

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By
**City of South Pasadena
Public Works**

Your 2025 South Pasadena Water Quality Report

Introduction

The City of South Pasadena (City) is committed to keeping you informed about the quality of your drinking water. This report is provided to you annually. It includes information describing where your drinking water comes from, the constituents found in your drinking water and how the water quality compares with the regulatory standards.

Regularly scheduled meetings of the City of South Pasadena City Council are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California 91030. The meetings provide an opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water.

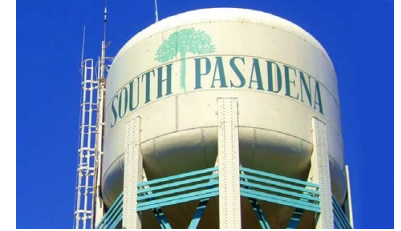
Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

The water supply for the City comes from three sources: (1) groundwater pumped from wells in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin, (2) surface water imported by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) from the Colorado River and from Northern California, and (3) groundwater from the City of Pasadena, which includes Metropolitan water, that is supplied to only the City's Pasadena Zone. Metropolitan filters imported surface water and adds chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, as a residual disinfectant. The City adds chlorine without ammonia, called free chlorine, to groundwater pumped from wells. A residual amount of free chlorine and chloramines in the distribution system helps prevent microorganisms from growing in the pipes.



What Is In My Drinking Water?

Your drinking water is tested by certified professional water system operators and certified laboratories to ensure its safety. The City routinely



tests drinking water from its wells and distribution system pipes for bacterial and chemical contaminants while Metropolitan is responsible for testing its treated surface water purchased by the City. The City of Pasadena is responsible for testing its groundwater purchased by the City for only the Pasadena Zone. The chart in this report shows the average and range of concentrations of the constituents tested in your drinking water during year 2025 or from the most recent tests. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) allows the City to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants in groundwater do not change frequently. Some of our data, although representative, are more than one year old. The chart lists all the contaminants detected in your drinking water that have federal and state drinking water standards. Detected unregulated contaminants of interest are also included. We are proud to report that during 2025, the drinking water provided by the City to your home met or surpassed all federal and state drinking water standards. We remain dedicated to providing you with a reliable supply of high quality drinking water.

Questions?

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact the Public Works Department at 626-403-7240.

此份有關你的食水報告，內有重要資料和訊息，請找他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para más información o traducción, por favor contacte al departamento de obras públicas al 626-403-7240.

Drinking Water Source Assessment

In accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, an assessment of the drinking water sources for the City was completed in December 2002. The assessment concluded that the City's groundwater wells are considered most vulnerable to the following activities or facilities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: dry cleaners, gasoline stations, automobile repair shops, high density housing and medical/dental office/clinics. In addition, the groundwater wells are considered most vulnerable to the following facility not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: leaking underground storage tanks. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the City of South Pasadena Public Works Department at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California 91030. You may request a summary of the assessment to be sent to you by contacting the Public Works Department at 626-403-7240.

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Pasadena's water system was completed in August 2002. The wells in the City of Pasadena were found to be most vulnerable to contamination from automobile gasoline stations, repair shops and body shops; underground storage tanks; and military installations. A copy of the complete assessment is available at Pasadena Water and Power, 150 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 200, Pasadena, California.

Every five years, Metropolitan is required by DDW to examine possible sources of drinking water contamination in its State Water Project and Colorado River source waters. The most recent watershed sanitary surveys of Metropolitan's source water supplies from the Colorado River was updated in 2022 and the State Water Project was updated in 2021. Water from the Colorado River is considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. Water supplies from Northern California's State Water Project are most vulnerable to contamination from urban/stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater. USEPA also requires Metropolitan to complete one Source Water Assessment (SWA) that utilizes information collected in the watershed sanitary surveys. Metropolitan completed its SWA in December 2002. The SWA is used to evaluate the vulnerability of water sources to contamination and helps determine whether more protective measures are needed. A copy of the most recent summary of either Watershed Sanitary Survey or the SWA can be obtained by calling Metropolitan at (800) CALL-MWD.

What Are Water Quality Standards?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and DDW prescribe regulations that limit the amount 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.



