City of FOWLER

COMMUNITY • CONNECTION • COMMERCE

2024 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Dear Customer,

At the City of Fowler, we are committed to providing you with safe and reliable drinking water. Keeping you informed is an important part of that commitment, as we work to ensure the highest quality water for you and your family. We are sharing this report to provide you with a snapshot of last year's water quality, including:

- Where your water comes from
- Water testing results from 2024
- How water quality compares to regulatory standards

Our goal is to continually improve our water treatment process to provide safe, clean drinking water now and in the future. We remain dedicated to every step of the process, from production and treatment to distribution.

We would also like to remind residents of the importance of water conservation. Simple actions like staying mindful of daily water use and repairing leaks promptly are ways you can help conserve water for the entire community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report, which also highlights ways to stay informed and services available to help residents make the most of their water.

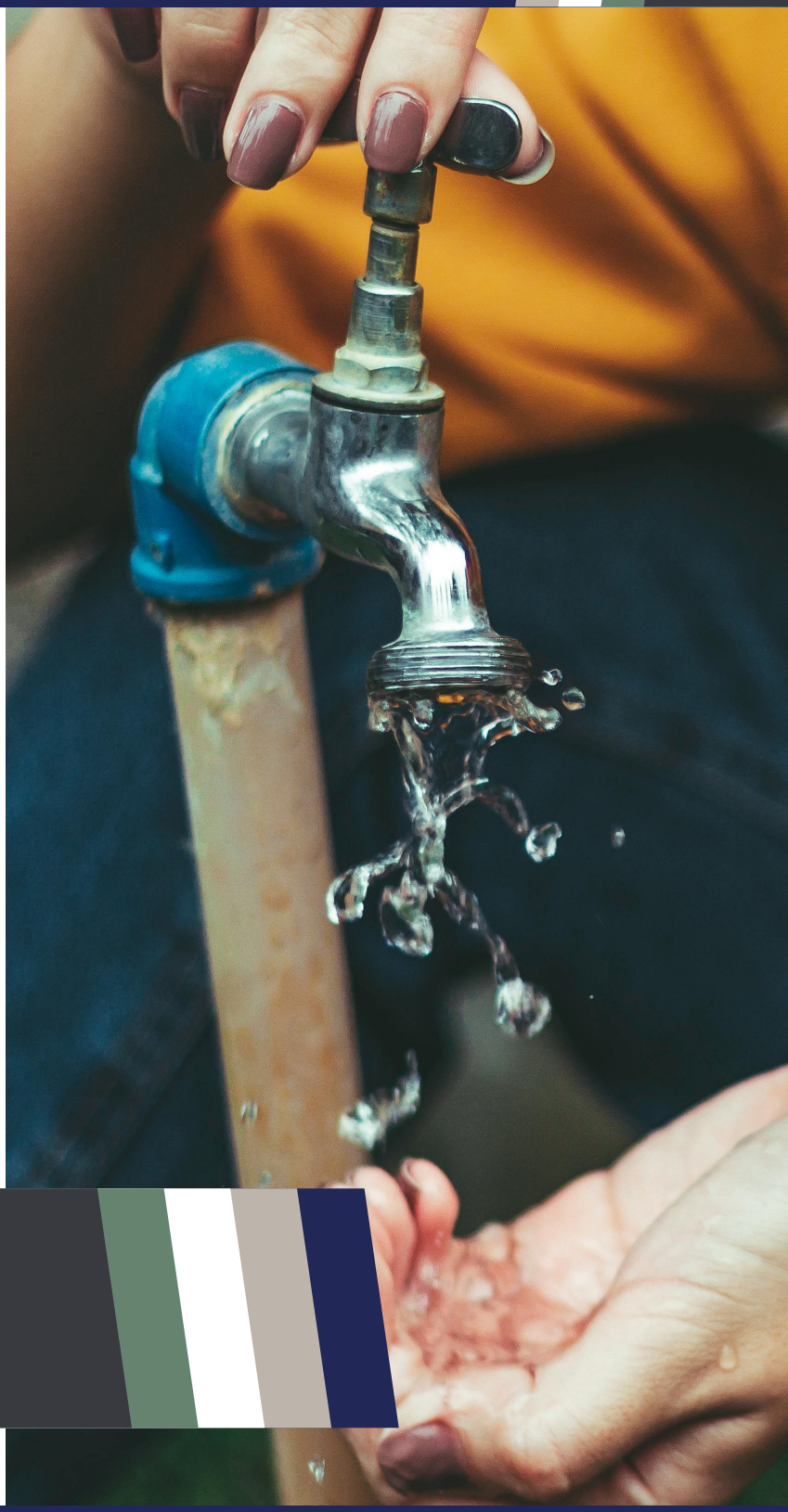
Sincerely,

Eric Rocha

Eric Rocha

Director of Public Works

For more information or questions related to your drinking water, contact the City of Fowler's Water Division at (559) 834-3113 or email Public Works & Public Utilities Supervisor Anthony Aranda at aaranda@ci.fowler.ca.us.



