

# Drinking Water Quality Report 2009

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## Consumer Confidence Report

The City of Cottage Grove is pleased to present you with this year's annual Water Quality Report. The public water system serves approximately 9,485 citizens. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of drinking water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to supply you with a reliable supply of high quality drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Ray Pardee, Water Production Superintendent, at: (541) 942-3349.

Cottage Grove's drinking water supply comes from surface water intakes located on Layng Creek, which is within the Umpqua National Forest, and the Row River. These intakes are within the Coast Fork Willamette Sub-Basin of the Willamette Basin. The streams that contribute to the intakes have a total tributary area of approximately 371 square miles.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) can be from wells, streams, rivers, reservoirs or springs. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground it may pick up contaminants. Contaminants that may be present in source waters include: Microbial such as bacteria or viruses; Inorganic such as salts or metals; Pesticides and Herbicides; Organic chemicals such as by-products of industrial process and naturally occurring Radioactive contaminants.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prescribes regulations for bottled water.

All of Cottage Grove's drinking water is treated before it is distributed to the consumer. The City's water treatment plant operators are state certified and complete required educational courses to maintain certification annually and to assure technical competence in the most recent advances in water treatment.

The City of Cottage Grove recognizes the importance of identifying contaminants in the water. With the aid of online process analyzers, the operators continuously monitor the water treatment process 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Water treatment plant operators sample and test the water, according to Federal and State laws, screening for any of the approximately 91 different currently regulated contaminants that could be in your drinking water.

The following tables show the results of Cottage Grove's water quality analysis. Every regulated contaminant that was detected in Cottage Grove's water from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 is listed. The regulations do not require the water to be tested for all approx. 91 of the regulated contaminants each and every year. The data presented in the report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the regulations. In these tables you may find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand the terms used in the tables, definitions are provided on the following page.

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## DEFINITIONS



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

**Lead** - Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in a household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

**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 allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** – 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 contamination.

**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.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – Nephelometric turbidity unit is an empirical measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just visibly noticeable to the average person.

**Non-Detects (ND)** – Contaminant not detectable at laboratory testing limits.

**Parts Per Billion (PPB) or Micrograms Per Liter (ug/L)** – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Parts Per Million (PPM) or Milligrams Per Liter (mg/L)** – One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

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

**Turbidity** - Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. The City monitors it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the treatment process.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

### Key To Abbreviations In The Tables

<b>AL</b>	<b>Action Level</b>	<b>NTU</b>	<b>Nephelometric Turbidity Unit</b>
<b>MCL</b>	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal</b>	<b>PPB</b>	<b>Parts Per Billion</b>
<b>mg/L</b>	<b>Milligrams Per Liter</b>	<b>PPM</b>	<b>Parts Per Million</b>
<b>MRDL</b>	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level</b>	<b>RAA</b>	<b>Running Annual Average</b>
<b>MRDLG</b>	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal</b>	<b>TT</b>	<b>Treatment Technique</b>
<b>ND</b>	<b>Non-Detects</b>	<b>ug/L</b>	<b>Micrograms per Liter</b>

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The Layng Creek Water Treatment Plant is owned and operated by the Row River Valley Water District and surplus potable drinking water is being temporarily conveyed to the City of Cottage Grove.

**TABLE I Layng Creek Water Treatment Plant Test Results**

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Turbidity – highest single measurement	No	1	NTU	N/A	>1 TT	Soil erosion
Turbidity – lowest monthly percentage	No	99%	NTU	N/A	95% <0.3 TT	Soil erosion

The Row River Water Treatment Plant currently supplies potable drinking water to City of Cottage Grove customers except those customers east of the City starting at the intersection of Currin Connector and Row River Road and continuing eastward.

**TABLE II Row River Water Treatment Plant Test Results**

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Turbidity – highest single measurement	No	0.74	NTU	N/A	>1 TT	Soil erosion
Turbidity – lowest monthly percentage	No	100%	NTU	N/A	95% <0.3 TT	Soil erosion

**TABLE III Water Distribution System Test Results**

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Copper (most recent test date September 2009)	No	90 <sup>th</sup> % value= N/D	PPM	1.3	AL = 1.3 0 sites exceeded the action level	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (most recent test date September 2009)	No	90 <sup>th</sup> % value = 6	PPB	0	AL = 15 0 sites exceeded the action level	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection Byproducts, Byproduct Precursors, and Disinfectant Residuals</b>						
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)	No	Range 28.9 – 29.6 RAA 29.3	PPB	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acid)	No	Range 22.0 – 28.0 RAA 25.0	PPB	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	No	Range 0.15 - 1.56 RAA 0.59	PPM	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Finished Water TOC (Total Organic Carbon) Layng Creek WTP	No	Range 0.65 - 0.75 RAA 0.71	PPM	N/A	TT 2 PPM Finished Water	Naturally present in the environment
Finished Water TOC (Total Organic Carbon) Row River WTP	No	Range 0.74 – 1.04 RAA 0.84	PPM	N/A	TT 2 PPM Finished Water	Naturally present in the environment

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Unregulated contaminants monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