Drinking water standards established by USEPA and DDW set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart 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. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **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.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs and MRDLs 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.
- **Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Notification Level (NL):** An advisory level which, if exceeded, requires the drinking water system to notify the governing body of the local agency in which users of the drinking water reside (i.e. city council, board of directors, and county board of supervisors).

Lead in Tap Water

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. The City is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the City at 626-403-7240. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

DDW enforces the Lead and Copper Rule, which follows the USEPA's Lead and Copper Rule, and is used to protect the public's drinking water from metals that can adversely affect public health. The Lead and Copper Rule requires water systems to monitor lead and copper levels at the consumers' taps. In accordance with the Lead and Copper Rule, the City collected the latest lead and copper samples from 32 residences during 2024; lead was detected in the samples collected from three residence with one exceeding the regulatory Action Level (copper was detected in the samples collected from 28 residences but none exceeded the regulatory Action Level). Therefore, the City is in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule.

The City of South Pasadena has prepared the Lead Service Line Inventory and a printed version is available to the public for review. Contact Public Works to schedule an appointment at 626-403-7240 or at pwservicerequest@southpasadenaca.gov.

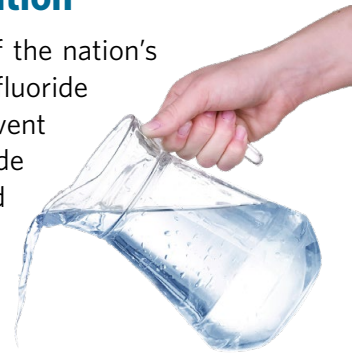
If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Nitrate In Tap Water

Although nitrate in your drinking water never exceeds the MCL of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/l), nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. 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 for advice from your health care provider.

Drinking Water Fluoridation

Metropolitan joined a majority of the nation's public water suppliers by adding fluoride to drinking water in order to prevent tooth decay. The average fluoride level in Metropolitan's treated water is 0.7 mg/l. The City does not add additional fluoride to the local water because fluoride occurs naturally in groundwater. As shown on the water quality chart, the average fluoride concentration in the City's groundwater is 0.97 mg/l, while the average fluoride concentration in the City of Pasadena's groundwater that is supplied to only the Pasadena Zone is 0.8 mg/l.



What Is A Water Quality Goal?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and DDW 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. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart 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.

Are There Any Precautions The Public Should Consider?

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. USEPA/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 Contaminants May Be Present In Sources Of Drinking Water?

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

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.

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 (1-800-426-4791).



