

SIERRA LAKES COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

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There has been significant news coverage concerning the presence of lead in drinking water, first in Flint Michigan and most recently at schools and other public facilities throughout the United States. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

The source of lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines (from the street to your house) and/or your home's interior plumbing. The District is not aware of any lead service pipes, but did not control the materials (faucets/fixtures/piping/solder) that may have been installed when your home was constructed. When your water has been sitting for more than six (6) hours, you can minimize the potential for exposure to lead by running your tap for 30 seconds to two (2) minutes or until the water is its coldest. Your family should only use cold water for cooking and drinking as warm water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

The District tests the lake water for 37 different constituents at intervals ranging from three months to nine years. Every three years, the water in 10 homes is sampled for the presence of lead and copper; the most recent sampling was completed in September 2017 with the following results:

- Nine of the 10 homes had a lead level of 3.27 µg/l (microgram per liter, equivalent to one part per billion) or lower as compared to the EPA's action level of 15 µg/l. Of the nine, no lead was detected in three of the houses (the laboratory's detection threshold is 0.5µg/l). The District would be required to take additional action if two or more of the samples were 15µg/l or greater.
- All of the homes showed low levels of copper; none exceeded 284.8µg/l as compared to the EPA's action level threshold of 1,300 µg/l.

The District adds a small amount of zinc orthophosphate during the water treatment process which provides internal corrosion protection of pipes and fixtures and reduces the potential for leaching of lead and copper into the water.

Please do not hesitate to contact the District if you have any questions concerning lead in drinking water or the quality of the drinking water in general.

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