

Town of La Conner Water Department Consumer Confidence Report



January 1 - December 31, 2021

Introduction: In 1996, Congress re-authorized the Safe Drinking Water Act (**SDWA**) which requires the EPA to set regulations limiting the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. As a part of this we will be providing you, our customers with information on a yearly basis, regarding the types of testing done and contaminants that were detected during the previous year. The purpose of these reports is to provide consumers with information, which will allow them to make informed choices regarding their drinking water.

Service and Quality: The La Conner Water Department is committed to providing our customers with a safe and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water, along with superior customer service. Together with the Anacortes Water Department and various governmental agencies, we are working to utilize the latest information and technologies to provide you with safe drinking water. In 2021, the Town of La Conner Water Department had no violations of EPA water quality standards.

Sources: The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water moves through the air, over the surface of the land and through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive materials and can also pick up substances resulting from the activities of humans and the presence of animals.

Our water comes from a surface water source, originating at the City of Anacortes water treatment plant on the Skagit River near Mount Vernon. The Skagit River basin covers over 3,100 square miles from British Columbia, Canada to Skagit Bay near La Conner. It passes through portions of Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties, and through dams, forests, farms and several cities and towns with numerous businesses and industries along the way.

The La Conner water system extends from the Farmhouse Inn at SR 20, along La Conner-Whitney Rd. to La Conner, and provides water to the Skagit Beach community as well as wholesale water to Shelter Bay community. Our system has 20.9 miles of piping ranging from 1½-inches to 16 inches in diameter. We have a 1.5 million gallon reservoir which provides fire protection, pressure balancing and up to 3 days of water supply under normal conditions in the event of a disruption of water from Anacortes.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants: such as viruses and bacteria from sewage and septic tanks, livestock or wildlife;

Inorganic contaminants: such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or resulting from urban storm-water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater, petroleum production, mining or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides: that may come from residential, urban storm-water runoff and agriculture;

Organic chemical contaminants: including synthetic and volatile organic compounds, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems; and

Radioactive contaminants: that can be naturally occurring, or the result of petroleum production or mining activities.

Facts

Drinking water, both bottled and tap may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. **The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that your water poses a health risk.** More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's *Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)* hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or their website: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html>. Additional information can be found at www.doh.gov/ and www.awwa.org/. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. *The Food & Drug Administration (FDA)* establishes regulations for bottled water. A contaminant is defined as any substance or matter in water. Not all contaminants are harmful and some are of concern only above certain levels. The EPA has established both primary and secondary standards for drinking water.

Total Coliform Bacteria Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is based on the occurrence of a condition that includes routine and repeat samples. For total **coliforms** (TC), Public Water Systems must conduct a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment of their system when they exceed a specified frequency of total **coliform** occurrences. None of the 24 samples taken in 2021 showed the presence of coliform bacteria.

Definitions/Abbreviations

ADD: Average Day Demand (gallons/day/ERU)

AL: Action level, the concentrations of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

DOH: Washington State Department of Health

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency, a federal agency

Finished Water: Treated water entering the distribution system

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, the level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

MRCL: Maximum Residual Contaminant Level,

MFL: Million Fibers per Liter: Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits. Some people who drink water containing asbestos in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps.

Microbiological: Potentially harmful microorganisms, which may be naturally occurring or introduced by humans or animals. Cryptosporidium and Giardia are microscopic organisms that when ingested, can cause fever, diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain that can last from a few days to months, with onset of symptoms within 2 to 12 days after exposure. Ingesting the organism in contaminated water or food, person-to-person contact and other exposure routes can transmit the disease. The disease cryptosporidiosis can be fatal to young children, the elderly or immune-compromised individuals.

ppm: Parts per million, the approximate equivalent of one drop in 22 gallons

ppb: Parts per billion, the approximate equivalent of one drop in 22,000 gallons

Primary Standards: Mandatory standards established and enforced by the State of Washington Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency. These include maximum contaminant levels, and maximum contaminant level goals, action levels, and treatment techniques.

TT: Treatment technique, a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Questions and Answers

Is our water fluoridated? No, our water does not contain fluoride, the City of Anacortes fluoridates their water at the entrance to their system in Anacortes but La Conner does not.

What treatment is done to our water? Simply put, our water is filtered and chlorinated at the Anacortes Water Treatment Plant and no further treatment is done by La Conner Water Department.

Do I need to boil my water after a temporary water disruption? No, following a disruption of service for repairs you do not need to boil your water. The La Conner Water Department is required to disinfect all pipes and materials used in repairs. In the event of a flood or other major catastrophe, you would be notified by the La Conner Public Works Department of any necessary precautions.