City of South Pasadena 2025 Water Quality Table

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--HEALTH-RELATED STANDARDS													
				SOUTH PASADENA GROUNDWATER			PASADENA GROUNDWATER (Pasadena Zone Only)			METROPOLITAN IMPORTED WATER			
CONSTITUENTS AND MEASUREMENT UNITS	MCL OR [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) OR [MRDLG]	DLR	RESULT (a)	RANGE	MOST RECENT TEST	RESULT (a)	RANGE	MOST RECENT TEST	RESULT (a)	RANGE	MOST RECENT TEST	TYPICAL ORIGINS
Filter Effluent Turbidity (NTU) (b)	TT = 1 NTU	NA	NA		NR			NR		0.06	--	Continuous Testing	Soil runoff
	TT = 95% of samples ≤0.3 NTU									100%	--		
MICROBIOLOGICAL													
<i>E. Coli</i>	(c)	(0)	NA	0 (highest number of detections)		Weekly	MCL Compliance Determined from Testing in the South Pasadena Distribution System			MCL Compliance Determined from Testing in the South Pasadena Distribution System			Human and animal fecal waste
DISINFECTANT AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS (d)													
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (µg/l)	80	NA	1	1.9	ND - 1.9	Quarterly	MCL Compliance Determined from Testing in the South Pasadena Distribution System			MCL Compliance Determined from Testing in the South Pasadena Distribution System			By-product of drinking water disinfection
Halooacetic acids (five) (HAA5) (µg/l)	60	NA	1 - 2	0.3	ND	Quarterly							By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine Residual (mg/l)	[4]	[4]	NA	0.48	0.2 - 1.8	Weekly							Drinking water disinfectant
ORGANIC CHEMICALS													
1,2,3-Trichloropropane (ng/l)	5	0.7	5	ND	ND	Weekly	ND	ND	2025	ND	ND	2025	Discharge from industrial or agricultural activities
Carbon Tetrachloride (ng/l)	500	100	500	ND	ND	Monthly	ND	ND	2025	ND	ND	2025	Discharge from industrial activities
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (µg/l)	6	100	0.5	ND	ND	Monthly	ND	ND	2025	ND	ND	2025	Discharge from industrial activities
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (µg/l)	5	0.06	0.5	1.8	ND - 3.1	Monthly	ND	ND - 0.9	2025	ND	ND	2025	Discharge from industrial activities
Trichloroethylene (TCE) (µg/l)	5	1.7	0.5	1.1	ND - 2.2	Monthly	ND	ND - 0.5	2025	ND	ND	2025	Discharge from industrial activities
INORGANIC CHEMICALS													
Aluminum (mg/l)	1	0.6	0.05	ND	ND	2025	ND	ND	2025	0.096	ND - 0.1	2025	Used for filtration treatment of surface water
Arsenic (µg/l)	10	0.004	2	ND	ND - 2	2025	ND	ND	2025	ND	ND	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (mg/l)	1	2	0.1	ND	ND	2025	ND	ND	2025	0.13	0.13	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate (µg/l)	10	0.1	1		NR		NR			3	ND - 12	2025	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Copper (mg/l) (e)	AL = 1.3	0.3	0.05	0.48	ND - 1.0 (0 / 32 Samples Exceeded the AL)	2024	MCL Compliance Determined from Testing in the South Pasadena Distribution System			MCL Compliance Determined from Testing in the South Pasadena Distribution System			Corrosion of household plumbing system
Fluoride (mg/l) Naturally-occurring	2	1	0.1	0.97	0.83 - 1.1	2025	0.8	0.6 - 1.2	2025	NR			Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/l) Treatment-related	2	1	0.1		NR		NR			0.7	0.5 - 0.8	2025	Water additive for dental health
Hexavalent Chromium (µg/l)	10	0.02	0.1	3.5	2.3 - 4.6	2024	2.9	ND - 5.7	2025	ND	ND	2025	Erosion of natural deposits, Industrial waste discharge
Lead (µg/l) (e)	AL = 15	0.2	5	ND	ND - 59 (1 / 32 Samples Exceeded the AL)	2024	MCL Compliance Determined from Testing in the South Pasadena Distribution System			MCL Compliance Determined from Testing in the South Pasadena Distribution System			Corrosion of household plumbing system
Nitrate as N (mg/l)	10	10	0.4	4.9	ND - 6.7	Monthly	4.6	1.1 - 6.4	2025	ND	ND	2025	Leaching from fertilizer use
Perchlorate (µg/l)	6	1	1	ND	ND - 1.6	Monthly	1.7	ND - 3.7	2025	ND	ND	2025	Discharge from industrial activities
RADIOACTIVITY													
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/l)	15	(0)	3	ND	ND	2022	6.4	ND - 12	2025	ND	ND	2023	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/l)	50	(0)	4		NR		NR			ND	ND - 5	2025	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Uranium (pCi/l)	20	0.43	1	1.5	1.4 - 1.5	2022	8	1.7 - 14	2025	ND	ND - 3	2023	Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--AESTHETIC STANDARDS, NOT HEALTH-RELATED													
				SOUTH PASADENA GROUNDWATER			PASADENA GROUNDWATER (Pasadena Zone Only)			METROPOLITAN IMPORTED WATER			
CONSTITUENTS AND MEASUREMENT UNITS	MCL OR [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) OR [MRDLG]	DLR	RESULT (a)	RANGE	MOST RECENT TEST	RESULT (a)	RANGE	MOST RECENT TEST	RESULT (a)	RANGE	MOST RECENT TEST	TYPICAL ORIGINS
Aluminum (µg/l) (f)	200	600	50	ND	ND	2025	ND	ND	2025	96	ND - 100	2025	Used for filtration treatment of surface water
Chloride (mg/l)	500	NA	NA	21	19 - 23	2025	48	24 - 82	2025	92	86 - 98	2025	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Color (Units)	15	NA	NA	ND	ND	2025	ND	ND - 1	2025	1	1	2025	Naturally occurring organic materials
Odor-Threshold (Units)	3	NA	NA	ND	ND - 1	2025	1	ND - 1	2025	ND	ND	2025	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600	NA	NA	420	410 - 430	2025	610	490 - 730	2025	870	750 - 980	2025	Substances that form ions in water
Sulfate (mg/l)	500	NA	NA	41	33 - 49	2025	89	42 - 160	2025	180	140 - 210	2025	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)	1,000	NA	NA	270	260 - 270	2025	410	340 - 480	2025	540	460 - 620	2025	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5	NA	NA	0.20	0.15 - 0.25	2025	0.1	ND - 0.2	2025	ND	ND	2025	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED CHEMICALS

