ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By
Tuolumne Utilities District

Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Substances That Could Be in 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.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants that can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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, 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 (800-426-4791) or epa.gov/safewater.

Community Participation

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the district's regularly scheduled board meetings, which occur on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. These meetings are held in accordance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. During the board meeting, members of the public who wish to provide public comment will be invited to do so by the board president.

Options for public access audio and video livestreaming: The public will not have access to public comments via this media option; it is available for audio and video only. The public may observe and listen to this meeting at Tuolumne Utilities District on YouTube. The district is providing this option as a convenience to the public. If the district experiences technical difficulties and the transmission goes down, the meeting will continue in person as scheduled.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Rachel Taylor, Regulatory Compliance Specialist, at (209) 532-5536, extension 537.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The most important factor in water quality is the source. Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) receives its water from two sources: surface water that originates from rainfall and runoff from snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and groundwater wells throughout our water systems. The district comprises 11 water service areas, which include nine surface water treatment plants and nine active wells. These produce and supply quality drinking water to the service areas.

Our surface water is delivered to TUD treatment plants starting at the South Fork of the Stanislaus River at Lyons Reservoir via the Tuolumne Main Canal by agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). PG&E owns and operates Pinecrest Lake, Lyons Reservoir, and the Tuolumne Main Canal. Approximately 96 percent of TUD's annual water needs are supplied with surface water from Lyons Reservoir and Pinecrest Lake; the other 4 percent is supplied by groundwater wells either as a primary source or a backup source.

To learn more about our watershed online, visit U.S. EPA's How's My Waterway at epa.gov/waterdata/hows-my-waterway.

Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Tuolumne Utility District is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling does not remove lead from water.

Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact Regulatory Compliance Specialist Rachel Taylor, Tuolumne Utilities District, at (209) 532-5536. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. Please contact the utility company for information on the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Tuolumne Utilities District has completed the initial lead service line inventory required by U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. The deadline for the initial inventories is October 16, 2024. Through completing a historical records review and field investigations, Tuolumne Utilities District has determined it has no lead or galvanized requiring replacement service lines in its distribution system. [Add/remove the next sentence as appropriate]. This includes any privately or customer-owned service lines.

Tuolumne Utilities District reviewed all applicable sources of information, including

[A records review is required under the LCRR. Add/remove sources or edit information as appropriate for your system. You may also choose to describe any of the below bullet points in more detail.]

- All construction and plumbing codes, permits, and existing records or other documentation that indicates the service line materials;
- All water system records, including distribution system maps and drawings, historical records on each service connection, meter installation records, historical capital improvement or master plans, and standard operating procedures;
- All inspections and records of the distribution system that indicate service line material, including inspections conducted during the course of normal operations (e.g., checking service line materials when reading water meters or performing maintenance activities); and
- All previous service line or meter replacements were conducted.

In addition to reviewing the above sources of information, Tuolumne Utilities District physically inspected all service lines in its distribution system, regardless of ownership. All service lines were verified to be non-lead, composed of galvanized steel, copper, and PVC plastic.

[DDW recommends that all systems document any new material information for inventory updates during normal operations. Add the next sentence if applicable.] Tuolumne Utilities District will update service line material information obtained from normal operations, such as service line maintenance, installation, or water meter readings, after October 2024 and will update the initial inventory accordingly.

What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit bit.ly/3Z5AMm8.

What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, and toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium Serratia marcescens. Serratia is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including humans). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of these sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to clean and dry these surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence. Serratia will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

Why We Test So Often

Drinking water is one of the most closely monitored resources in the United States. Water systems regularly test for bacteria, disinfectants, metals, organic chemicals, radioactive substances, and many other contaminants. Some tests are performed daily, while others are conducted weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, depending on regulatory requirements and system size. Microbiological testing for bacteria such as coliforms ensures that disinfection is working properly. Turbidity monitoring confirms effective filtration. Chemical testing verifies that treatment processes remain optimized. All certified laboratories must meet strict quality assurance requirements to ensure accurate results. When results approach regulatory limits, corrective actions are taken immediately.

