

City of Santa Barbara

JUNE 2024

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT



SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Water

MESSAGE FROM THE WATER RESOURCES MANAGER



As your Water Resources Manager, it is my responsibility to ensure the availability and quality of our community's drinking water and safe and responsible treatment of the community's wastewater. Over the past few years we have experienced unprecedented inflation, impacting every part of our operations. Your water and wastewater utilities operate as non-profit enterprise funds, which means that all utility revenues go directly into providing water and wastewater services. Water and wastewater utilities do not receive support from the general fund, nor do utility revenues support general fund operations that are not related to providing utility services.

Due to significant inflationary pressures affecting the costs of operating and maintaining the systems and the increasing costs of construction, we find it necessary to implement a significant rate adjustment to our water and wastewater rates. This decision was not made lightly and not without significant public discussion with the Water Commission, Finance Committee, and City Council. To maintain the standard of service you expect while ensuring the sustainability of our infrastructure, we must keep pace with the cost of providing service.

In April, customers received a notice of proposed rates and a public hearing to take place on June 25, 2024. Information can also be found at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/RateChanges. We encourage you to review the proposed rates.

You will notice an increase of about \$11/month for the average single-family customer and \$9/month increase for the average multi-family customer. These adjustments reflect the rising costs associated with maintaining and upgrading our water and wastewater treatment facilities, drinking water distribution system, and wastewater collection system to meet regulatory standards and serve our thriving community efficiently.

Please rest assured that we remain committed to responsible stewardship of our water resources and will continue to seek cost-effective solutions to minimize rate impacts. We understand that many in our community are facing financial challenges; we have developed, and continue to develop, assistance programs to support customers.

We value your understanding and cooperation as we navigate these challenges together. Thank you for your continued trust in our team's efforts to provide safe, reliable, and sustainable water and wastewater services to our community.

Sincerely,
Joshua Haggmark, Water Resources Manager

STAY CONNECTED

For information on the City of Santa Barbara's Water Commission including meeting agendas, upcoming and past meetings, and to watch Water Commission live, please visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WC. The City of Santa Barbara Water Commission meets at 9:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month at 630 Garden Street.

For questions about water quality, contact the Water Resources Laboratory at WaterLab@SantaBarbaraCA.gov or call 805-568-1008.

For questions on the City's water system, call 805-564-5387.

SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Water





Water main pipelines are one of the City's largest assets and staying on pace to replace old pipelines is a priority.

Replacing Aging Infrastructure, Planning for Tomorrow

The City of Santa Barbara's water system represents one of the largest investments in public infrastructure in the City, playing a critical role in providing the foundation for our community to thrive. The City provides approximately 2.5 billion gallons of potable water to its customers annually through three water treatment plants and over 300 miles of water main pipelines. The water system has entered a prolonged period where capital improvement is an increasing priority as a significant portion of our infrastructure is reaching the end of its useful life. City Council set a goal to replace 2% of the pipelines every year, based on a risk-based approach that weighs the likelihood and consequences of failure. To this end, the City is reinvesting over \$17 million annually into the water system. To implement a vital, long-term plan to replace infrastructure, the City is proposing annual rate adjustments over the next four years to fund investment in the City's water system. Although there are many drivers of the City's water rates, the majority of costs to supply safe and reliable water service to our customers are costs that do not vary based on water availability. Infrastructure must be operated and maintained even if reservoirs are full. By investing in infrastructure now, we are avoiding costlier expenses that can result from emergency repairs due to deferred replacement and are ensuring high quality water service to our community.

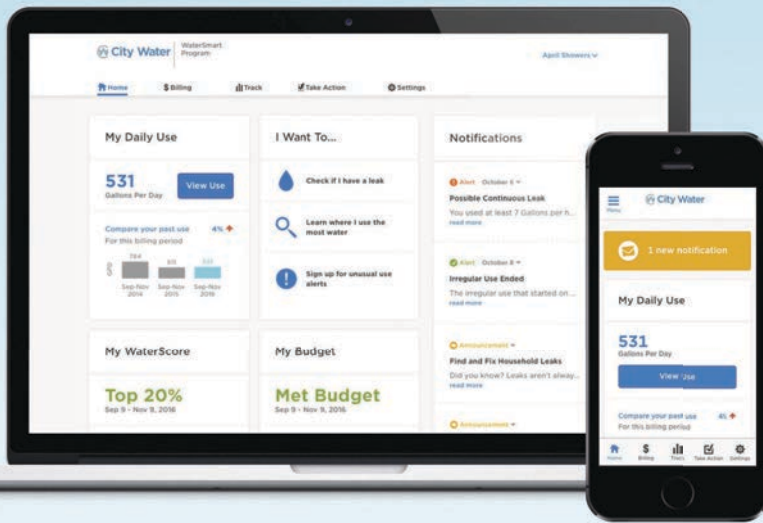
WaterSmart Puts the Power of Water Use Insights into Customers' Hands

