

Outcomes of the Blind Water Taste Test  
Centennial Celebration of the Citrus Experiment Station  
University of California, Riverside  
April 21, 2007

The UC Center for Water Resources conducted a blind taste test of public water supply (tap water) and bottled water for visitors at the Centennial Celebration of the University of California Citrus Experiment Station on April 21, 2007.

The public water supply came from the tap of a home in the City of Riverside and the bottled water came from 5-gallon home delivery bottles of a water supplier in the Inland Empire. The water was not cooled by ice as the cold temperature tends to mask the taste sensory.

For the 382 people who tasted the water and submitted ballots:  
160 (42%) favored water A (the public water supply)  
214 (56%) favored the water B (bottled water delivered to a home)  
8 (2%) were not able to distinguish the difference

This was an informal poll that did not involve randomization, replication, or control groups in sources of water and/or tasters. Had different sources of water been chosen, the outcomes may have differed as has been demonstrated in past UC Center for Water Resources Blind Water Taste Tests.

Additional information about bottled water and public water supply in Southern California may be found on the websites listed below:

<http://safedrinkingwater.com/>

<http://www.ioe.ucla.edu/RC05.pdf>

<http://www.riversideca.gov/utilities/pdf/wqar/WQAR2005.pdf>

[http://www.emwd.org/water\\_service/ccr\\_2006/ccr\\_EMWD\\_06.pdf](http://www.emwd.org/water_service/ccr_2006/ccr_EMWD_06.pdf)

<http://www.wmwd.com/waterquality.htm>

<http://www.mwdh2o.com/mwdh2o/pages/yourwater/ywater01.html>