

# VALENCIA WATER COMPANY - GREATER BUCKEYE DIVISION - BULFER SYSTEM

## 2007 WATER QUALITY REPORT

This report concerns the drinking water our utility provides to your home. Please take a moment to review this information and call us if you have any questions about our service to you.  
Valencia Water Company - Greater Buckeye Division - A subsidiary of Global Water (623) 518-4000

### Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

In 2008, the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) authorized the Water Utility of Greater Buckeye to be administratively combined with the Valencia Water Company to form the Valencia Water Company-Greater Buckeye Division. This action was to allow for greater flexibility and efficiency within the utility. Please note all rates and tariffs remain the same.

### Is my water safe?

The Bulfer water system, public water system identification AZ04-07-114, which is part of the Valencia Water Company- Greater Buckeye Division, is dedicated to providing customers with water that meets or exceeds State and Federal drinking water standards. Extensive tests of contaminants have been conducted on your water to ensure your tap water is safe to drink.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues regulations which are promulgated by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and in 2007, your drinking water met or surpassed all State and Federal drinking water standards except where noted in the Important Water System Information section of the report.

Unless otherwise indicated, this report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

### Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants. This information is available from the Federal Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) and on the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

### Where does my water come from?

Three booster pumps and a hydropneumatic tank maintain constant pressure throughout the distribution system and ensure fire flows of approximately 1000 GPM.

The Bulfer water system is served by a well located within its service area that is approximately 270 feet deep with a total production capacity of 40 gallons per minute (GPM). Water from the well is chlorinated for disinfection and stored in a 140,000 gallon storage tank.

### Source water assessment and its availability

Water conservation is everyone's responsibility. You can directly impact the availability of water in your community through judicious use of water by irrigating at night, employing timers for irrigation systems, maximizing xeriscape, fixing leaky faucets, etc.

In 2002 the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) completed a Source Water Assessment for the well used by the Bulfer water system. The Assessment reviewed the hydrogeologic conditions and adjacent land uses that may pose a potential risk to the water sources. These risks include, but are not limited to, gas stations, landfills, dry cleaners, agriculture fields, waste water treatment plants, and mining activities. Once

ADEQ identified the adjacent land uses, they were ranked as to their potential to affect the water sources. The results of the Assessment were that the well had a low risk of contamination due to adjacent land use.

The water is currently protected by well construction and system operations and management. Residents can help protect the well by taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous material collection sites and limiting pesticide and fertilizer use.

\* continued on next page

### Water quality data table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in 2007. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low/High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products*</b> <small>*(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)</small>							
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	5.0	.09 5.0	2007	Yes*	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	1.5	- -	2007	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
THMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	6.9	- -	2007	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<small>*See "Important Water System Information" section for more information on chlorine disinfection</small>							
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	5.8	5.8 8.0	2007	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.18	- -	2007	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	28	- -	2007	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.2	- -	2007	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen](ppm)	10	10	6.4	5.4 6.4	2007	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppm)	.05	.05	.0035	-	2007	No	Selenium is an essential ingredient. However, some people who drink water containing selenium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience hair or fingernail losses, numbness in fingers or toes, or problems with circulation.
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	- -	2007	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	3.1	1.9 3.1	2002	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)		90% of homes tested must have copper levels less than 1.3 ppm		90% of the homes tested had copper levels less than 0.042 ppm	2006	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)		90% of homes tested must have lead levels less than 15 ppb		90% of the homes tested had lead levels less than 4 ppb	2006	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminants	Secondary Standard	Your Water	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source		
<b>Additional Contaminants</b> <small>Secondary inorganic substances do not have an MCL and are measured voluntarily because these substances primarily relate to the taste, odor, or appearance of drinking water. These inorganic substances are found naturally in soil.</small>							
Sodium (ppm)	NR	79			Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching		
Hardness (ppm)	NA	150			Ground water, and to a certain extent surface water, in Arizona is expected to be "hard". This is the result of the natural formation of the aquifers in the state, and the geological history of the area. Hardness is essentially the amount of calcium and magnesium carbonates in the water. Hardness is not a health concern. Hardness does not have a MCL and is measured voluntarily in order to inform customers and track changes in the drinking water.		

Proper backflow prevention practices, such as vacuum breakers on hoses, are important aspects of maintaining water quality. Proper disposal of residual oils and greases, chemicals or cleaners is of paramount importance to ensuring the viability and integrity of our community water supply. As with all water sources, contamination of industrial, agricultural and commercial activities remain a constant threat. Any spills or improperly disposed of chemicals that may in time end up contaminating the aquifer can have an effect on the water quality supplies to customers and can affect the cost of treatment for potable water.

