



ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Presented By
**South Feather Water
and Power**



PWS ID#: CA0410006



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, 2023. Included are details about your source 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.

Source Water Assessment

An assessment has been completed in 2020 for the water sources serving the Miners Ranch Water Treatment Plant. Our pristine water source is considered most vulnerable to active and historic mining operations but not associated with any detected contaminants. For a copy of the complete assessment, please contact Rebecca Tabor at the SWRCB-DODW Valley District Office, 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101, Redding, California, 96002, or (530) 224-4861. You may also contact Rath Moseley at South Feather Water and Power Agency, 2310 Oro Quincy Highway, Oroville, California, 95966, or (530) 533-4578.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Raw water for the South Feather Water and Power Agency's distribution system is derived from the watershed of the South Fork of the Feather River and the upper portion of the Slate Creek watershed. Through a series of dams, canals, and tunnels, water is delivered to the Miners Ranch Reservoir and extracted directly for the treatment plant.

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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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 at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



Community Participation

We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please call us or attend any of our regularly scheduled board of directors meetings. They are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the agency's boardroom, 2310 Oro Quincy Highway, Oroville. Please visit southfeather.com for visitor and Zoom conference information.

Lead in Home 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 service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. (If you do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.) 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 (800) 426-4791 or www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call John Shipman at (530) 589-0212.

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.

In order 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. 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, 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.

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 can 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

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

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Testing for Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100-percent removal. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.



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 are 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 are 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

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bicarbonate Alkalinity (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	29	NA	No	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	5.5	NA	No	NA
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	0.95	0.78–1.14	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Control of DBP precursors [TOC] (ppm)	2023	TT	NA	0.54	0.26–0.70	No	Various natural and human-made sources
<i>E. coli</i> [State Revised Total Coliform Rule] (positive samples)	2023	0	(0)	0	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste
HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	23.5	14.0–41.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2014	NS ¹	0.02	0.15	0.099–0.17	No	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	3.1	NA	No	NA
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2023	5	0.019	1.12	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria [State Total Coliform Rule] (positive samples)	2023	NA	NA	0	0–1	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	80	NA	23.4	19.0–31.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2023	TT	NA	0.067	0.015 – 0.067	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2023	TT = 95% of samples meet	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

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

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.76	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0.2	5.2	1/30	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2020	500	NS	2.3	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2023	1,600	NS	46	NA	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2020	500	NS	4.4	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2020	1,000	NS	42	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES²

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Hardness, Total [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2020	27	NA	NA
HAA6Br (ppb)	2018	1.2	1.05–1.35	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA9	2018	17.3	15.3–19.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Sodium (ppm)	2023	2.3	NA	NA
Strontium (ppb)	2014	38	34–43	NA
Vanadium (ppb)	2014	0.24	0.20–0.27	NA

¹There is currently no MCL for hexavalent chromium. The previous MCL of 10 ppb was withdrawn on September 11, 2017.

²Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.