

2025 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: Riverkern Mutual Water Co.

Report Date: June 27, 2026

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024 and may include earlier monitoring data.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse [] a [], Riverkern Water, Kernville CA para asistirlo en español.

Type of water source(s) in use: Ground Water Wells

Name & general location of source(s): Well 1 (CA1500251_004), Well 3 (CA1500251_003) 16217 Sierra Way, Kernville

Drinking Water Source Assessment information: Source assessments for Well 1 & 3 were submitted to the SWRCB in January 2009. The assessments identify possible sources of contamination to aid in prioritizing pollution cleanup and prevention efforts. The reports are available upon request. Wells 1 & 3 are considered to be most vulnerable to activities associated with contaminants detected in water supply, agricultural drainage, other animal operations, pesticide/fertilizer/petroleum storage and transfer areas, septic systems (low density<1 house per acre} sewer collection systems, irrigated crops (berries, hops, mint, orchards, sod, greenhouses}, housing (density> 1 house per acre), campgrounds, recreational areas, and RV parks. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants; farm machinery repair and underground storage tanks (tanks smaller than the regulatory limit).

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: 0900 – 3rd Saturday of every month
237 Cowbelllle Blvd., Kernville

For more information, contact: Tobin Josif

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TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

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 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 (U.S. EPA).

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 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.

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.

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 the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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

Variances and Exemptions: Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

ND: not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

ppq: parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

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 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Board 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.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

TABLE 1 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (complete if lead or copper detected in the last sample set)	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90 th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	No. of Schools Requesting Lead Sampling	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	7/18/23	7	0.0026	0	15	0.2	N/A	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	7/18/23	7	0.605	0	1.3	0.3	Not applicable	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

TABLE 2 – SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	2024-2025	29	24-34	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	2024-2025	93	76-110	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

TABLE 3 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate	2025	0.98	0.00-2.20	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite	2025	0.00	0.00	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-Nitrite	8/6/25	1.22	0.33-2.10	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2022-2024	0.38	0.42 – 0.34	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2021 - 2022	5.1	4.9 – 5.3	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	2021-2022	4.36	4.1-4.6	20	0.43 (0)	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM (Total Trihalomethane)	8/24/22	4.3	4.3	80	None	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	0.84	0.47-1.29	[MRDL = 4.0 (as Cl)]	[MRDLG=4 (as Cl)]	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

TABLE 4 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	2024-2025	8.2	5.4-11	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2024-2025	16.5	11-22	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	2024-2025	220	170-270	1000	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (Units)	2024-2025	0.105	0.100-0.110	5	None	Soil runoff
Color (Units)	2024-2025	1	1	15	None	Naturally-occurring materials.
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2024-2025	327	260-394	1600	None	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence.

TABLE 5 – DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Notification Level	Health Effects Language
PERFLUOROCTANOIC ACID (PFOA)	2025	4.06	3.00-5.30	2	See below*
PERFLUOROCTANE SULFONIC ACID (PFOS)	2025	3.77	2.90-4.70	2	See below*

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

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 the 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).

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. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Lead-Specific Language: 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. Riverkern Mutual Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. [**OPTIONAL:** 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

*PFOA/PFOS was detected in one well below the Notification Level (NL). PFOS is a member of a large class of chemicals known as per- or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that were used in many consumer products for their non-stick and grease- and stain-resistant properties, and also in firefighting foams. Exposure to PFOS above certain levels can cause adverse health effects, including harmful effects to a developing fetus or infant, the immune system and liver, and cancer. While consumer products are a large source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water has become an increasing concern due to the persistence and tendency of these chemicals to accumulate in groundwater. NLs are nonregulatory, health-based advisory levels that State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) establishes as a precautionary measure for contaminants for which regulatory standards have not been set. Certain requirements are triggered when chemicals are detected at levels that exceed their respective NLs.