STAY INFORMED!

Visit fowlercity.org for the latest updates on City news, water service, City council meetings, and more. You can also look for important information included with your water bills.

Este informe cotiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Por favor comunicarse City of Fowler's Water Division a (559) 834-3113 para asistirlo en español.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

The City of Fowler's water supply comes from six groundwater well sites located throughout the city. These wells work collectively to serve residents' water needs. Construction of an additional well site is expected to begin later in 2025, providing a backup source that will improve the reliability of the water system.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION FROM THE EPA

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of 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 (800) 426-4791.

WATER SERVICES & SUPPORT FOR FOWLER RESIDENTS

Hydrant Program

The City of Fowler implemented a Hydrant Flush and Flow Verification Program to maintain the performance and reliability of our fire hydrants. As part of this program, hydrants are regularly tested to ensure they work properly during emergencies and are also flushed to remove sediment from water lines, helping improve overall water quality. These routine efforts keep hydrants up to standards and support safe, reliable water service. Additionally, the City is piloting an automated flushing system to streamline the process and increase efficiency.

Water Conservation Program

At the City of Fowler, we're committed to promoting water conservation among residents. We're currently exploring the development of a program that offers resources and educational incentives on water-saving practices, such as reducing water use in landscaping, irrigation, and daily routines. Plans include rebates or giveaways for water-efficient appliances and smart irrigation timers, along with resources to support everyday conservation and maximize efficiency.

Valve Exercising Program

The City of Fowler's Valve Exercising Program involves regularly inspecting water distribution valves to ensure they remain functional and accessible during emergencies or routine maintenance. This proactive approach helps reduce the risk of valve failure and ensures quick, efficient, and targeted water shutoffs when needed.

Neptune MY360 Customer Portal

To enhance our customer experience, the City of Fowler is planning to launch the Neptune MY360 Customer Portal. This user-friendly platform will allow residents to access their water accounts online, track real-time water usage, view billing details, and monitor meter status. Residents will be notified once the portal is live and ready to use.

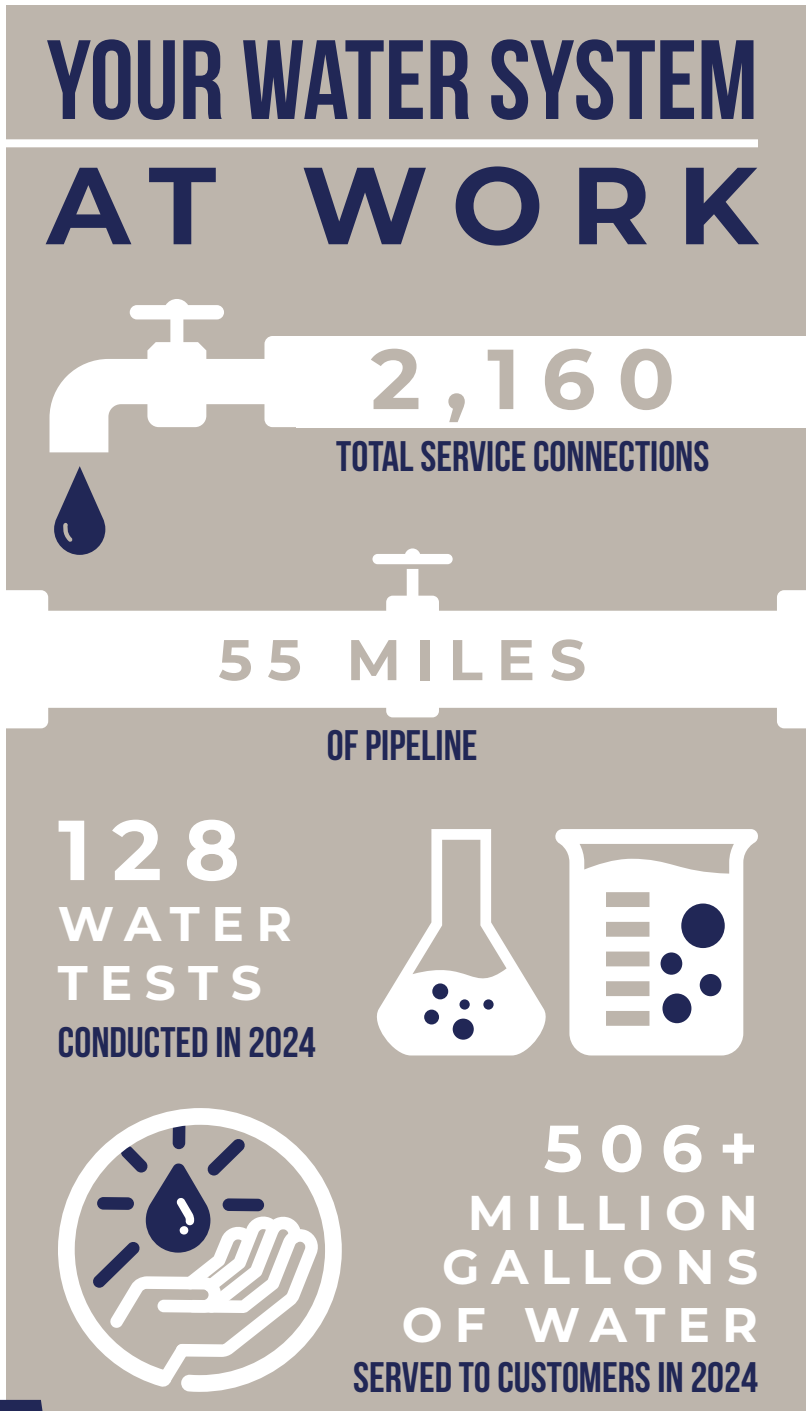
IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY'S WATER QUALITY