We are excited to introduce WaterSmart, a new online customer portal that gives water customers 24/7 access to online tools, data, and information to help monitor and manage water use, receive leak alerts, and a new location to pay bills online.

With WaterSmart, customers can now track hourly water use, compare usage over time, and explore water efficiency recommendations. Customers can also customize their notifications to receive updates about leaks, high bills, or unplanned use.

WaterSmart is part of the City's long-term investment in automated metering infrastructure (AMI), a system of communication networks and software that collects hourly water use over a secure, wireless network.

Don't delay – sign up today! Register your account on the WaterSmart portal at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterSmart. You will be prompted to enter the account number and service address zip code to register. For additional information about the City's AMI program and WaterSmart, please visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/AMI or call (805) 564-5460.



This enhanced data allows customers to better control their bills and also enables enhanced customer service assistance from the City.



Drinking Water Treatment Regulations

Most of the City's drinking water comes from Lake Cachuma, Gibraltar Reservoir, and the Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant. A portion of the City's water also comes from groundwater and imported State Water sources. As water travels over 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 the water sources include:

- Microbial contaminants such as bacteria and viruses that may come from wildlife or human activity.
- Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or result from human activities.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water run-off, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes, petroleum production and use, or septic systems and agricultural applications.

To ensure safe drinking water, federal and state regulations limit the amount of certain contaminants in public water systems. Regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide protection for public health.

In 2023, the City of Santa Barbara's water met all EPA and state drinking water health standards. Before distribution, drinking water from our primary water sources is treated at the Cater Water Treatment Plant or the Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant. Groundwater is treated at the Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant or at the individual well site.

Special Information Available

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 people, and infants can be particularly at risk of infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. EPA/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 at 1-800-426-4791.



With Lake Cachuma at full capacity, there are sufficient water supplies for at least the next three years, even if another prolonged drought occurs.

Photo courtesy of Jasmine Showers

PFAS Information

The City has been following the emerging health concerns from the family of contaminants often referred to as PFAS for several years now. PFAS is shorthand for polyfluoroalkyl and perfluoroalkyl substances, a family of more than 3,000 manufactured chemicals that have been widely used since the 1940s because of their resistance to heat, water, and oil. The City sampled the water system for PFAS in 2014, 2019, and 2024. We sampled 13 different water sources including groundwater, surface water, and desalinated water for up to 29 different PFAS chemical including PFAS and PFOS. The results showed that all sources were not detected at a reporting limit of 2.0 parts per trillion (ppt), below the notification levels issued by the Division of Drinking Water. The City is currently participating in the Fifth Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) required by the EPA and sampling will occur from 2023-2024. Preliminary samples collected from the treatment plants show no detection of PFAS at the 2.0-5.0 ppt level.

Limited Potential for Contamination

The City has evaluated the vulnerability of its water supplies. Gibraltar Reservoir's remote location and restricted access limits opportunities for contamination. Water contact activities at Lake Cachuma are prohibited. The Desalination Plant and Cater Plant use advanced treatment technologies. City groundwater supplies are located deep beneath the surface. Nevertheless, contaminants from sources such as gas stations and dry cleaners could potentially reach City water supplies. All water sources are carefully monitored to ensure pollutants do not exceed state and federal standards. For more information, call the City's Water Resources Laboratory at 805-568-1008.

