line Springs, and Van Ness Well.

A Source Water Assessment was completed in May 2002, and found that sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: 1. Septic Systems, 2. Transportation Corridors, 3. Streets and Roads, 4. Gas Stations, and 5. Auto Repairs. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed by calling the District office at 1-877-335-6764.

If DOWCFD District has information (public meetings, rate increase, water quality issues, drought information, or district improvements) of which you should be notified your billing will contain a message indicating the information or directing you to DOWC's website: [www.delorowater.com](http://www.delorowater.com). For additional information concerning your drinking water, you can contact Community Relations at P.O. Drawer 5172, Chico, CA 95927, 1-530-717-2500.

Continuing Drought Information.....

State of California Executive Order B-40-17 lifts the drought emergency in all California counties except a few counties in the southern half of California. However, please keep in mind that Californians should always use water wisely. Water conservation tips apply to all areas of California throughout the year.

- Limit watering outside to three (3) days per week. Set up a schedule so you remember what days are your “watering” days
- Look for and fix leaks in your home or business and on your property
- Never use water to clean driveways and sidewalks
- Use water restricting devices in your home
- Always use a nozzle on your hose to control water usage

Updated conservation information can be found on our website.

Concerns about Lead in your drinking water.....

Del Oro Water Company would like to inform its customers about the safety of lead and copper testing. While DOWC does not use lead pipes in the distribution lines that serve its customers, older homes may have been built using lead pipes or lead connectors (for example, lead solder used to join copper plumbing, brass and other lead-containing fixtures). The established Lead and Copper Rule is critical to the water quality monitoring program. DOWC is working on the new Lead and Copper Service Line Inventory required by the State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB- DDW) and the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). More information about this project will be forthcoming and found on our website.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead and Copper Tap Monitoring by DOWC is conducted at designated customers’ homes and is an important part of a water utility’s monitoring schedule.

DOWC 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 do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. 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/lead>.

In January 2017, the State of California issued new guidelines on lead testing in schools. DOWC is committed to supporting its school districts’ efforts to protect students by ensuring that the drinking water at the school sites meets lead requirements. DOWC has completed lead testing in schools (K through 12) that have requested lead testing within the DOWC service areas.

DOWC has performed lead testing at both Ferndale Elementary and Ferndale High School with the following results: (the State has a “Maximum Contaminant Level” regulation of 15 parts per billion (ppb))

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>No. Of Samples Collected</u>	<u>Range of Detection (ppb)</u>
Ferndale Elementary	4 Samples collected	ND - 0.94
Ferndale High School	2 Samples collected	ND - ND

Saples collected on 3/1/18

## Explanation of Terms used in this Report

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

**Public Health Goal (PHG):** 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 Environmental Protection Agency.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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 (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment 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.

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

**Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS):** MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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

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

**Variations and Exemptions:** Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**ND:** Not detectable at testing limit

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter - a measure of radiation

**ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

**µS/cm:** microsiemens per centimeter (measure of specific conductance)

**ppt:** Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

**ppq:** Parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units

**MFL:** Million fibers per liter

**TON:** Threshold odor number

**All sources of drinking water** (both tap water and bottled water) come from 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, agriculture 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**, 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 that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

**To ensure that tap water is safe to drink**, EPA and the SWRCB-DDW prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people, such as those with Cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, and those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders; some elderly people; and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about their specific drinking water concerns. EPA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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.

**Tables 1 - 7 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were tested during the most recent sampling for the constituent.**

If present in the drinking water, contaminants do not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The SWRCB -DDW allows 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. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than a year old.

Results followed by an \* indicate a detected level over the MCL, MRDL, or TT and will have a footnote (1). Additional information regarding any violations (if applicable) will be provided later in this report.

TABLE 1 – Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Coliform Bacteria – 2023 Monthly								
Microbiological Contaminants (and reporting units)	Highest No. of Detections	No. of Months in Violation	MCL			In Compliance?	Typical Source of Bacteria	
<i>E. Coli</i>	0	0	Routine & repeat samples are total coliform-positive & either is <i>E. coli</i> -positive or system fails to take repeat samples following <i>E. coli</i> -positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for <i>E. coli</i>			Yes	<i>Human and animal fecal waste</i>	
Table 2-Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Lead and Copper								
Lead and Copper (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Number of Samples Collected	90th Percentile Level Detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	MCLG	In Compliance?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppm)	7/23/2021	10	0.0015	None	0.015	0	Yes	<i>Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.</i>
Copper (ppm)	7/23/2021	10	0.14	None	1.3	1.3	Yes	<i>Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.</i>
Table 3-Sodium and Hardness								
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	In Compliance?	Typical Source of Contaminant		
Sodium (ppm)	5/14/2020	22.67	15.3 - 34.4	None	Yes	<i>Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring</i>		
Hardness (ppm)	5/14/2020	197.67	130 - 296	None	Yes	<i>Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring</i>		
Table 4- Contaminant with a PRIMARY Drinking Water Standard								
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	In Compliance?	Typical Source of Contaminant		
Antimony (ppm)	5/14/2020	ND	ND - ND	6	Yes	<i>Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder</i>		
Arsenic (ppb)						<i>Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes</i>		
High and Low Springs	5/14/2020	ND	ND - ND	10	Yes			
Van Ness Raw	2023	9.52	8.3 - 11.0					
Van Ness Treated	2023	ND	ND - ND					
Barium (ppb)	5/14/2020	203.99	38.6 - 475.4	1,000	Yes	<i>Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits</i>		