Tip Top Tap

The most common signs that your faucet or sink is affecting the quality of your drinking water are discolored water, sink or faucet stains, a buildup of particles, unusual odors or tastes, and a reduced flow of water. The solutions to these problems may be in your hands.

Kitchen Sink and Drain

Handwashing, soap scum buildup, and the handling of raw meats and vegetables can contaminate your sink. Clogged drains can lead to unclean sinks and backed-up water in which bacteria (i.e., pink or black slime growth) can grow and contaminate the sink area and faucet, causing a rotten egg odor. Disinfect and clean the sink and drain area regularly and flush with hot water.

Faucets, Screens, and Aerators

Chemicals and bacteria can splash and accumulate on the faucet screen and aerator, which are located on the tip of faucets and can collect particles like sediment and minerals, resulting in a decreased flow from the faucet. Clean and disinfect the aerators or screens on a regular basis.

Check with your plumber if you find particles in the faucet screen, as they could be pieces of plastic from the hot water heater dip tube. Faucet gaskets can break down and cause black, oily slime. If you find this slime, replace the faucet gasket with a higher-quality product. White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and showerheads may be caused by water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.

Water Filtration/Treatment Devices

A smell of rotten eggs can be a sign of bacteria on the filters or in the treatment system. The system can also become clogged over time, so regular filter replacement is important. (Remember to replace your refrigerator filter!)

How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

The typical water treatment process requires several steps to ensure that your water is safe, wholesome, and free of contaminants.

Intake from source water: This is where the water entering the treatment process is screened to remove large debris.

Coagulation: Small particles are brought together to form a large floc, which allows for the majority of sediment to settle out of the water.

Filtration: The remaining finer particles are filtered from the water using specially designed filter media.

Disinfection: A disinfectant is applied to the water to kill any bacteria that may be present in the water.

Storage: The finished water product is stored in sealed tanks, from which it is then delivered to the consumer.

Quality monitoring: Water quality is monitored at the treatment process and throughout the distribution system to ensure that the water is in compliance with federal and state standards at all times.

Fixtures With Green Stains

A green or blue-green stain on kitchen or bathroom fixtures is caused by tiny amounts of copper that dissolve in your home's copper plumbing system when the water sits unused overnight. Copper staining may be the result of a leaky faucet or a faulty toilet flush valve, so be sure your plumbing is in good working order.

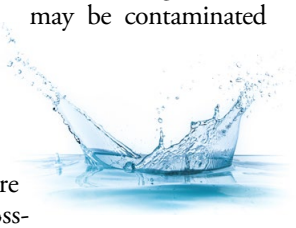
Copper stains may also be caused by overly hot tap water. Generally speaking, you should maintain your water temperature at a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. You should consult the owner's manual for your heater or check with your plumber to determine your current heat setting. Lowering your water temperature will reduce the staining problem and save you money on your energy bill.

Also keep in mind that a tap that is used often throughout the day usually will not produce copper stains, so if you flush the tap for a minute or so before using the water for cooking or drinking, copper levels will be reduced.

What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air-conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.



Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection.

For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit bit.ly/3IeRyXy.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA (epa.gov) and CDC (cdc.gov) provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. The Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management site (goo.gl/kGepu4) provides complete and current information on water issues in California, including valuable information about our watershed.

Benefits of Chlorination

Disinfection, a chemical process used to control disease-causing microorganisms by killing or inactivating them, is unquestionably the most important step in drinking water treatment. By far, the most common method of disinfection in North America is chlorination.

Before communities began routinely treating drinking water with chlorine (starting with Chicago and Jersey City in 1908), cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis A killed thousands of U.S. residents annually. Drinking water chlorination and filtration have helped to virtually eliminate these diseases in the U.S. Significant strides in public health are directly linked to the adoption of drinking water chlorination. In fact, the filtration of drinking water and the use of chlorine are probably the most significant public health advancements in human history.