Lead in Plumbing

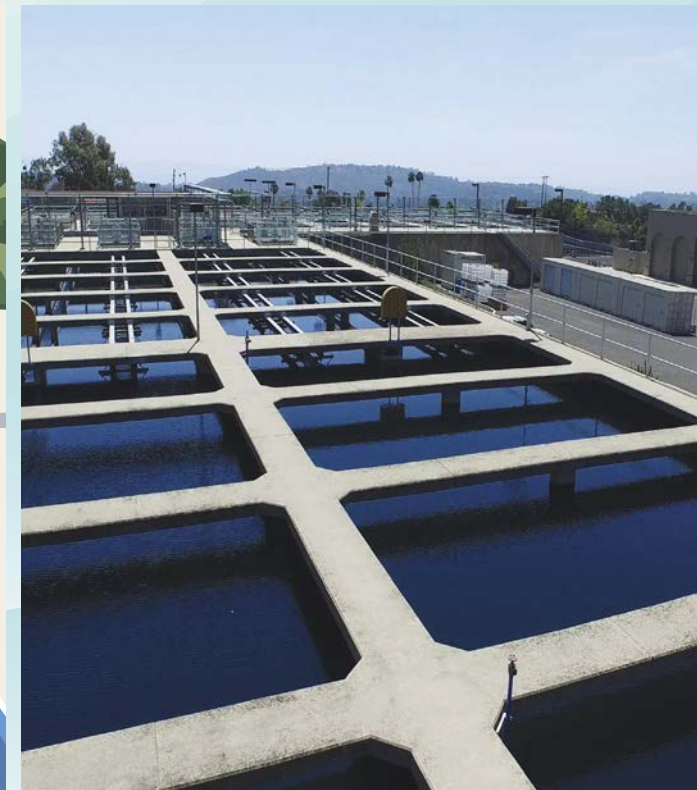
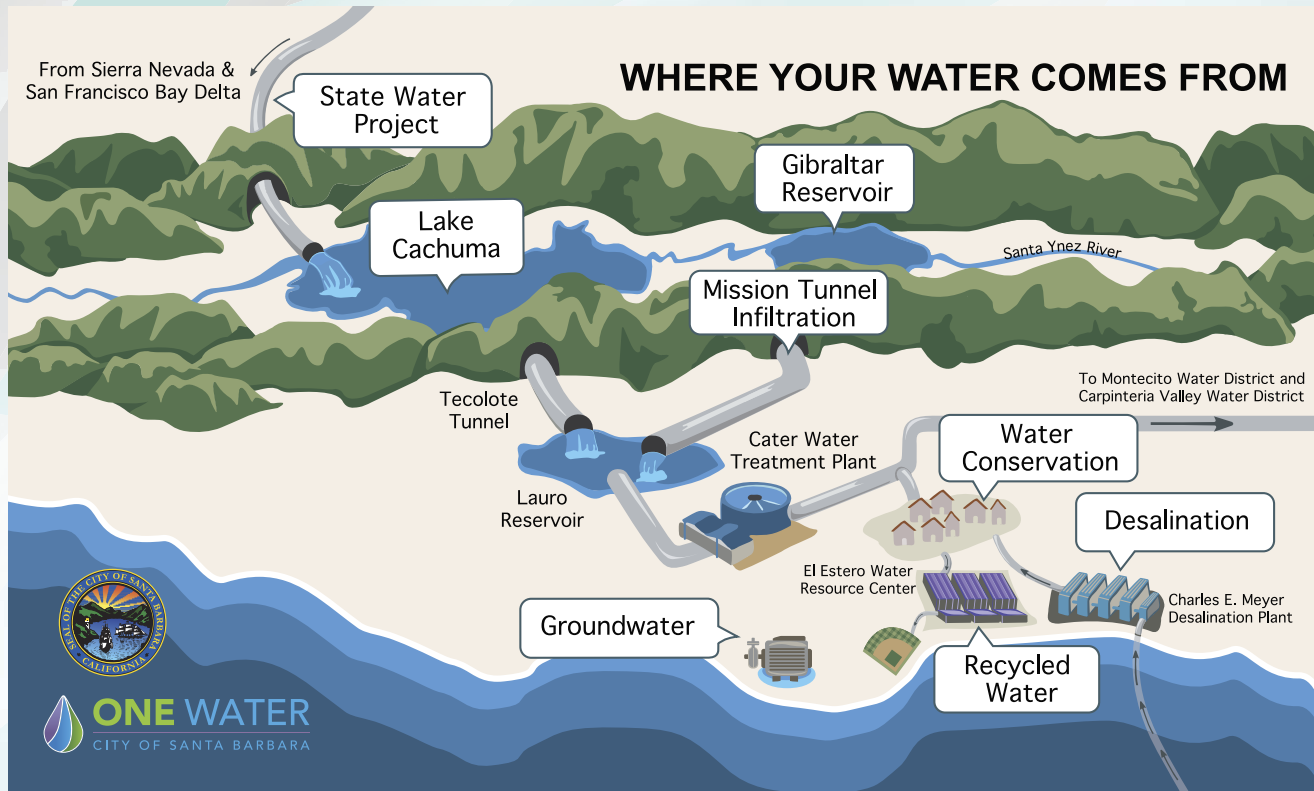
If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with private service lines and home plumbing. The City has no lead service lines in the water distribution system. The City is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in private plumbing components. The City's water contains low levels of lead and copper. However, if your water has been sitting in your pipes for a number of days, you can minimize lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds before using the water for drinking or cooking. Additionally, 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or [EPA.gov/SafeWater/Lead](https://www.epa.gov/SafeWater/Lead).

