

# CARSON CITY PUBLIC WORKS

2014  
Water Quality  
Report

# What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place. John Wesley Powell, scientist geographer, put it best when he said that a watershed is:

*"... that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community."*

Our watershed is a vital part of our community, and we need to preserve it for ourselves and the future citizens of Carson City. Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

-  Avoid applying excess lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides — they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
-  Pick up after your pets. Dispose of pet waste in the garbage.
-  If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public sewer system.
-  Keep the area in front of your home clean — removing and disposing of trash and debris from the gutter helps prevent contaminated runoff into our storm drains.
-  When cleaning your sidewalks or driveway, use a broom. Do not use water to hose off a surface.
-  Consider using less toxic, water-based paints. Only buy as much paint as you need, and dispose of unused water-based paint by drying it out.
-  Oil-based paint brushes should be cleaned with paint thinner. Dispose of paint thinner at the Carson City Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility; call 775-283-7380 or 775-283-7390 for an appointment.
-  Use dry methods for spill cleanup (e.g., sweeping cat litter). Do not hose down spills. Dispose of those materials in the garbage.
-  Store household cleaners and chemicals like bleach, paint, paint thinner, pesticides and fertilizers in tight, waterproof containers for reuse.
-  Buy only the amount of chemicals you need. Dispose of chemicals properly; take used automotive fluids to a recycling center or auto parts store for recycling. Dispose of other chemicals at the Carson City Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. Call 775-283-7380 or 775-283-7390 for an appointment.

## Common questions about Carson City Water

**Chlorination.** Carson City's water system is partially served by surface water sources and is required to maintain detectible chlorine throughout the system. This helps assure the water is safe and healthy to drink. We monitor the chlorine levels weekly at various places in town.

**Disinfection (chlorine) Byproducts.** Chlorine addition for disinfection creates the potential for the formation of byproducts, so Carson City monitors the levels of these byproducts as required throughout town on a quarterly basis to be sure they are within safe levels.

**Hard Water.** We live in a high desert environment so our water is naturally hard. That means it contains minerals such as Calcium Carbonate and Magnesium, which can cause some problems for residents. The hardness of the water fluctuates as we go through wet and dry precipitation years. Over the last few drier years, the hardness has increased. Treating all of the water to remove the hardness would be quite expensive, but there are a few low-cost things you can do to help alleviate the problems in your home:

-  Clean out your water heater to remove the build-up of minerals; consult your owner's manual for instructions.
-  Use vinegar or a hard water spot cleaner in your appliances to remove the mineral deposits there. Always check the manufacturer's recommendations.
-  You can use the same products for cleaning dishes, windows and other surfaces that have a white or chalky build-up. Just be sure to use caution on metal and other acid-sensitive surfaces.

**Fluoride.** We do not add any fluoride to our water.

**Minden Water, Sunridge Booster.** Carson City has been working with the Town of Minden Water System on the construction of a booster station at Sunridge to provide 3,500 gallons per minute of water.



Precipitation feeds our three surface water sources.



Water is also supplied by 32 wells around town ...



... and by the new booster station at Sunridge.

**THE CARSON CITY WATER CYCLE**

Up to 18 millions gallons per day of fresh water are produced in Carson City.

The average winter day use is 5 million gallons, and the average summer day use is 17.3 million gallons.

The peak day use is 17.9 million gallons.

4.5 million gallons is the average daily inflow to the Wastewater Reclamation Plant.

4.1 million gallons of reuse water are produced daily.



The treated effluent water (now called reuse water) is used by golf courses and the prison farm.



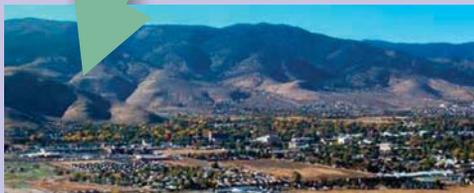
Surface water is treated at the Quill Water Treatment Plant.



One well's water is treated to remove arsenic.



The water is stored in tanks around town until it's needed.



