

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By



PWS ID#: 1510020

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 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.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Tehachapi uses only groundwater pumped from the Tehachapi Basin aquifer; no surface or imported water is used for direct consumption. Six active deep wells within the city continually refill five million gallons of storage facilities and the 40 miles of transmission lines that bring water to homes, schools, and businesses served by our system.



The city operates five pressure zones, four of which are used and tested. Weekly bacteriological testing is done in all four zones as well. A free chlorine residual of 0.38 to 2.20 ppm is maintained throughout the distribution system.

Of the six active wells operated by the city, one is equipped with standby power for use in case of an emergency, however, four other wells can run on portable generators if needed. These wells are designed so that water can be diverted in the event of a catastrophic line rupture. The city also has a portable generator for use at a second well or at the booster station located at the Curry Street tank site.

The City of Tehachapi performs water quality testing in accordance with all federal and state criteria. Although comprehensive testing was done in 2024, only detected contaminants will be reported in this report. The city's water sampling (both chemical and bacteriological) is done by a state-certified water treatment plant operator and analyzed by a state-certified laboratory to ensure accuracy in testing.

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 <https://bit.ly/3IeRyXy>.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Tyler Napier, Public Works Director, at (661) 822-2200, ext. 507, or email tnapier@tehachapiw.com.

Source Water Assessment

The City of Tehachapi conducted a source water assessment and protection program. The assessment for the Mojave Well identified vulnerabilities from activities located near the drinking water source. The source is considered most vulnerable to sewer collection systems and a historical gas station within the five- and ten-year times of travel. The source has a 100-foot sanitary seal and a depth of 182 feet to the uppermost perforation. Any microbiological activity would have to travel this vertical distance to the aquifer before it could begin horizontal travel to the well. The gas station has not had any problems associated with it, and no gas products have ever been detected in the Mojave Well.

No contaminants above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) have been detected in the water supply; however, the assessment identified vulnerabilities for the Dennison Well from activities located nearby. These vulnerabilities include high-density housing and the close proximity of other supply wells, which violates specifications requiring distances far enough so that contaminants would take a minimum of two years to reach the water supply. Both of these vulnerabilities pose a relatively low risk, as does potential leaching from gas stations - both active and historical - and confirmed leaking from a tank within the ten-year time of travel.

No contaminants above the MCL have been detected in the water supplied from the Curry Well. The assessment noted that the water supply is still considered vulnerable to activities located near the drinking water source.

The Minton Well's supply was assessed, and no contaminants above the MCL were found, though it is still considered vulnerable to activities located near the drinking water source.

No contaminants above the MCL have been detected in the water supplied from the Wahlstrom Well. The assessment considers the source to be vulnerable to activities located near the drinking water supply.

The Pinon Well is considered most vulnerable to septic systems - both low density and sewer collection systems. No contaminants above the MCL have been detected in the water supply; however, the source is considered vulnerable to activities located near the drinking water source. This source has a very deep 300-foot sanitary seal. In addition, the depth to the uppermost perforation is 400 feet. Any microbiological activity would have to travel this vertical distance to the aquifer before it could begin horizontal travel to the well.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the City of Tehachapi, 115 South Robinson Street.

Important Health Information

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million (ppm) 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 infants blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 ppm 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 advice from your health-care provider.



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

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. City of Tehachapi is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact City of Tehachapi and (661) 822-2200. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at 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 us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

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, 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 by-products 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 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 regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

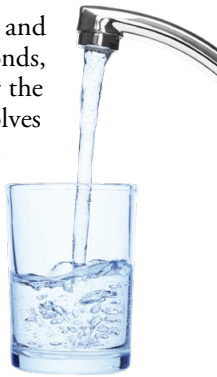
Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Why Save Water?

Although 80% of the Earth's surface is water, only 1% is suitable for drinking. The rest is either salt water or is permanently frozen, and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. To access the details of the monthly city council meetings, please visit the city's website at liveuptehachapi.com.



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 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)	2024	1	2	0.0762	0.0053–0.091	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	1.50	0.47–2.20	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	2.0	1	0.27	0.10–0.57	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2021	15	(0)	0.78	0.25–1.48	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2025	10	10	5.9	2.20–9.10	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2024	50	30	ND	NA	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)

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)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.072	ND–0.150	0/20	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

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.

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.

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).

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



SECONDARY SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Iron (ppb)	2024	300	NS	ND	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2024	50	NS	ND	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2024	1,600	NS	481.67	420.0–540.0	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2024	500	NS	41.50	33.0–57.0	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2024	1,000	NS	288.33	240–330	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ¹				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2024	161.67	140–200	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2024	55.0	38–72	NA
pH (units)	2024	7.75	7.60–8.20	NA
Potassium (ppm)	2024	ND	NA	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2024	31.50	22–44	NA
Total Hardness (ppm)	2024	163.33	110–210	NA

¹ Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and sent to an aeration tank, which allows for oxidation of high iron levels. The water then goes to a mixing tank where polyaluminum chloride and soda ash 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. Chlorine is then added for disinfection. 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 again as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) Finally, soda ash (used to adjust the final pH and alkalinity), fluoride (used to prevent tooth decay), and a corrosion inhibitor (used to protect distribution system pipes) are added before the water is pumped to sanitized underground reservoirs and water towers and into your home or business.

