Banning Heights Mutual Water Company

2025 Water Quality Report

Data Collected in 2024

THE QUALITY OF YOUR WATER IS OUR PRIMARY CONCERN

Sources of Supply

The Banning Heights Mutual Water Company (BHMWC) has two groundwater wells and one interconnection with the City of Banning. The BHMWC historically utilized two surface water flumes. However, the flumes are currently offline for repair and were not used in calendar year 2024. In 2024, the BHMWC utilized groundwater from Well No. 1 and purchased groundwater from the City of Banning.

Both groundwater wells (Well 1 and Well 5) draw water from the Upper Santa Ana Valley Groundwater Basin, San Timoteo Subbasin (8-2.08), and are located within the BHMWC service area. Groundwater drawn from Well 1 and 5 is continuously chlorinated for disinfection. Additionally, the City of Banning provides purchased groundwater to the BHMWC by way of a reservoir located outside of the BHMWC service area. Purchased water is piped to the BHMWC water treatment plant where it undergoes surface water treatment before being delivered to our customer's homes. The offline flumes historically drew water from both the East and South Fork of the Whitewater River, and are located outside of the BHMWC service area.

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

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 land or through the layers of the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal and human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (DDW) prescribe regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. DDW regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. 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. 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

About Lead in Tap 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. BHMWC is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of plumbing materials used in your household. 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 request to have your water tested. Water systems are mandated to sample for lead and copper. 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 on the web at: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

2023 Lead & Copper Reporting Violations

Our water system failed to monitor as required for drinking water standards during the past year and, therefore, was in violation of the regulations. Even though this failure was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we did to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring determines if our drinking water meets health standards. During 2023, we did not complete all monitoring for lead and copper as required.

What should you do?

Currently there is nothing you need to do.

What happened? What is being done?

BHMWC is required to collect a minimum of ten (10) lead and copper samples every three years. In 2024 we collected eleven (11) samples, and the results are listed below. BHMWC is currently in compliance with their lead and copper testing requirements.

Table 1. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Lead and Copper

Contaminant	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90th Percentile	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	2024	**11**	**ND**	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household plumbing materials. Industrial and manufacturing discharges; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2024	**11**	**0.188**	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

To Safeguard Against Issues that May Affect Your Health, We Comply with All State & Federal Water Quality Regulations

Drinking Water Fluoridation (fluoride) has been added to U.S. drinking water supplies since 1945. Of the 50 largest cities in the U.S., 43 fluoridate their drinking water. Banning Heights Mutual Water Company does not add fluoride to your drinking water.

Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the Federal MCL of 4.0 mg/L over many years may contract bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children who drink water containing

fluoride in excess of the State of California MCL of 2.0 mg/L may result in mottled teeth. There are many places to go for additional information about the fluoridation of drinking water.

Information is available at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: (800) 232-4636 S www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/ State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water: www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html

Nitrates

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. Although large fluctuations of nitrate levels are not common in the BHMWC water system, your water is consistently below the MCL.

Immunocompromised People

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. U.S. EPA/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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

WHAT ARE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS?

Drinking water standards established by US Environmental Protection Agency and Division of Drinking Water set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The table in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

• **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.
• **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.
• **Secondary MCLs:** Set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
• **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
• **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
• **Variances and Exemptions:** State board permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

WHAT IS A WATER QUALITY GOAL?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, US Environmental Protection Agency and Division of Drinking Water have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Never the less, these goals provide useful guide posts and direction for water management practices. The table in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

• **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 USEPA.

• **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 contaminants.

• **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.

CCR Table Abbreviations

ND = constituent not detected at the reporting limit
NL = notification level
RL = response level < = less than
SI = saturation index
pCi/L = picoCuries per liter
NA = constituent not analyzed
NTU = nephelometric turbidity units
µS/cm = microSiemens per centimeter
mg/L = milligrams per liter or parts per million (equivalent to 1 drop in 42 gallons)
µg/L = micrograms per liter or parts per billion (equivalent to 1 drop in 42,000 gallons)
ng/L = nanograms per liter or parts per trillion (equivalent to 1 drop in 42,000,000 gallons)

Table 2. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Coliform Bacteria

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of Detections	No. of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
E. coli	0	0	(a)	0	Human and animal fecal waste

Any routine or repeat samples results that are total coliform-positive or *E. coli*-positive, requires a water system to collect repeat samples. Repeat samples are collected and retested to analyze for total coliform or for *E. coli*. and must be negative before providing drinking water.