Nitrate Levels

The City's highest nitrate level in 2023 was 4.4 mg/L. 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.

Water Quality Tests

To ensure the delivery of quality drinking water that is free of harmful bacteria, water quality tests are performed weekly at our sample stations located throughout the water system. The results are submitted monthly to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water. All water systems are required to comply with both the State Total Coliform Rule and the Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule. The new federal rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbials (i.e., total coliform and E. coli bacteria). The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection as the new rule requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, these must be corrected by the water system.





Safe Drinking Water Hotline and Website

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 at 1-800-426-4791 or visiting their website at EPA.gov/SafeWater.

Recommended Water Softener Settings

Groundwater: 19-30 grains/gallon
Surface Water: 18-28 grains/gallon
Desal Water: 2-5 grains/gallon
1 grain/gallon = 17.1 milligrams per liter

Desal water distribution map:
SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Desal

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell that is found throughout the United States. It occurs naturally in certain rock formations. As a result, radon can be found in Santa Barbara's groundwater. Groundwater is a small part (<10%) of the City's total water supply. Radon has not been detected in the City's surface water. Radon can enter homes through cracks or holes in foundations and floors. Radon can also get indoors when released from tap water. Test your home if you are concerned about radon. Testing is inexpensive and easy. For additional information, call the State radon program at 1-800-745-7236, the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or the National Safety Council Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON.

Recycled Water Quality

Recycled water is used at over 50 sites for irrigation at parks, schools, and golf courses. Recycled water is also used at some sites for toilet flushing, dust control, and sidewalk cleaning. The recycled water distribution system uses completely separate pipelines from the City's drinking water system and is denoted by purple pipes, purple color-coded irrigation systems, and signs. Recycled water quality is monitored by the City and updated online at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/RecycledWater.

Photo courtesy of Jasmine Showers



Lake Cachuma is an important water surface supply for the City and for surrounding communities.