How chlorination works:

- Potent Germicide Reduction of many disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water to almost immeasurable levels.
- Taste and Odor Reduction of many disagreeable tastes and odors from foul-smelling algae secretions, sulfides, and decaying vegetation.
- Biological Growth Elimination of slime bacteria, molds, and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains, and in storage tanks.
- Chemical Removal of hydrogen sulfide (which has a rotten egg odor), ammonia, and other nitrogenous compounds that have unpleasant tastes and hinder disinfection. It also helps to remove iron and manganese from raw water.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It's not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips.

- Automatic dishwashers use three to six gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through them.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use, and avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

Disinfection By-Products Explained

Disinfection by-products, commonly called DBPs, form when disinfectants such as chlorine react with naturally occurring organic matter in water. Two of the most commonly monitored DBPs are total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5). While disinfectants play a vital role in protecting public health by killing harmful bacteria and viruses, these reactions can produce small amounts of DBPs. Long-term exposure to elevated levels of DBPs has been associated with increased health risks, which is why strict federal standards regulate these substances.

We carefully balance the need for effective disinfection with the control of DBP formation. This includes optimizing treatment processes, managing natural organic matter, maintaining proper disinfectant levels, and adjusting system operations seasonally. Customers can help reduce DBP exposure at home by allowing tap water to run briefly before use, using certified carbon filters, and refrigerating drinking water to allow some DBPs to dissipate.

Disinfection remains one of the most important public health achievements in modern history. Water utilities continuously work to ensure that water is both microbiologically safe and compliant with DBP regulations.

FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

NEVER:

- Pour FOG down the house or storm drains.
- Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.
- Use the toilet as a wastebasket.

ALWAYS:

- Scrape and collect FOG into a waste container such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.
- Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products, including nonbiodegradable wipes.

Q&A

Why can tap water have a taste?
Taste in drinking water is usually related to naturally occurring minerals, disinfectants, or seasonal changes in source water. While these characteristics may affect taste, they do not typically indicate a health risk.

Why is water sometimes called the "original energy drink"?
Water helps regulate body temperature, supports digestion, and keeps joints moving—without sugar, calories, or caffeine.

Can weather affect drinking water quality?
Heavy rain, drought, or seasonal changes can influence source water conditions. Water systems adjust treatment processes as needed to maintain water quality during changing environmental conditions.

Why is maintaining water infrastructure important?
Pipes, pumps, and treatment facilities are critical for delivering safe drinking water. Regular maintenance and upgrades help prevent leaks, breaks, and service disruptions.

What can customers do to help protect water quality?
Customers can help by reporting leaks, avoiding cross-connections, maintaining household plumbing, and staying informed through their annual water quality report.

BY THE NUMBERS

82 The average number of gallons of water an American uses per day.

27% The percent of household water use attributable to toilets.

700 The average number of gallons that a household can save each year with water-efficient fixtures.

50-100 The typical design lifespan of underground drinking water pipes, in years.

<1% The percent of Earth's water that is readily available as fresh drinking water.

Hard vs. Soft Water

"Hard" water contains higher levels of naturally occurring minerals, primarily calcium and magnesium. These minerals are not harmful to human health and can even contribute beneficial nutrients. However, hard water can cause scale buildup in pipes, appliances, and fixtures. "Soft" water has lower mineral content and allows soap to lather more easily. It also helps extend the life of water heaters, washing machines, and plumbing fixtures. Hardness levels vary widely depending on local geology and groundwater conditions. Some households choose to install water softeners to reduce scaling and improve appliance efficiency. It is important to note that water hardness is a quality issue, not a safety concern. Both hard and soft water supplied by public water systems meet all health-based drinking water standards.

Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for all TUD water systems was completed in 2022. The vulnerability summary for each system is included. The complete assessment for each system may be viewed at the California Division of Drinking Water, Yosemite District 28 Office, 265 West Bullard Avenue, Suite 101, Fresno.