Carson City uses 14.0 to 17.3 million gallons of water per day during the summer peak use season.



The treated waste water is pumped to Brunswick Reservoir for holding during the winter, and is used from there in the summer.



All the wastewater produced in Carson City is treated at the Waste Water Reclamation Plant on East Fifth Street.



The solid material is then disposed of at the Carson City Landfill.

**Water conservation remains an important step citizens can take in preserving the quality and quantity of water in our watershed. Please remember that the "three days per week" watering schedule begins June 1st and ends September 30th. The odd/even watering schedule is determined by the last number of your address. Odd addresses may water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; even addresses on Sunday Wednesday and Friday. No watering on Mondays, to allow our storage tanks to fill. Thank you!**



El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

We'll be happy to answer any questions about Carson City Water and our water quality.  
 For more information contact Rit Palmer at 887-2355.  
 Learn more about the Carson City Public Works at [www.carson.org](http://www.carson.org).

MEMBER: Nevada Rural Water Association, American Water Works Association, Water Environment Federation, American Public Works Association, University of Southern California - Foundation for Cross Connection Control, Re-Use Nevada, The Groundwater Foundation, Carson City Subconservancy District, California Water Environment Association, Nevada Water Environment Association

## **Current Programs and Projects**

Carson City values its natural resources and has implemented a variety of programs for their protection.

These programs include:

- Groundwater recharge
- Wellhead protection
- Annual leak protection (approx. 30 miles per year)
- Treated wastewater reuse (for irrigation)
- Conjunctive use management
- Cross Connection Control Program
- Automatic meter reading
- Customer education
- Ultra-low water use plumbing fixture ordinance
- Three-day-a-week watering, no watering on Mondays
- Pretreatment program
- Septic abatement
- Industrial waste disposal
- Solid waste management
- Household hazardous waste disposal program
- Spills and complaints investigations
- Shallow groundwater monitoring
- School education program
- Annual distribution system flushing program

## **2013 and 2014 Public Works projects**

- The North South Water Transmission Main Phase I was completed and is in use.
- The North Douglas County / Carson City pump station, now called the Sunridge Booster, is complete and active.
- The East West Water Transmission Main Phase I is complete and in use.
- The East West Water Transmission Main Phase II is due to be completed in the 2014 / 2015 fiscal year.
- The Vista Grande Intertie between Douglas County and Carson City will be completed this year.
- The Carson City Freeway Utility Relocations project is continuing.
- The Carson City Source Water Protection Plan is being updated in 2014.

## Overall Picture of Carson City Water System at population of 54,668

### **4 Groundwater Basins:**

Carson Valley      Dayton Valley  
Eagle Valley      Washoe Valley

### **4 Surface Water Sources:**

Ash Canyon    0.8–6.0 NTU  
Kings Canyon    0.3–7.4 NTU  
Carson River    (used as groundwater)  
Marlett/Hobart    0.3–6.1 NTU  
Purchased groundwater from Town of Minden,  
Sunridge Booster

### **32 Municipal Production Wells**

#### **2013 — Total Daily Maximum Production**

16,930,000 gallons (from 30 Wells and  
Treatment Plant)

#### **2013 — Total Storage Capacity**

26,108,000 gallons (15 above-ground Tanks)

### **Average Water Demands**

*(MGD = Million Gallons per Day):*

Average Winter Demand 5.0 MGD  
Average Summer Demand 14.0–17.3 MGD  
Peak Day Demand 17.9 MGD

Carson City currently owns 17,633.81 Acre-Feet (Ac-Ft) of water which, to date 16,660.81 are “usable” water rights. Presently, the City uses approximately 14,000 Ac-Ft. per year. At a population of 75,000 it is predicted that the City’s water usage will be approximately 16,500 Ac-Ft. The Water Utility also has available 3,200 Ac-Ft. of drought storage water rights, which cannot be assigned to new development, but can only be used for emergency purposes and system safety factors, such as in times of severe drought (State Engineer Order 1140).