CITY DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

THIS ANNUAL REPORT SHOWS DATA COLLECTED FROM CALENDAR YEAR 2023

PRIMARY STANDARDS

Regulated Contaminants with Primary MCLs or MRDLs

Contaminant	MCL	PHG	# of Positive Samples			Highest % of Positives			Major Sources in Drinking Water
			5% of monthly samples test positive	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	100%	
Microbiological Contaminants									
Total Coliform Bacteria	5% of monthly samples test positive	MCLG, 0	0			0.00%			Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform Bacteria and E. coli	0	MCLG, 0	0			0.00%			Human and animal fecal waste
Turbidity (NTU)	TT = 1 NTU TT = 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	NA	Highest Single Measurement 0.09			Samples ≤ 0.3 NTU 100%			Natural river sediment/soil runoff
Lead/Copper Rule			90th % Value	# of Sites Sampled	# of Sites Exceeding AL				
Copper (mg/L)	AL, 1.3	0.3	0.62	31	1				Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (µg/L)	AL, 15	0.2	3.7	31	2				
Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors	MCL	PHG	System Wide Average			System Wide Range			
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L)	LRAA, 80	NA	Highest LRAA, 44			5.3 - 40			Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (µg/L)	LRAA, 60	NA	Highest LRAA, 20.4			0.65 - 27			Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Disinfectant - Chlorine as Cl ₂ (mg/L)	MRDL, 4.0	MRDLG, 4.0	0.83			ND - 1.65			Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Bromochloroacetic Acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	3.1			ND - 6.9			Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloromethane (µg/L)	NA	NA	7.2			0.51 - 12			Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform (µg/L)	NA	NA	0.95			0.29 - 3.4			Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (µg/L)	NA	NA	13			0.44 - 19			Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Dibromoacetic acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	1.7			ND - 3.3			Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (µg/L)	NA	NA	5.2			0.97 - 8.8			Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Dichloroacetic acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	6.5			ND - 14			Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Monochloroacetic acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	0.64			ND - 2.2			Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Trichloroacetic acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	4.2			ND - 9.2			Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
	MCL	PHG	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range	Desalinated Water Average	Desalinated Water Range	
Bromochloroacetic Acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	0.82	0.58 - 1.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloromethane (µg/L)	NA	NA	0.76	0.55 - 1.3	ND	NA	ND	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform (µg/L)	NA	NA	1.7	NA	ND	NA	ND	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorodibromomethane (µg/L)	NA	NA	1.1	0.48 - 1.7	NA	NA	0.34	ND - 1	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Dibromoacetic acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	0.91	0.64 - 1.4	NA	NA	ND	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (µg/L)	NA	NA	1.1	0.31 - 1.9	NA	NA	ND	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Dichloroacetic acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	1.1	0.40 - 2.9	NA	NA	ND	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Dichlorobromomethane (µg/L)	NA	0.1	ND	NA	NA	NA	0.55	ND - 1	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Bromate (µg/L)	10	0.1	3.0	1.9 - 5.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Control of DBP Precursors - TOC (mg/L)	TT	NA	1.89	1.42 - 2.35	NA	NA	0.16	ND - 0.5	Various natural and manmade sources. Total Organic Carbon (TOC) has no health effects.
Radioactive Contaminants									
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	0.76	NA	2.9	0.74 - 5.0	ND	NA	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	50	NA	NA	NA	ND	NA	3.18	1.42 - 5.29	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants									
Aluminum (mg/L)	1	0.6	0.011	ND - 0.026	ND	NA	ND	NA	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (mg/L)	1	2	0.067	NA	NA	NA	0.003	0.0009 - 0.005	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (mg/L)	1	0.3	0.033	0.023 - 0.059	NA	NA	0.003	ND - 0.005	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; from wood preservatives
Fluoride (mg/L)	2.0	1	0.44	0.39 - 0.51	0.27	0.27 - 0.27	ND	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Total Nitrate + Nitrite as N (mg/L)	10	10	0.35	DNQ - 0.50	2.9	1.3 - 4.4	ND	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use

CITY DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

THIS ANNUAL REPORT SHOWS DATA COLLECTED FROM CALENDAR YEAR 2023

PRIMARY STANDARDS *(Continued)*

Regulated Contaminants with Primary MCLs or MRDLs

<i>Inorganic Contaminants (Continued)</i>	MCL	PHG	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range	Desalinated Water Average	Desalinated Water Range	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Nitrate as N (mg/L)	10	10	0.30	DNQ - 0.50	2.9	1.3 - 4.4	ND	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use
Nitrate as NO ₃ (mg/L)	45	2	1.34	DNQ - 2.22	12.7	5.76 - 19.6	ND	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use

SECONDARY STANDARDS

Regulated Contaminants with Secondary MCLs *Aesthetic Standards Established by the State of California, Department of Public Health. No adverse health effects from exceedance of standards.*

	MCL	PHG	Surface Water Average	Surface Water Range	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range	Desalinated Water Average	Desalinated Water Range	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Iron (µg/L)	300	NA	ND	NA	53	ND - 110	ND	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Manganese (µg/L)	50	NA	ND	NA	ND	NA	ND	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Color, Apparent (units)	15	NA	5	ND - 10	8	ND - 20	ND	ND - 5	Naturally occurring organic materials
Threshold Odor Number at 60 °C (units)	3	NA	4	2 - 8	1	ND - 1	NA	NA	Naturally occurring organic materials
Turbidity, Laboratory (NTU)	5	NA	0.26	0.10 - 0.70	0.24	0.10 - 0.55	0.07	ND - 0.10	Soil runoff
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1000	NA	622	502 - 772	646	NA	280	230 - 390	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µmhos/cm)	1600	NA	948	776 - 1148	1360	820 - 2040	542	450 - 603	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Chloride (mg/L)	500	NA	18.4	14 - 26	313	NA	132	110 - 153	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	NA	269	200 - 360	136	NA	3.2	2.9 - 3.4	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits

CONTAMINANTS WITH NO MCLs

i.e., Unregulated Contaminants

Boron (mg/L)	NL,1	NA	0.38	0.37 - 0.39	0.14	ND - 0.19	0.78	0.67 - 0.90	Boron exposures resulted in decreased fetal weight (developmental effects) in newborn rats.
<i>Additional Constituents</i>									
pH (units)	NA	NA	7.54	7.45 - 7.67	6.86	6.71 - 6.95	8.73	8.53 - 8.90	
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃ (mg/L)	NA	NA	383	304 - 472	420	320 - 510	54.6	46.5 - 87.1	
Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ (mg/L)	NA	NA	191	157 - 224	210	NA	48	40 - 51	
Calcium (mg/L)	NA	NA	93	71 - 107	110	84 - 140	18	16 - 25	
Magnesium (mg/L)	NA	NA	40	31 - 52	26	NA	2	1 - 6	
Sodium (mg/L)	NA	NA	50	43 - 57	77	52 - 140	78	64 - 96	
Potassium (mg/L)	NA	NA	2.9	2.4 - 3.4	1.4	1.1 - 1.7	4	NA	
Uranium (µg/L)	NA	NA	0.68	NA	4.2	1.1 - 7.4	ND	NA	



City laboratory staff conduct more than 45,000 water quality tests each year to ensure safe drinking water.

Note: Listed in the tables are substances detected in the City's drinking water. Not listed are more than **100** regulated and unregulated substances that were below the laboratory detection level.

The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old. Most of the data presented in the table above are from 2023, except for the following: For desalinated water: chlorodibromomethane is from 2022. For surface water: Boron for surface water is from 2016 and 2017. Chlorodibromomethane and uranium as a radioactive contaminant are from 2022. The following data for ground water is from 2022: Aluminum, chloride, iron, manganese, magnesium, nitrate, nitrite, sulfate, total dissolved solids, and turbidity. The remaining ground water data is from 2018 - 2021.

CITY DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

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UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS MONITORING (UCMR4)

	MCL	PHG	System Wide Average	System Wide Range
Haloacetic Acids				
Bromochloroacetic Acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	3.9	ND - 8.2
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	3.5	ND - 5.8
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	2.2	ND - 3.3
Dibromoacetic Acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	2.3	ND - 4.2
Dichloroacetic Acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	6.0	ND - 16
Tribromoacetic Acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	2.3	ND - 4.9
Trichloroacetic Acid (µg/L)	NA	NA	4.2	ND - 12
HAA5	NA	NA	13	ND - 32
HAA6Br	NA	NA	14	ND - 24
HAA9	NA	NA	24	ND - 51
Additional Contaminants				
Bromide (µg/L)	NA	NA	24000	51 - 73000
Germanium (µg/L)	NA	NA	0.42	ND - 0.95
Manganese (µg/L)	NA	NA	0.81	ND - 4.1
Total Organic Carbon (mg/L)	NA	NA	3.5	1.2 - 5.4

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS MONITORING (UCMR5)

Contaminant	MCL	PHG	System Wide Average	System Wide Range
Lithium (ug/L)	NA	NA	22.4	ND - 42.5

About the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 & 5

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

UCMR4: As required by the EPA, the City's UCMR4 data will reflect all detected contaminants from **March 2018 through November 2020.**

UCMR5: As required by the EPA, the City's UCMR5 data will reflect all detected contaminants from **July 2023 - December 2023.**



Definitions

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.

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 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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 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.

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.

Regulatory Action Level (AL)

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT)

A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS)

MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS)

MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of drinking water. Contaminants with SDWS do not affect the health at MCL levels.

Notification Level (NL)

Notification levels are health-based levels established by CDPH for chemicals in drinking water that lack MCLs.

Legend

- mg/L:** milligrams per liter (parts per million)
- µg/L:** micrograms per liter (parts per billion)
- µmhos/cm:** micromhos per centimeter
- pCi/L:** picoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ND:** Not Detected at testing limit
- NA:** Not Applicable
- NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- DBP:** Disinfection Byproducts
- TOC:** Total Organic Carbon
- LRAA:** Locational Running Annual Average
- DNQ:** Detected but not Quantified