The complete assessment is available for inspection at ADEQ, 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, Arizona 85007, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Electronic copies are available from ADEQ at [dml@azdeq.gov](mailto:dml@azdeq.gov). For more information, call ADEQ's Source Water Assessment and Protection Unit at 602-771-4644 or visit their website [www.azdeq.gov/envirom/water/dw/swap.html](http://www.azdeq.gov/envirom/water/dw/swap.html).

## General information about drinking water

To ensure your tap water is safe to drink, the EPA issues regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for substances in bottled water which must 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- Microbial contaminants including viruses, bacteria or parasites (such as *Cryptosporidium* or *Giardia*), which may come from agricultural or 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 may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff and residential uses;
- Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic compounds, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic tanks;
- Radiochemical contaminants which occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

## For more information please contact:

Valencia Water Company - Greater Buckeye Division, Bulfer System - PWS AZ04-07-114  
 Address: 21410 North 19th Ave. Suite 201 Phoenix, AZ 85027  
 P: 623-518-4000 F: 623-580-9659  
[www.gwresources.com](http://www.gwresources.com)

## How can I get involved?

Bulfer water system customers may get involved in their water system through such activities as well-head protection (activities around wells to prevent the contamination of the ground water source that provides water to our community) and attendance at public meetings to ensure that the community's need for safe drinking water is considered in making decisions about land use.

Water resources throughout the state are under extreme pressure from development and drought and must be conserved to ensure adequate supplies for the future. Avoiding wasting water, employing smart water-use practices and reducing consumption are key elements of life in the desert. All consumers can do their part to conserve water and to dispose properly of household chemicals.

In addition, reporting unauthorized entry or access to the well sites or booster stations is a critical component to ensuring continued safety and security of our community water sources. Should you notice any unusual activity in or around wells or tank sites, please contact law enforcement officials by dialing 911.

## Other information

Global Water owns and operates water and wastewater utilities in Arizona and is staffed with dedicated and professional operators, engineers, planners, customer service representatives and other personnel to ensure safe, compliant operations at all times. If you have any questions or concerns about your water quality do not hesitate to contact Global Water Resources at 623-518-4000 or on the web at [www.gwresources.com](http://www.gwresources.com).

In February 2008, the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) approved the merger of the Water Utility of Greater Buckeye (WUGB) into Valencia Water Company (Valencia), both subsidiaries of Global Water. Customers will soon note a revision to the billing name to Valencia Water Company-Greater Buckeye Division.

## Backflow prevention device information

Bulfer water system has implemented a backflow-prevention program to protect the public water supply from contamination caused by backflow through unprotected cross-connections. The program requires the installation and annual testing of backflow-prevention assemblies in all areas considered to be a potential cross-connection contamination hazard. A backflow prevention device prevents the reverse flow condition created by a difference in water pressure, which causes water to flow back into the distribution pipes of a potable water supply. In doing this it prevents contamination of the water supply. A backflow-prevention assembly shall be installed as close as practicable to the service connection. (Usually just past the water meter on the customer's side).

## Additional information for arsenic

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.

## Additional information for nitrate

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 for advice from your health care provider. Your water does not contain nitrate levels above the MCL, but it exceeds 5 ppm, the value at which we are required to inform our customers.

## Important water system information

### Chlorine (as Cl<sub>2</sub>)

Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort. Drinking water is treated with chlorine to ensure adequate microbial disinfection. Every month the Bulfer Water System collects samples in conjunction with the total coliform samples to ensure adequate disinfection and verify the absence of microbes within the distribution system. The system's goal is to target the residual chlorine at 2.0 ppm.

In January 2007 the chlorine was above the MRDL. In order to protect public health, a system may increase residual disinfectant levels in the distribution system of chlorine to a level and for a time necessary to address specific microbial contamination problems caused by circumstances such as distribution line breaks, storm run-off events, source water contamination events or cross-connection events. Prior to and after this sampling event, the residual chlorine was within the preferred range. When chlorine residuals are outside the preferred range, the system makes necessary adjustments to return the residual to the preferred range.

### Unit descriptions

ppm:	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb:	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L:	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
positive samples/month:	Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA:	Not applicable
ND:	Not detected
NR:	Monitoring not required, but recommended.

### Important drinking water definitions

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.
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.
TT:	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL:	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.	
MRDLG:	Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL:	Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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.
MNR:	Monitored Not Regulated
MPL:	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level