Where can I go for answers?

By telephone:

Regarding this report Public Works Department 360-466-3933

Billing and/or water leaks/maintenance Town Hall 360-466-3125

By mail: Town of La Conner PO Box 400 La Conner WA 98257

Water Conservation Hotline: Our water supply in droughts and floods 360-299-1973

Additional information is also available on our website at www.townoflaconner.org and City of Anacortes www.cityofanacortes.org under Public Works, Water Treatment Plant

For more information, or to discuss issues and get involved, the La Conner Town Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 PM in Upper Maple Center located on Commercial St.

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

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, people with transplanted organs, people with AIDS/HIV or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4971.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

Lead Statement:

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. Town of La Conner 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

2021 La Conner Water Quality Data

Compounds Units	MCL	Average Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violations	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL 4	.58	0.31-0.98	NONE	2021	NA
Coliform Bacteria	1	0%	0.0	NONE	2021	Environment, Naturally Present
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	16.9	16.9	NONE	2021	By-product Chlorination
Halo Acetic Acids (ppb)	60	12.9	12.9	NONE	2021	By-product Chlorination
Asbestos (MFL)	7	.ND	ND	NONE	2018	Decay of Asbestos Cement Pipe

Compounds and Units	MCL	90 th Percentile Level	Homes Exceeding Action Level	Date of Sample
Lead (ppm)	.015	.002	0 out of 10	2020
Copper (ppm)	1.3	.090	0 out of 10	2020

**Parts Per Million (ppm) is the same as Milligrams Per Liter (MG/L)*

Water Conservation Goals

La Conner adopted 2 water conservation goals as a result of Washington State's 2007 Water Use Efficiency Rule (WUE Rule). The WUE Rule requires that the Town's goal be re-established at a minimum of every six years, and that progress towards the goal be reported annually to the State and to La Conner's customers.

In 2016, La Conner set two WUE goals:

Goal #1: Maintain unaccounted-for water to less than 10%. Continue all current measures. Formalize sub-goal of keeping annual loss below 8%. Implement administrative review followed by distribution system check.

Goal #2: Reduce residential summer irrigation by 5% by 2022. Promote this by encouraging low water/drought tolerant landscaping and by identifying efficient irrigation measures and equipment. Inform ratepayers through 2 bill inserts (March & June) and by using the Town's website. Review progress after 2 years before considering additional measures.

2021		
TOTAL WATER PURCHASED	AUTHORIZED CONSUMPTION	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM LEAKAGE
128,028,181 gal	124,675,338 gal	-2.56%
GOAL MET (Distribution Leakage Standards) <10%		

2021 City of Anacortes Water Quality Data

Compounds and Units	Average Level Detected or Highest Result	Range of Detections	Violations
RAW WATER			
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	1.10	0.54-1.87	NONE
FINISHED WATER			
Nitrate (ppm)	0.105	0.10-0.11	NONE
Total Coliform Bacteria	0%	N/D	NONE
Chlorine (ppm)	1.23 AVG	1.07-1.44	NONE
Halo-acetic Acids 5 (ppb)	12.0 AVG	10.4-15.3	NONE
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	13.8 AVG	9.1-21.3	NONE
Fluoride (ppm)	N/D	N/D	NONE
Turbidity (NTU)	0.02	0.013-0.041	NONE
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	0.55	0.37-0.75	NONE
Sodium (ppm)	4.1	4.0-4.2	NONE
Barium (ppm)	0.0095	0.0089-.0102	NONE

Compounds and Units	90th Percentile Level	Homes Exceeding Action Level	Date of Sample
Lead (ppb)	0.00015	0 out of 32	2019
Copper (ppm)	0.041	0 out of 32	2019

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. A contaminant is defined as any substance or matter in water. However, not all contaminants are harmful and some contaminants are of a concern only above certain levels. The EPA has established primary and secondary standards for drinking water. All treatment plant operators are certified as required by Washington State Department of Health (DOH). All of the Wastewater Treatment Plants located above our river intake are regulated and permitted by the Department of Ecology (DOE). The Water Treatment Plant maintains good communication with the upstream Wastewater Treatment Plants to assure timely notification of any potential discharge concerns. Also, the DOE is aware of the need to protect our drinking water Intake Structure and assures this through the secondary standards that are incorporated into the wastewater permits.

Secondary Standards are non-enforceable guidelines that relate to the taste, odor, and appearance of drinking water