				SOUTH PASADENA GROUNDWATER			PASADENA GROUNDWATER (Pasadena Zone Only)			METROPOLITAN IMPORTED WATER			
CONSTITUENTS AND MEASUREMENT UNITS	MCL OR [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) OR [MRDLG]	DLR	RESULT (a)	RANGE	MOST RECENT TEST	RESULT (a)	RANGE	MOST RECENT TEST	RESULT (a)	RANGE	MOST RECENT TEST	TYPICAL ORIGINS
Alkalinity (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	110	110	2025	200	170 - 220	2025	110	95 - 120	2025	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Calcium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	33	31 - 34	2025	60	55 - 67	2025	56	43 - 70	2025	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Magnesium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	10	9 - 10	2025	17	13 - 22	2025	22	19 - 25	2025	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
pH (pH units)	NA	NA	NA	7.9	7.9	2025	7.5	7.3 - 7.8	2025	8.2	8.2 - 8.3	2025	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Potassium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	1.7	1.6 - 1.8	2025	2.5	1.9 - 3.7	2025	4.4	3.8 - 5	2025	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

OTHER CONSTITUENTS OF INTEREST

				SOUTH PASADENA GROUNDWATER			PASADENA GROUNDWATER (Pasadena Zone Only)			METROPOLITAN IMPORTED WATER			
CONSTITUENTS AND MEASUREMENT UNITS	MCL OR [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) OR [MRDLG]	DLR	RESULT (a)	RANGE	MOST RECENT TEST	RESULT (a)	RANGE	MOST RECENT TEST	RESULT (a)	RANGE	MOST RECENT TEST	TYPICAL ORIGINS
Hardness as CaCO3 (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	150	140 - 150	2021	220	200 - 260	2025	230	190 - 280	2025	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (mg/l)	NA	NA	NA	38	33 - 43	2025	38	25 - 58	2025	89	78 - 100	2025	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

NOTES

mg/l = parts per million or milligrams per liter

µg/l = parts per billion or micrograms per liter

pCi/l = picoCuries per liter

µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

AL = Action Level

DLR = Detection Limit for Purposes of Reporting

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

ND = Not Detected at DLR

NA = No Applicable Limit or data

NR = Not Required to be Sampled

PHG = Public Health Goal

(a) The results reported in the table are average concentrations of the constituents detected in your drinking water during year 2025 or from the most recent tests, except for filter effluent turbidity, TTHM, HAA5, chlorine residual, lead, and copper which are described below.

(b) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, an indication of particulate matter, some of which might include harmful microorganisms that are difficult to detect, such as the parasites Giardia and Cryptosporidium. Consistently low turbidity in Metropolitan's filtered water indicates complete removal of any harmful microorganisms that may be present. The table gives the highest single turbidity measurement that was recorded and the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the requirements of the surface water treatment technique.

(c) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is E. coli-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for E. coli.

(d) Samples were collected in the City of South Pasadena distribution system. The running annual averages and the range of the individual results for chlorine residuals, TTHM and HAA5 are reported.

(e) Thirty-two lead and copper samples were collected in August 2024 and September 2024 at residential taps. The 90th percentile concentration is reported in the table. Out of 32 residences sampled, copper was detected at or above the DLR in 28 samples but none exceeded the Action Level. Out of 32 residences sampled, lead was detected above the DLR in three samples, with one exceeding the Action Level.

(f) Aluminum also has a secondary MCL of 200 µg/l.

How Are Contaminants Measured?

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. Contaminants are measured in:

- parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
(3 drops in 42 gallons = a large bathtub)
- parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l)
(1 drop in 14,000 gallons = an average size swimming pool)
- parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/l)
(1 drop in 14,000,000 gallons = an average lake)

For more information or questions, please contact Public Works Department, City of South Pasadena, 825 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California 91030. Telephone: (626) 403-7240