Table 1. Sampling Results for Sodium and Hardness

Chemical or Constituent (reporting units)	Banning Heights MWC			City of Banning Upper Canyon Well			MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detection			
Sodium (ppm)	2024	9.6	6.5 to 19.0	2023	21.0	6.5 to 50.0	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	2024	160	120.0 to 160.0	2023	94	2.8 to 200	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

Table 2. Sampling Results for Primary Drinking Water Standards

Chemical or Constituent (reporting units)	Banning Heights MWC			City of Banning Upper Canyon Well			MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections			
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	0.38	ND – 0.38	2023	0.38	0.24 – 0.64	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	2024	1.1	ND to 5.1	2024	1.5	0.9 – 2.7	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Trihalomethanes (THM) (ppb)	2024	20.0	15.0 –20.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	None	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2024	11	9.5 – 11.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	60	None	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	1.4	0.95 –1.75	N/A	N/A	N/A	4(as Cl_2)	4(as Cl_2)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

Table 3. Sampling Results for Secondary Drinking Water Standards

Chemical or Constituent (reporting units)	Banning Heights MWC			City of Banning Upper Canyon Well			SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections			
Copper (ppm)	2024	ND	N/A	2021	ND	ND	1	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Iron (ppb)	2024	ND	ND - 290	2023	ND	ND	300	None	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Turbidity (NTU)	2024	0.92	N/A	2023	0.69	0 – 2.7	5	None	Soil runoff

Zinc (ppm)	2024	11	11 - 31.0	2023	ND	ND	5	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	2024	190	170 - 200	2023	190	180 - 190	1000	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2024	350	350	2023	360	310 - 360	1600	None	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride (ppm)	2024	3.0	3.0 – 8.4	2023	2.2	1.6 – 2.2	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2024	26	26.0– 31.0	2023	31	25 - 31	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

Table 4. Detection of Unregulated Contaminants

Chemical or Constituent (reporting units)	Banning Heights MWC*			City of Banning Upper Canyon Well			Notification Level	Health Effects
	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections		
None	2024	N/A	N/A	2024	ND	ND	N/A	N/A

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS

Our source water assessment was revised in 2015 and is on file at the company office located at 7091 Bluff Road, Banning, CA 92220. The assessment indicated that our surface water is at low risk of contamination due to the location of the conveyance system. The assessment of groundwater sources indicated a risk of contamination from agriculture and septic tank run-off, which may contribute to nitrate levels within the aquifer. Nitrate results have remained generally stable in recent years.

YOUR 2025 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2024

Since 1990, California water utilities have been providing an annual Water Quality Report to their customers. This year's report covers calendar year 2024 water quality testing. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. This report has been prepared in compliance with regulations called for in the 1996 reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The reauthorization charged the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) with updating and strengthening the tap water regulatory program. USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) are the agencies responsible for establishing drinking water quality standards. To ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and DDW prescribe regulations that limit the number 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. BHMWC vigilantly safeguards its water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets the standards required by the state and federal regulatory agencies. In accordance with the SDWA, BHMWC monitors over 100 constituents in your water supply. This report includes only the constituents detected in the water.

WANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

There is a wealth of information on the internet about Drinking Water Quality and water issues in general. A good place to begin your own research is with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/safewater. The California Department of Water Resources at www.water.ca.gov The Metropolitan Water District of So. California at www.mwdh2o.com and Drought and Water Conservation Tips at www.BeWaterWise.com

Special Notice to all Employers, Landlords, and Schools: State Law (Section 116465(G) (3) of the California Health and Safety Code) requires that you provide copies of this notice to all your employees, tenants, or students (and parents of minor students) within ten days of you receiving this notice. Generally, you may fulfill this responsibility by posting this notice at each site where drinking water is dispensed and/or mailing a copy of the notice. Failure to give notice as required could make you civilly liable in an amount not to exceed $1,000 for each day of delay in notification.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it. Or you may call Banning Heights Mutual Water Company at (951) 849-2540.

Este documento contiene información importante acerca de su agua. Tradúzcalo o hable con una persona que lo entienda. También Ud. puede llamar al departamento de Servicio al Cliente de la ciudad de BHMWC al (951) 849-2540.

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR WATER?

BHMWC diligently safeguards its water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets and often exceeds, the standards required by the state and federal regulatory agencies. For information about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact Bill Thompson, General Manager, at (951) 849-2540. The BHMWC Board of Directors and Shareholders meet on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. The meetings are held at the City of Banning Senior Center-Nutrition Room, 769 San Gorgonio Ave., Banning, CA 92220. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. For more information about the health effects of the listed contaminants in the tables, call the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hotline at (800) 426-4791.