VULNERABILITY	APPLE VALLEY	PEACEFUL PINES	PHOENIX LAKE	SONORA	PONDEROSA	TUOLUMNE	UPPER BASIN	COLUMBIA	CEDAR RIDGE	SCENIC VIEW	WARDS FERRY
Sewer Collection	X			X		X	X	X			
Septic System Low Density				X		X		X			X
Septic System High Density		X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
Grazing	X						X				X
Other Animal Operations	X						X				
Lumber Processing/ Manufacturing	X			X							
Wood/Pulp/Mills								X			
Recreational/Surface water source				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Historic waste dumps/ landfills				X			X				
Auto/Machine Shop				X							
Car Washing				X							
Dry Cleaners				X							
Highways/Transportation Corridor				X							

Protecting Your Water

Bacteria are a natural and important part of our world. There are around 40 trillion bacteria living in each of us; without them, we would not be able to live healthy lives. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern, however, because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease.

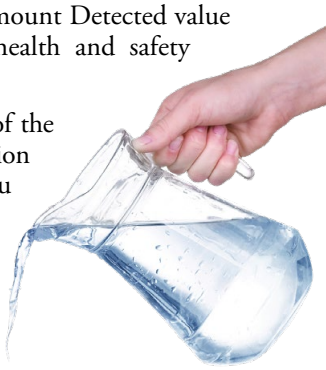
In 2016 the U.S. EPA passed a regulation called the Revised Total Coliform Rule, which requires water systems to take additional steps to ensure the integrity of the drinking water distribution system by monitoring for the presence of bacteria like total coliform and E. coli. The rule requires more stringent standards than the previous regulation, and it requires water systems that may be vulnerable to contamination to have procedures in place that will minimize the incidence of contamination. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment and correct any problems quickly. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under this regulation due to its more preventive approach to identifying and fixing problems that may affect public health.

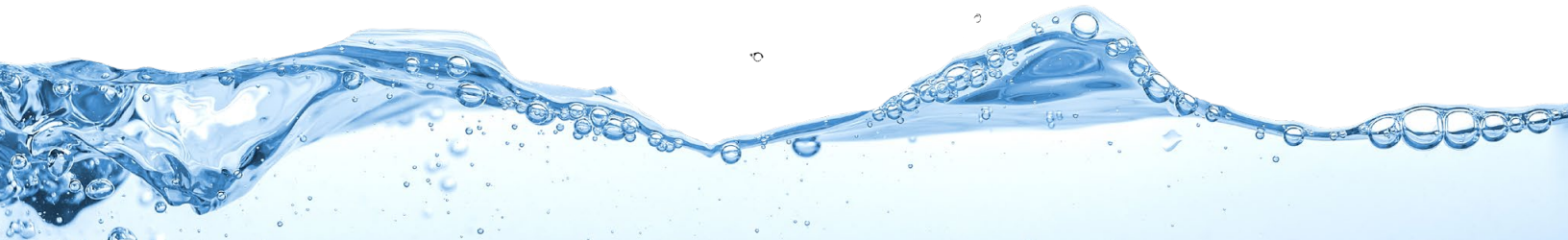
Though we are fortunate in having the highest-quality drinking water, our goal is to eliminate all potential pathways of contamination into our distribution system, and this requirement helps us accomplish that goal.

Table Talk

Get the most out of the Testing Results data table with these simple suggestions. In less than a minute, you will know all there is to know about your water.

- For each substance listed, compare the value in the Amount Detected column against the value in the MCL (or AL or SMCL) column. If the Amount Detected value is smaller, your water meets the health and safety standards set for the substance.
- Verify that there were no violations of the state or federal standards in the Violation column. If there was a violation, you will see a detailed description of the event in this report.
- If there is an ND or a less-than symbol (<), that means that the substance was not detected (i.e., below the detectable limits of the testing equipment).
- The Range column displays the lowest and highest sample readings. NA means only a single sample was taken to test for the substance (assuming there is a reported value in the Amount Detected column).
- If there is sufficient evidence to indicate from where the substance originates, it will be listed under Typical Source.





Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES (TABLE 1 OF 2)

				Apple Valley		Columbia/Big Hill		Peaceful Pines		Ponderosa			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	2024	1	0.6	ND	NA	ND[1]	NA	ND	NA	ND[1]	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Asbestos (MFL)	2025	7	7	ND	NA	ND[2]	NA	ND	NA	ND[3]	NA	No	Internal corrosion of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	1.26	0.59–1.92	1.7	NA	0.82	0.37–1.26	1.75	1.7–1.8	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Control of DBP Precursors [TOC] (ppm)	2025	TT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.55	1.1–2.0	No	Various natural and human-made sources
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	2.0	1	0.11	ND–0.16	ND[1]	NA	0.17	NA	ND[1]	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2024	15	(0)	0.92	ND–1.84	0.92[6]	ND–1.83[6]	3.83	NA	1.33[6]	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2023	60	NA	ND	NA	47[1]	33–61[1]	ND	NA	44[1]	27–61[1]	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Magnesium (ppm)	2024	NS	NA	20.3	19–22	0.88[1]	0.85–0.91[1]	10	NA	0.86[1]	NA	No	Runoff and erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.17	ND–0.51	ND	NA	ND	NA	ND	NA	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2023	80	NA	2.5	NA	40[1]	13–67[1]	1.7	NA	58[1]	47–69[1]	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2024	TT	NA	0.21	NA	0.05[1]	NA	0.16	NA	0.06[1]	NA	No	Soil runoff

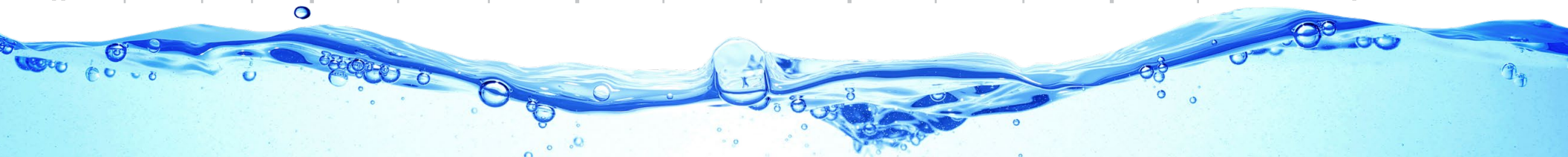
REGULATED SUBSTANCES (TABLE 2 OF 2)

				Sonora		Tuolumne		Upper Basin		Wards Ferry			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	2024	1	0.6	0.05[1]	NA	ND[1]	NA	ND[1]	NA	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Asbestos (MFL)	2025	7	7	0.20[4]	NA	1.0[2]	NA	ND[2]	NA	ND[5]	NA	No	Internal corrosion of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	1.7	1.6–1.8	1.65	1.5–1.8	1.8	1.7–1.9	0.69	0.10–1.28	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Control of DBP Precursors [TOC] (units)	2025	TT	NA	2.3	1.1–3.3	1.4	0.69–2.2	1.82	1.49–2.15	NA	NA	No	Various natural and human-made sources
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	2.0	1	ND[1]	NA	ND[1]	NA	ND[1]	NA	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2024	15	(0)	ND[6]	NA	ND[6]	NA	0.72	NA	1.22[7]	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2023	60	NA	38[1]	26–50[1]	33[1]	15–51[1]	35[1]	21–49[1]	ND	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Magnesium (ppm)	2024	NS	NA	1.3[1]	NA	0.77[1]	NA	0.75[1]	0.60–0.83[1]	18	NA	No	NA
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2025	10	10	ND	NA	ND	NA	ND	NA	4.7[4]	NA	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2023	80	NA	49.5[1]	33–66[1]	43[1]	18–68[1]	38.5[1]	23–54[1]	2.7	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2024	TT	NA	0.05[1]	NA	0.12[1]	NA	0.06[1]	NA	ND	NA	No	Soil runoff

LEAD & COPPER (TABLE 1 OF 3)

