

Annual  
Drinking  
Water  
Quality  
Report  
July  
2025





Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse West Kern Water District a 661-763-3151 para asistirlo en español.

(This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please contact West Kern Water District at 661-763-3151 for assistance in Spanish.)

A message from the General Manager  
Greg A Hammett

At West Kern Water District, we work hard to ensure that the water we deliver to you meets or exceeds all regulatory standards of drinking water. Our Cross-Connection Control Program, adopted in 1993, is one of many critical tools we use to maintain the safety of drinking water from the public water system all the way to the plumbing at your property.

A **cross-connection** is a point in the water system where non-potable water sources (water unsafe for drinking) on your property could contact drinking water. Examples of non-potable water sources include washwater in a bucket, swimming pools, landscape irrigation systems, pesticide and fertilizer sprayers, booster pumps, and other appliances and equipment that use water.

Normally, drinking water flows one way into your property. However, unprotected cross-connections could allow contaminated water from non-potable sources on your property to **backflow-or reverse flow**-into the drinking water system. Backflow impacts your property's water quality and poses a risk to the drinking water system.

In July 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted revised standards and principles for cross-connection control and backflow prevention. To prevent the risk of backflow and contamination of drinking water, the following safety measures will be implemented:

- Routine Hazard Assessments: West Kern's Cross-Connection Control Specialists will conduct routine hazard assessments throughout the public drinking water system to identify, eliminate, or protect against cross-connections.
- Air Gaps and Backflow Prevention Assemblies: These are required at cross-connections to prevent non-potable water from flowing into the drinking water system, potentially introducing contaminants.

- Annual Inspection and Testing: Air gaps require annual inspection and backflow prevention assemblies require annual inspection and testing, by approved testers or specialists. This helps to ensure proper function and continued protection of drinking water supply.
- Public Education: Residents and property owners will be informed about the risks of backflow and the importance of cross-connection control (see enclosed brochure).

Together, we can keep drinking water safe for everyone. For more information about cross-connections, backflow prevention, or testing requirements, please visit our website at [www.wkwd.org](http://www.wkwd.org).



Public Participation

West Kern Water District's Board of Directors meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the District board room located at 800 Kern Street, Taft. Meeting agendas are posted at the District office as well as on the District's website. The public is encouraged to attend.

Board of Directors

- Scott Niblett—President
- Bo Bravo—Vice President
- Barry Jameson—Director
- Gary Morris—Director
- Dave Wells—Director



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- The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs & wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, 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, can be naturally occurring or come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
  - Inorganic contaminants – Such as salts & metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
  - Pesticides & herbicides – May come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
  - Organic chemical contaminants – Are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater run-off and septic systems.
  - Radioactive contaminants – Can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and minimum activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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.

This Annual Water Quality Report describes in detail the quality of your water during 2024. As in previous years, your water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and State drinking water health standards. This brochure is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where our water comes from...

West Kern's water supply comes from a contract with the Kern County Water Agency for State Water Project water. The water is transported through the California aqueduct, where it is recharged into the ground through spreading ponds. Your water is extracted from the Tulare Lake aquifer from 13 groundwater wells located in the northeast corner of the District, in the under-flow of the Kern River Sub-basin and from an area north and adjacent to the State of California's Tule Elk Reserve. The water is then transported through a 36" transmission pipeline to our Station A facility located at the corner of Highway 119 and Golf Course Road where it is treated with chlorine before being disseminated to 318 miles of pipeline, 26 above groundwater storage reservoirs and 15 booster pump stations. The District has one of the most complex systems in California and our employees are dedicated to ensuring you have a reliable and high quality service at a reasonable cost

Drinking Water Source Assessment

An assessment of West Kern's drinking water sources was completed in May 2001, 2010, & 2012. The sources are considered the most vulnerable during artificial recharge activities in spreading basins, but these activities have not been associated with any detected contaminants. For more information contact Wendy Adams-Rosenberger at 661-763-3151.