### **Source Water Protection**

Carson City’s Wellhead Protection Plan is currently being updated to create a comprehensive Source Water Protection Plan. The goal is to establish a partnership between the public, private and community interests to protect the watershed, public health and the environment through an aggressive all-inclusive protection program. The program will focus on preventative rather than a reactive response to protecting our vital water resources.

### **Other Monitoring**

In addition to testing we are required to perform, our water system voluntarily tests for many additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain the water is safe and of high quality.

**Nevada Source Water Assessment Program Summary**  
**State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection**  
**Bureau of Safe Drinking Water**  
**Summary Date: 05/26/2006 Assessor: State**

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act was amended in 1996 and requires states to develop and implement source water assessment programs to analyze existing and potential threats to the quality of public drinking water throughout the state. A summary of the Carson City Public Works, Water System, susceptibility to potential sources of contamination was initially provided by the State of Nevada in 2005. The summary of this source water assessment was first included in the Carson City 2006 Water Quality Report and now may be accessed by calling Carson City Public Works at 775-887-2355 or online at [www.carson.org](http://www.carson.org).

**Water System Contact Information:**

- Water System Name: Carson City Public Works, Water System
- County: Carson City
- BSDW System ID Number: NV0000015
- Number of Connections: 16,685
- Population Served: 56,066
- Owners Rep: Darren Schulz, Public Works Director
- Phone: 775-887-2355
- Fax: 775-887-2164
- Email: [Dschulz@carson.org](mailto:Dschulz@carson.org)
- Address: Carson City Public Works, Water System, 3505 Butti Way, Carson City NV 89701
- Operator: Rit Palmer, Water Operations Manager
- Phone: 775-887-2355
- Fax: 775-887-2164
- Email: [rpalmer@carson.org](mailto:rpalmer@carson.org)
- Address: Carson City Public Works, Water System, 3505 Butti Way, Carson City NV 89701

Information pertaining to the initial findings of the source water assessment is also available for viewing in person at the offices of the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 400, Carson City, NV 89701. Appointments are suggested; please call (775) 687-9520. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS									
Analyte	Year Tested	Units	Ave	Min	Max	MCL	MCLG	Major Sources	Violation
Aluminum	2012	ppb	81	22	310	50 - 200		Secondary MCL	No
Apparent Color	2013	ACU	8	3	10	15		Secondary MCL	No
Arsenic <b>1</b>	2013	ppb	3	1	9	10		Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production waste	No
Barium	2013	ppb	0.02	0.01	0.04	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	No
Bromide	2013	ppb	13	8	25	info			No
Calcium	2013	ppm	26	4	110	info			No
Chloride	2013	ppm	6	2	20	250		Secondary MCL	No
Chromium	2013	ppb	1	1	1	100			No
Fluoride	2013	ppm	0.29	0.05	1.30	2	4	Natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth	No
Iron	2013	ppm	0.28	0.04	0.45	0.60		Secondary MCL	No
Magnesium	2013	ppm	4.38	0.45	8.00	info			No
Manganese	2013	ppb	16	3	54	50.00		Secondary MCL	No
Nitrate as Nitrogen	2013	ppm	1.46	0.15	6.3	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	No
Odor at 60 C	2013	TON	1.9	1.0	2.0	3.00		Secondary MCL	No
pH	2013	Units	7.81	6.90	8.70	6.5 to 8.5		Secondary MCL	No
Potassium	2013	ppm	2.7	1.7	6.1	info			No
Sodium	2013	ppm	18	7	86	info			No
Sulfate	2013	ppm	26	1	320	250		Secondary MCL	No
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	2013	ppm	160	69	640	1000		Secondary MCL	No
Total Hardness	2013	ppm	82	13	290	info			No
Zinc	2013	ppb	42	26	60	5000			No

*Info means that the testing is performed and the results provided for the informational use of our system and customers.*

*Secondary MCL means that the MCL is a secondary, aesthetic standard, and an exceedance does not result in a violation.*

*The AL is the action level, which is the level at which the water system is required to take action to reduce level of lead (or copper).*