TCP Treatment Facility Underway

In March 2025, the City of Fowler broke ground on a new TCP Treatment Facility for one of its groundwater wells, a key step toward improving water quality for residents. This project follows ongoing efforts to address elevated levels of 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP) first detected in August 2018. Once completed, the treatment facility will treat and remove this contaminant from our water supply.

The City anticipates completing the facility by the winter of the 2026-27 season. Construction crews have completed most of the earthwork, including clearing and rough grading the project site. A contractor has begun installing underground piping and manholes, and work on the facility and equipment pad foundations is currently underway.

1,2,3-TCP is not an immediate risk, but drinking water containing this substance over many years may cause increased health risks.



PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

SUBSTANCE	YEAR TESTED	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL	PHG	DETECTED AVERAGE	RANGE (LOW - HIGH)	IN COMPLIANCE	SOURCE
1,2,3-Trichloropropane	2024	ppt	5	0.7	7.2	ND - 7.8	No	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; leaching from hazardous waste sites; cleaning and maintenance solvent, paint and varnish remover, and degreasing agents; by-product of other compounds and pesticides
Arsenic	2022	ppb	10	0.004	3.24	ND - 4.2	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
1,2-Dibromo,3-Chloropropane [DCBP]	2022	ppt	200	77	77	ND - 77	Yes	Banned nematocide that may still be present in soils due to runoff/ leaching from former use on soybeans, cotton, vineyards, tomatoes, and tree fruit
Fluoride	2022	ppm	2	1	0.15	ND - 0.15	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	2024	ppm	45	45	2.06	1.2 - 2.5	Yes	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fecal coliform and E. Coli	2024	Positive Samples	0	0	0	ND	Yes	Human and animal fecal waste in untreated groundwater

SUBSTANCE	YEAR TESTED	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	AL	PHG	90TH PERCENTILE	SAMPLES > AL	IN COMPLIANCE	SOURCE
Copper	2023	ppm	1.3	0.3	ND	0 of 20	Yes	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2023	ppb	15	0.2	ND	0 of 20	Yes	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

SUBSTANCE	YEAR TESTED	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	SMCL	PHG	DETECTED AVERAGE	RANGE (LOW - HIGH)	IN COMPLIANCE	SOURCE
Iron	2022	ppb	300	NS	214	ND - 370	Yes	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste
Manganese	2022	ppb	50	NS	15	ND - 15	Yes	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor, Threshold	2022	TON	3	NS	ND	N/A	Yes	Naturally occuring organic materials
Sulfate	2022	ppm	500	NS	9.2	N/A	Yes	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrical waste
Turbidity	2022	NTU	5	NS	1.7	ND - 5.5	Yes	Soil runoff
Zinc	2022	ppm	5	NS	ND	N/A	Yes	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrical waste

WATER QUALITY DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): This 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.

Public Health Goal (PHG) or 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.

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

Secondary MCLs (SMCL): non-mandatory guidelines for certain substances to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water. These standards are not based on health effects but are intended to maintain the aesthetic quality of drinking water.

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

ABBREVIATIONS

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected; indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis

NS: No standard

PPM (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water, or milligrams per liter; can be viewed as one drop in a hot tub.

PPB (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water, or micrograms per liter; can be viewed as one drop in an Olympic size swimming pool.

PPT (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water, or nanograms per liter; can be viewed as one drop in a 6-acre lake.

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.

TON (Threshold Odor Number): A measure of odor in water

POTENTIAL SUBSTANCES FOUND IN DRINKING WATER

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 byproducts 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) 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.

IMPACTS OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

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. The City of Fowler is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes when possible, 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 the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water 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, 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. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

STAY ENGAGED – ATTEND A FOWLER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Regular city council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:00PM in the City Council Chambers, located at 128 S. 5th St., Fowler, CA 93625. For agendas and more information visit fowlercity.org/agendas-minutes.