ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By

City of Imperial California

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

PWS ID#: 1310006

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.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Imperial receives its water supply from the Colorado River via the All-American Canal and the facilities of the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). Our treatment process for the surface water consists of complete treatment, including sedimentation, coagulation, flocculation, filtration, and disinfection. The city currently provides an average of 2.6 million gallons per day and an average of 961 million gallons of water annually to its residents. At the present time, the City of Imperial meets all applicable SWRCB, Division of Drinking Water, and U.S. EPA domestic water quality standards.

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.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office. If you would like to review the SWAP, please feel free to contact our Water Plant Chief Operator at (760) 355-4371.

City Council Meeting

You are invited to participate in our city council meetings. We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Imperial Council Chambers, 200 West Ninth Street.

Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and sent to several ponds, which allow for holding capacity for the water treatment plant. The water is then pumped to a settling basin that has flocculator mixers, where a polymer and a coagulant are added. The addition of these substances causes small particles, called floc, to adhere to one another, making them heavy enough to settle into a basin from which sediment is removed. At this point, the water is filtered through layers of fine coal and silicate sand. As smaller suspended particles are removed, turbidity disappears and clear water emerges. Chlorine is added after filtration to disinfect the water to prevent the development of bacteria. We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste. Next, a portion of the water is pumped into four granular activated carbon (GAC) columns to reduce total organic carbon (TOC), which is one of the precursors of total trihalomethane (TTHM) formation in the water. Finally, the combined water is sent to the two-million-gallon finished water tank. From there the water is pumped into the distribution system for your home or business.

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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water or to voice your concerns about your drinking water, please contact our Water Plant Chief Operator at (760) 355-4371.

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, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which 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, which 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which 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 (FDA) 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 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.

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 parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Imperial is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing components in your home. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for several minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. Additionally, using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. If you are concerned about lead, 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 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 our water plant chief operator during regular office hours at (760) 355-4371 if you would like more information about the LSL inventory.

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.

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 values in the Regulated, Secondary, and Unregulated tables are the levels of contaminants detected at the source (Central Main Canal).

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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2025	1	2	0.12	NA	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	2.0	1	0.43	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

2025 TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHMS) RESULTS

TTHM MCL	0.080 MG/L			
MCL IN CCR UNITS	80 UG/L			
LOCATION	1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR
Site 1 (3)	59	65	63	57
Site 1 LRAA	65	63	62	60
Site 2 (6)	43	47	52	47
Site 2 LRAA	46	46	47	48
Site 3 (8)	62	72	69	66
Site 3 LRAA	68	68	68	67
Site 4 (1)	43	50	58	53
Site 4 LRAA	48	49	50	52

2025 HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) RESULTS

HAA5 MCL	0.060 MG/L		
MCL IN CCR UNITS	60 UG/L		
1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR
2	18	10	10
7.3	17	15	9.8
2	3.7	6.1	2.2
7.4	18	17	10

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.

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.

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).

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

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

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.3	1.3	0.033	0.021–0.080	0/10	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0	ND	ND–ND	0/10	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

				Unregulated and Other Substances Central Main Canal		Primary Standards Central Main Canal			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2025	200	600	470	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Iron (ppb)	2025	300	NS	420	NA	NA	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	2025	1,600	NS	1,200	NA	1,100[1]	NA	No	Substances that form ions when in water; Seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	500	NS	290	NA	240[1]	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2025	1,000	NS	680	NA	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES[2]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity, Total (ppm)	2025	160	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2025	180	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Boron (ppb)	2025	150	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Calcium (ppm)	2025	84	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2025	330	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	2025	30	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (units)	2025	8.3	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Potassium (ppm)	2025	5.5	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2025	120	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Total Anions (ppm)	2025	12.9	NA	Naturally occurring
Total Cations (ppm)	2025	12	NA	Naturally occurring

[1] Sampled in 2022.

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

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.