LEAD & COPPER									
Analyte	Year Tested	Units	90th Percentile	AL	Sites over AL	Major Sources	Violation		
Copper	2013	ppm	0.29	1	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	No		
Lead	2013	ppb	1.00	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	No		

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS									
Analyte	Year Tested	Units	Ave	Min	Max	MCL	MCLG	Major Sources	Violation
Turbidity <b>2</b>	2013	NTU	0.35	0.12	1.80	5	1	Soil run off	No
Total Coliform <b>3</b>	2013	# of Present or Absent	0	0	0	0 - 2 present	0	Naturally present in the environment, Not a health threat in itself; it is used to indicate whether other potentially harmful bacteria may be present	No
Chlorine Residual <b>4</b>	2013	ppm	0.65	0	4	4		Additive for disinfection of water	No

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS 5									
Analyte	Year Tested	Units	Ave	Min	Max	MCL	MCLG	Major Sources	Violation
Alpha, Gross, excluding Radon & Uranium	2013	pCi/L	11.51	0.20	3	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Alpha Gross, including Radon & Uranium	2013	pCi/L	15.00	0.93	30*	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Beta, Gross	2013	pCi/L	6.04	2.10	14**	50***	0	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Combined Radium	2013	pCi/L	0.80	0.40	1.18	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits	No
Uranium	2013	ppb	21.05	2.50	65*	30	0	Erosion of natural deposits	No

\* Compliance with MCL was based on locational running annual average which was always below the MCL

\*\* Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/L, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required.

\*\*\* The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern.

VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS / SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS									
Analyte	Year Tested	Units	Ave	Min	Max	MCL	MCLG	Major Sources	Violation
2-Butanone (MEK)	2013	ppb	13.90	9.30	20.00	NA	NA		No
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	2013	ppb	0.08	0.06	0.11	50	50	Discharge from chemical factories, flame retardants	No

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS 6									
Analyte	Year Tested	Units	Ave	Min	Max	MCL	MCLG	Major Sources	Violation
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2013	ppb	39.07	2.30	96*	60	NA	By-Products of drinking water chlorination for disinfection	No
Total THM	2013	ppb	35.30	1.40	140*	80	NA	By-Products of drinking water chlorination for disinfection	No

\* Compliance with MCL was based on annual average which was always below the MCL

In 2014 Carson City received notification about a failure to monitor for those contaminants listed below during the 2011 to 2013 sampling period. We are required to issue Public Notice regarding this failure to monitor, but will return to compliance by sampling for them during the upcoming year. As these were failure to monitor violations and not exceedances; no known health effects are believed to have resulted due to the missed samples. **Samples taken both before and after the failure to monitor have indicated no exceedance of the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for any of these contaminants.**

Source Name	Contaminant	Required Sampling	Samples Were Taken	Comments
CC SS21, Arsenic AMP Site for Well 53	Arsenic	December 2013	November 2013, and then January 2014	The sample tap was frozen during December. Samples have been taken monthly both before and after.
Well 44 Source ID W03	Sodium, and Secondary Inorganics	1 sample during 2011 to 2013	In 2008. The required samples will be taken in 2014.	This source has no history of exceedances for these contaminants.
Well 46 Source ID W20	Synthetic Organics	2 samples during 2013	1 sample during 2013, the required samples will be taken in 2014	The well was only operated intermittently due to mechanical issues. This source has no history of exceedances for these contaminants.

Call Kelly Hale, Environmental Control Supervisor at 775-283-7376 for further information.

# An Explanation of the Water Quality Data Table

The table above shows the results of our water quality analysis for 2013. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation – the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), the ideal goals for public health – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to the abbreviations used.

**ARSENIC**<sup>1</sup> — Carson City has seven wells whose output has arsenic levels above the 10 µg/L standard set in 2006. The arsenic levels in the water supplied to our customers has been successfully managed through well use management, and blending between well sources, as well as the use of the Arsenic Treatment Removal Plant on Fifth Street. Compliance with the MCL regulation is based on a running annual average at some sample sites. Samples are taken monthly at those sites.