**TABLE IV**

*Detected Levels of Unregulated Contaminants*

Contaminant	Unit of Measure	Layng Creek Plant Level Detected	Row River Plant Level Detected	Likely Source of Contaminant
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>				
Sodium (most recent test date July 2002)	PPM	4.99	2.88	Naturally present in the environment
Sulfate (most recent test date July 2002)	PPM	5.89	3.91	Naturally present in the environment
Hardness as Calcium Carbonate (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) Finished Water	PPM	Avg = 16 Range = 8 - 24	Avg = 20 Range = 13 - 30	Naturally present in the environment
pH Finished Water	pH Units	Avg = 7.3 Range = 7.0 - 8.6	Avg = 7.3 Range = 6.9 - 7.7	Naturally present in the environment
Chloroform	PPB	Avg = 27.0 Range = 27.0 - 27.0	Avg = 27.7 Range = 27.7 - 27.7	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromodi-Chloromethane	PPB	Avg = 1.9 Range = 1.9 - 1.9	Avg = 1.9 Range = 1.9 - 1.9	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dichloro-Acetic Acid	PPB	Avg = 10.1 Range = 10.1 - 10.1	Avg = 14.3 Range = 14.3 - 14.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Trichloro-Acetic Acid	PPB	Avg = 11.8 Range = 11.8 - 11.8	Avg = 13.7 Range = 13.7 - 13.7	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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## **Water Source Information**

A Source Water Assessment has been completed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to identify the surface areas (and/or subsurface areas) that supply water to the City of Cottage Grove's public water system intakes and to inventory the potential contaminant sources that may impact the water supply.

Potential contaminant sources or "sensitive areas" identified in the watershed include managed forestlands, campgrounds and recreational areas, nurseries, quarries, several parks, residential areas with septic systems and wells, gas stations (currently active and historic), a former mill, and the drinking water treatment plants.

These "sensitive areas" are the main existing potential sources of contamination that could, if improperly managed or released, impact the water quality in the watershed.

The information in this assessment provides a basis for prioritizing areas in and around our community that are most vulnerable to potential impacts and can be used by the City of Cottage Grove community to develop a voluntary Drinking Water Protection Plan. Assessment was completed to provide information that the City of Cottage Grove's public water system staff/operators, consumers, and community citizens can use to begin developing strategies to protect the source of their drinking water, and to minimize future public expenditures for drinking water treatment.

The City of Cottage Grove's Source Water Assessment Report provides additional details on the methodology and results of this assessment. The full report is available for review at: **Cottage Grove Public Library, 700 East Gibbs Avenue.**



## **Information on Lead in Drinking Water**

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 Cottage Grove 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).**

All sources of water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably 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 (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, 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 (1-800-426-4791).**

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## Additional Information

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The City of Cottage Grove considers it our paramount responsibility to supply safe water for the health and future of our community. Please call our office if you have any questions, **(541) 942-3349** or visit our web site at: **[www.cottagegrove.org](http://www.cottagegrove.org)**

Additional information can be obtained from the following websites:

1. Environmental Protection Agency at:  
**[www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)**
2. Department of Human Services/Drinking Water Program at:  
**[www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/dwp/](http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/dwp/)**
3. National Sanitation Foundation at:  
**[www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)** or call 1-877-8NSF-HELP
4. American Water Works Association (AWWA):  
**[www.drinktap.org](http://www.drinktap.org)** and **[www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)**

## Violations

On November 17, 2009 the City of Cottage Grove was notified by the Row River Valley Water District that the Layng Creek Water Treatment Plant had experienced a Treatment Technique Violation. The treatment plant failed to meet operating guidelines for the Surface Water Treatment Rule for adequate chlorine contact time which resulted in inadequately disinfected water. A local power outage and failure of a backup emergency generator were the cause of the violation. The power was restored by the local utility supplier and the emergency generator was immediately repaired. All affected customers were notified at the time of the violation. Additional water quality tests were performed. Once the test results were received from the laboratory and it was proven that the water did not contain any disease-causing organisms notice was given to all customers that the water was safe to use.

### **Potential Adverse Health Effects**

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

## Water System Planning and Improvements

The City's water production facilities are currently comprised of two water treatment plants, which produce the City's drinking water supply from three (3) separate surface water intakes. The Layng Creek water treatment plant diverts water from Layng Creek, and the Row River water treatment plant can divert water from two locations on the Row River.

The Layng Creek water treatment plant is located approximately 20 miles east of Cottage Grove, and treated water from that treatment plant is conveyed to the City through an aging transmission line that was constructed in the mid 1940's. The City is currently under a compliance order to upgrade its water production facilities because the Layng Creek treatment plant is not capable of treating drinking water 100% of the time to public drinking water standards required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Therefore, the City must upgrade its water production facilities in order to regularly be in compliance with drinking water requirements. The Layng Creek treatment plant and transmission line are both at the end of their useful life.

The Layng Creek treatment plant was transferred to the Row River Valley Water District during 2009. The District will continue to use the Layng Creek treatment plant, on a transitional basis, until the District's new membrane filtration system is on-line. Once the District's new membrane filtration system is operational, the Layng Creek treatment plant's original filtration system will be abandoned and the transmission line used to serve water to the City will be severed and plugged at the District's boundary.

The recent improvements to the Row River Water Treatment Plant, that were completed in 2008, replaced the 2 million gallon a day rapid sand filtration unit with microfiltration membrane treatment units that can treat 4 million gallons a day. The ultimate build-out of the plant is 8 million gallons a day.

The improvements to the Row River water treatment plant are now complete. The project was funded by low interest loans through the Safe Drinking Water and Water/Wastewater loan programs administered through Business Oregon (formerly OECDD). Loan agreements were executed for the improvements to the Row River water treatment plant, and associated pipeline replacement project, at a final completion cost of \$9,596,630.