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

				Apple Valley			Columbia/Big Hill			Peaceful Pines				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.365	0.17–0.40	0/5	0.110	ND–0.140	0/20	ND	ND–ND	0/5[4]	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0.2	ND	ND–ND	0/5	0.005	ND–0.016	0/20	ND	ND–ND	0/5[4]	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits



LEAD & COPPER (TABLE 2 OF 3)

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

				Ponderosa			Sonora			Tuolumne				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.11[4]	ND–0.11	0/11[4]	0.068[1]	ND–0.085[1]	0/30[1]	0.11[4]	ND–0.11	0/11[4]	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0.2	ND[4]	ND–ND	0/11[4]	ND[1]	ND–0.006[1]	0/30[1]	ND[4]	ND–ND	0/11[4]	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

LEAD & COPPER (TABLE 3 OF 3)

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

				Upper Basin			Wards Ferry				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.15	ND–0.28	0/20	0.47[4]	0.32–0.49	0/5[4]	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0.2	ND	ND–ND	0/20	ND[4]	ND–ND	0/5[4]	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES (TABLE 1 OF 2)

				Apple Valley		Columbia/Big Hill		Peaceful Pines		Ponderosa			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2024	500	NS	8.1	7.0–9.1	ND[1]	NA	ND	NA	ND[1]	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	2024	300	NS	0.27	ND–0.83	ND[1]	NA	ND	NA	ND[1]	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2025	50	NS	43	ND–82	ND	NA	54	NA	ND	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	2024	500	NS	11.4	4.3–17	ND[1]	NA	2.6	NA	ND[1]	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Zinc (ppm)	2024	5.0	NS	ND	NA	ND[1]	NA	410	NA	ND[1]	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES (TABLE 2 OF 2)

				Sonora		Tuolumne		Upper Basin		Wards Ferry			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2024	500	NS	1.8[1]	NA	ND[1]	NA	1.3[1]	ND–3.8[1]	8.7	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	2024	300	NS	ND[1]	NA	ND[1]	NA	ND[1]	NA	ND	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2025	50	NS	0.03	NA	14	NA	ND	NA	ND[4]	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	2024	500	NS	1.6[1]	NA	ND[1]	NA	ND[1]	NA	6.0	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Zinc (ppm)	2024	5.0	NS	ND	NA	ND	NA	ND[1]	NA	ND	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [8]

		Apple Valley		Columbia/Big Hill		Peaceful Pines		Ponderosa		Sonora		Tuolumne		Upper Basin		Wards Ferry		
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2024	190	140–220	11.0[1]	NA	89	NA	11[1]	NA	16[1]	NA	11[1]	NA	9.9	7.7–12.0	150	NA	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2024	12.3	11–13	1.5[1]	1.4–1.5[1]	9.6	NA	1.8[1]	NA	2.7[1]	NA	1.7[1]	NA	3.57[1]	1.6–7.9[1]	ND	NA	NA

[1] Sampled in 2025.
[2] Sampled in 2022.
[3] Sampled in 2021.
[4] Sampled in 2024.
[5] Sampled in 2018.
[6] Sampled in 2023.
[7] Sampled in 2019.

[8] Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

About Our Reporting Violation

We are required to monitor your drinking water for total coliform bacteria on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether your drinking water meets health standards. Water systems send their drinking water samples to a laboratory for regulatory testing. In April and May 2025, we were unaware that the laboratory's accreditation for bacteria testing had expired on March 31, 2025. Bacteriological water samples were collected and analyzed by the laboratory after its accreditation had expired, and therefore the SWRCB, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), did not accept the results for regulatory compliance in April and May 2025.

To correct the violation, the district is making the following changes:

1. Using the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP)-accredited laboratory California Laboratory Services, Certificate 1233; and
2. Continually checking on ELAP certification through the SWRCB DDW to ensure compliance.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Regulatory Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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 are set by the U.S. EPA.

MFL (million fibers per liter): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NS: No standard.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

PHG (Public Health Goal): 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 EPA.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.