**TURBIDITY**<sup>2</sup> — The MCL allowable for turbidity is dependent on the treatment used. Carson City uses Diatomaceous Earth filtration, so the MCL for turbidity in our treated water is 1.0 NTU. Turbidity has no health effects, however turbidity can interfere with the disinfection of the water as well as provide a medium for microbial growth.

**TOTAL COLIFORM**<sup>3</sup> — Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. There were no total coliform detections in 2013.

**CHLORINE RESIDUAL**<sup>4</sup> — Chlorine residual is measured at the Quill Water Treatment Plant under the Surface Water Treatment Rule, and throughout the system weekly under the Total Coliform Rule. Under the Surface Water Treatment Rule the water leaving the Quill Water Treatment Plant cannot be less than 0.2 mg/L chlorine for more than 4 hours, and cannot exceed 4 mg/L. The water in the distribution system must have a minimum of 0.05 mg/L chlorine for greater than 97% of the samples taken each month.

**RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS**<sup>5</sup> — Compliance with the standard is based on a running annual average at some sample sites. Water reaching our customers is sampled monthly at those sites. All

of the water reaching our customers in 2013 was in compliance with the Radionuclide Rule standards. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and kidney toxicity.

**DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS**<sup>6</sup> — Eight quarterly samples are taken in Carson City and averaged. Compliance was based on a running annual average of 60 µg/L for Haloacetic Acids, and 80 µg/L for Total Trihalomethanes. Results in 2013 varied from 2.30 – 96 µg/L for Haloacetic Acids, with the average being 39.07 µg/L. The results for Total Trihalomethanes ranged from 1.40 - 140 µg/L, with the average of 35.30 µg/L. Carson City began sampling for the Disinfection Byproducts Rule 2 in October of 2012. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

## Key Abbreviations

**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. The MCLs are set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Nevada Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (NDEP BSDW).

**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.

**NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Units. This unit is a measure of the turbidity of the water as scattering of light, using an instrument and method approved by EPA and NDEP BSDW.

**pCi/L** – Picocuries per Liter. Picocuries is a measure of radioactivity.

**ppm** = mg/L = parts per million, or milligrams per liter

**ppb** = µg/L = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter

#### **ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION**

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).

It is also important that residents have their private wells tested to ensure safe drinking water.

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.
- 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, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

#### **AT-RISK POPULATION**

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).

**Concerning Arsenic in Our Water:** Carson City has seven wells whose output has Arsenic levels in excess of the 10 parts per billion standard set on January 23, 2006. The arsenic level in the water supplying our customers has been successfully managed through well management and blending with other sources. All water supplied to our customers in 2013 was in compliance with the arsenic standard. While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems (40 CFR141.154(b)(1)).

**Concerning Fluoride:** The State of Nevada has set forth a more stringent MCL of 2.0 mg/L for fluoride than the federal limit of 4.0 mg/L assigned nationally. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of the teeth of children, usually in children younger than 9 years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

**Concerning Lead in Our Water:** There have been no detections of lead and copper in the Carson City water above the action level during any of our compliance testing. Carson City Public Works Water Department conducted the required tap sampling for Lead and Copper in July, August and September of 2011, with the help of 30 of our customers. The sampling was accomplished through the cooperation of the homeowners and residents, who were asked to sample their water from a kitchen or bathroom faucet. We thank these customers for their help in meeting our regulatory obligations. These samples are taken to determine the contribution of distribution system pipes, faucets, fixtures and household plumbing and / or solder to the lead and copper levels in the water. The samples taken in 2011 indicated continued compliance with the standards for lead and copper. Our next sampling event for lead and copper will be in the summer of 2014.

If present at elevated levels, 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. Carson City Public Works Water Department 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 drinking 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 on the web at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Concerning Nitrate in Our Water:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause "blue baby syndrome." Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider. Carson City is actively pursuing sewer main extensions and has established a septic abatement program.