Indoor Residential Water Use Study

West Kern Water District has partnered with the CA Department of Water Resources on an Indoor Residential Water Use Study. Use the QR code to participate in the home water survey for your primary residence. By completing the survey you will be eligible to enter a raffle to win an iPad! **Offer expires 8/29/25**





Drinking Water Test Results for the year 2024

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, & 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 allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

TABLE 1. Compliance with Total Coliform MCL between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024

Microbial Contaminants	Sample Date	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Highest # of Detections in a Month	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	2024	5% of monthly samples are positive	0	2*	Naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present
Fecal Coliform and E.Coli	2024	0 positive	0	0	E. Coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal fecal waste

TABLE 1A. Sampling Results showing the detection of Coliform Bacteria

Microbial Contaminants	Highest # of Detections	No of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
E. Coli	0	0	(a)	0	Human and Animal Fecal Waste

\*Although Total Coliform was detected in the initial sample, repeat samples were conducted, with 1 resample positive. Additional repeats taken with all results negative. Water system remains in compliance.  
(a) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is E. coli-positive or system fails to repeat samples following E. Coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for E. coli.

TABLE 2. Sampling Results showing the detection of Lead and Copper

Lead & Copper	No of Samples Collected	90th Percentile Level Detected	No Sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (mg/L) 2024	30	0.09	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ug/L)- 2024	30	0	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.

TABLE 3. Sampling Results showing Sodium and Hardness

Chemical or Constituent (units)	Sample Date	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detections	WKWD Average	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (mg/L)	2022-2024	None	None	37-99	58	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (mg/L)	2022-2024	None	None	49-190	113	“Hardness” is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring.

TABLE 4. Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (units)	Sample Date	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detections	WKWD Average	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (mg/L)	2022-2024	1	0.6	ND-0.06	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ug/L)	2024	10	4	ND-4.00	0.78	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L)	2022-2024	2	1	ND-0.14	0.05	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (mg/L)	2024	10	10	ND-3	0.85	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use
Gross Alpha (pCi/L) <sup>1</sup>	2019-2024	15	0	.44 - 23.2	9.5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	2019-2024	20	0.43	0 to 20.3	10.5	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs (Total Triahalomethanes (ug/L)	2024	80	None	6.5-15	10.75	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ug/L)	2024	60	None	ND-2.8	1.4	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (mg/L)	2024	4	4	0.15-0.28	0.20	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

<sup>1</sup>While your drinking water meets the federal and state standards for Gross Alpha & Uranium, 2 wells exceeded the MCL. West Kern remains in compliance based on the source wells running annual average of 4 consecutive quarters. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have kidney problems or an increased risk of getting cancer.

TABLE 5. Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (units)	Sample Date	MCL	Range of Detections	WKWD Average	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ug/L)	2022-2024	200	ND-60	5.45	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (mg/L)	2022-2024	500	32-88	39.1	Erosion of natural deposits; seawater influence
Color	2022-2024	15 units	ND-5	3.2	Naturally occurrring organic materials
Iron (ug/L)	2022-2024	300	ND-180	16.4	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2022-2024	1600	340-830	501	Substance that forms ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	2022-2024	500	20-190	66	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial waste
Total dissolved solids (mg/L)	2024	1000	210-494	315	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2022-2024	5 Units	.10-2.8	0.29	Soil runoff

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).

TERMS USED IN REPORT:

MCL: **Maximum Contaminant Level:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCL’s protect public health and are set as close to the PHGs or MCLGs as are economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs relate to 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and allow a margin of safety.

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.

PDWS: **Primary Drinking Water Standards:** MCLs, MRDLs and treatment techniques (TTs) for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring, reporting, 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 EPA without regard to cost or available detection and treatment technologies.

SDWS: **Secondary Drinking Water Standards:** MCLs for contaminants that may adversely affect the taste, odor, or appearance of drinking water. These are aesthetic considerations that *don’t impact health*.

TT: **Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

AL: **Regulatory Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other required action by the water provider.

ND: Not Detectable at testing limit  
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit  
Mg/L: milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm)  
pCi/L: picocuries per liter (measurement of radioactivity)  
Ug/L: micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb)  
µS/cm: measure of electrical conductivity

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791.

About Arsenic: While your drinking water meets the federal & state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages especially pregnant women, 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.** West Kern is responsible for providing high quality water but cannot control the variety of materials used in customer plumbing systems. 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 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. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact West Kern Water District, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) - In compliance with EPA’s 2021 Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), West Kern Water is actively working to identify any water service lines and fittings that may contain lead. This ongoing effort is part of our commitment to ensuring the continued safety and reliability of our drinking water. An initial assessment was conducted using system records and physical inspections at water meters. To date, no lead service lines have been found within the District. The service line inventory is ongoing, and we will continue updating our records as more information becomes available. A copy of the current lead service line inventory is available for public review at the District office.

Unregulated contaminant are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water. West Kern completed UCMR5 sampling in 2024, which monitored for 29 Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) including Lithium. All results were non-detect..