<b>Table 4- Contaminant with a PRIMARY Drinking Water Standard - Continued</b>						
<b>Chemical or Constituent</b> (and reporting units)	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>In Compliance?</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
Beryllium (ppb)	5/14/2020	ND	ND - ND	4	Yes	<i>Discharge from metal refineries, coal-burning factories, and electrical, aerospace, and defense industries</i>
Cadmium (ppb)	5/14/2020	ND	ND - ND	5	Yes	<i>Internal corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from electroplating and industrial chemical factories; and metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries &amp; paints</i>
Chromium (total) (ppb)	5/14/2020	2.706	ND - 5.604	50	Yes	<i>Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits</i>
Fluoride (ppm)	2/21/2020	0.19	0.18 - 0.21	2	Yes	<i>Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits</i>
Mercury (ppb)	5/14/2020	ND	ND - ND	2	Yes	<i>Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills and cropland</i>
Nickel (ppb)	5/14/2020	14.53	ND - 28.46	100	Yes	<i>Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories</i>
Nitrate (as N) (ppm)	2/7/2023	0.4667	ND - 0.74	10	Yes	<i>Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits</i>
Nitrite (as N) (ppm)	2/7/2023	ND	ND - ND	1	Yes	<i>Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits</i>

Table 4- Contaminate with a PRIMARY Drinking Water Standard - Continued						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	In Compliance?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Perchlorate (ppb)	7/10/2023	ND	ND - ND	6	Yes	<i>Perchlorate is an inorganic chemical used in solid rocket propellant, fireworks, explosives, flares, matches, and a variety of industries. It usually gets into drinking water as a result of environmental contamination from historic aerospace or other industrial operations that used or use, store, or dispose of perchlorate and its salts</i>

Table 5- Contaminate with a SECONDARY Drinking Water Standard						
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	In Compliance?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppb)	5/14/2020	ND	ND - ND	200	Yes	<i>Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes</i>
Color (units)	7/16/2020	83.33	ND - 250	15	No <sup>2</sup>	<i>Naturally-occurring organic materials</i>
Copper (ppb)	5/14/2020	12.4	2.801 - 18.05	1,000	Yes	<i>Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives</i>
Foaming Agents (MBAS) (ppm)	9/8/2020	0.05	0.05 - 0.05	0.5	Yes	<i>Municipal and industrial waste discharges</i>
Iron (ppb)						<i>Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes</i>
High and Low Springs	5/14/2020	ND	ND - ND	300	Yes	
Van Ness Raw	2023	7075.0	6700.0 - 7400.0			
Van Ness Treated	11/30/2023	ND	N/A			
Manganese (ppb)						<i>Leaching from natural deposits</i>
High and Low Springs	5/14/2020	12.769	9.84 - 15.7	50	Yes	
Van Ness Raw	2023	602.5	590 - 620			
Van Ness Treated	11/30/2023	ND	N/A			
Methyl-tert-butyl ether (MTBE) (ppb)	1/24/2020	ND	ND - ND	5	Yes	<i>Leaking underground storage tanks; discharge from petroleum and chemical factories</i>
Odor - Threshold (TON)	7/16/2020	0.5	ND - 1.5	3	Yes	<i>Naturally-occurring organic materials</i>
Silver (ppb)	5/14/2020	ND	ND - ND	100	Yes	<i>Industrial discharges</i>
Turbidity (NTU)	7/16/2020	26.8	0.15 - 80	5	No <sup>2</sup>	<i>Soil Runoff</i>
Zinc (ppb)	5/14/2020	ND	ND - ND	5,000	Yes	<i>Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes</i>
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	2/21/2020	256.67	160 - 400	1,000	Yes	<i>Runoff/leaching from natural deposits</i>
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	7/10/2023	486.667	310 - 740	1,600	Yes	<i>Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence</i>
Chloride (ppm)	2/21/2020	29	20 - 42	500	Yes	<i>Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence</i>
Sulfate (ppm)	2/21/2020	7.3	ND - 15	500	Yes	<i>Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes</i>

(<sup>2</sup>) Chemical or constituent was above the Secondary Drinking Water Regulation MCL. They are established as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. Compliance is based on a Running Annual Average. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.



<b>Table 6-Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
<b>Chemical or Constituent</b> (and reporting units)	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>In Compliance?</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	10/22/2020	3	N/A	15	Yes	<i>Erosion of natural deposits</i>
<b>Table 7-Disinfection Byproducts and Disinfectant Residuals</b>						
<b>Chemical or Constituent</b> (and reporting units)	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Detections</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>In Compliance?</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
TTHM's (Total Trihalomethanes)(ppb)	2023	33.625	23 - 49	80	Yes	<i>Byproduct of drinking water chlorination</i>
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb)	2023	11.7	8.3 - 15	60	Yes	
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	2023	0.6942	0.59 - 0.83	4	Yes	

**ADDITIONAL GENERAL INFORMATION ON DRINKING WATER:**

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 individuals, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The USEPA/Center 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 at 1-800-426-4791. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general populations. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your homes plumbing.