Pico Water District

Water Quality Report 2024

A RENEWED VISION For Our Community

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Published July 1, 2025

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it. *Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Traducir, o hablar con alguien que entiende.*

4843 Church St, Pico Rivera, CA 90660 | 562.692.3756 | picowaterdistrict.net

A RENEWED VISION FOR OUR COMMUNITY

For nearly 100 years, our mission at Pico Water District has been to deliver safe and reliable water at the lowest possible rate while providing excellent service. We are working not only to serve as a utility provider but also to develop deeper connections with our customers and the community. ,This is reflected in our new purpose statement, **"We bring LIFE to EVERYTHING you LOVE,"** which embodies our core values: Kind, Strong, and Connect. To achieve our goal as the premier water provider to Pico Rivera, we support the moments that matter most. Whether you're cooking, gardening, or spending time with family and friends, clean, reliable water plays a vital role in your everyday life.

High-quality drinking water remains our primary focus. Since 2019, we have worked diligently to treat Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in our groundwater supply by installing cost-effective treatment solutions at our groundwater wells. Earlier this year, the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water approved the use of treatment at one of these wells, allowing us to begin removing PFAS from our water supply. While that first approval took nearly two years, we anticipate the remaining two treatment plants will be approved to operate by the end of this year. You'll find more information about our PFAS treatment strategy later in this report.

Protecting the health of our customers is our highest priority, and our dedication to serving your needs has never been stronger. We continually improve our operations and deepen our involvement in the community.

We are developing a new strategic communications plan as part of our efforts to better connect with you and serve the community. We are committed to transparency in our operations and welcome your feedback to help us serve you better.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this year's Water Quality Report. Please join me in thanking our entire District staff for their unwavering dedication to protecting our water supply. They are the men and women who work tirelessly to bring water to your tap. If you have any additional questions, please contact me directly at (562) 692-3756.

– Joe D. Basulto, *General Manager*

CELEBRATING OUR PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Water is essential to our everyday lives. Whether we use it to drink, cook or clean, all of us depend on Pico Water District to deliver this vital resource to our homes. The Board of Directors provides guidance to ensure we not only meet the needs of our community today, but far into the future. For decades, the District and its leadership have worked to adapt to the changing demands as the area has evolved from an unincorporated, agricultural area to the thriving city we live in today.

Next year, Pico Water District will celebrate its 100th year of service to the community. We look forward to sharing the progress we've made during the past century and how we will continue to adapt to ensure a clean and reliable water supply for generations to come.

– Raymond Rodriguez, *Board President*

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Pico Water District welcomes all customers to better understand your water service. Board of Directors meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. The meetings start at 5:30 p.m. in the District Boardroom, located at 4843 S. Church Street in Pico Rivera. Members of the public are invited to participate. Information on adjustments to meeting times and participation procedures due to COVID-19 can be found on the Pico Water District website. Meeting agendas and minutes are available online at **www.picowaterdistrict.net.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Raymond Rodriguez
President

Victor Caballero
Vice President

Elpidio "Pete" Ramirez
Director

David Angelo
Director

David Gonzales
Director


Well #8


Well #11


Well #5A

ENTERING A NEW ERA OF CLEAN WATER

A new water treatment facility is now online and serving customers, and this is just the beginning of a years-long effort to improve the District's water quality.

State regulators approved the new ion exchange treatment system at Well 11 in May of this year. The system removes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) to levels that meet state and federal standards. PFOA is one of hundreds of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a group of human-made chemicals used since the 1940s in everyday products including nonstick cookware, water-repellent clothing, food packaging, and firefighting foam. PFAS do not break down easily in the environment due to their resistance to heat, oil, grease, and water. This persistence has made them especially difficult to remove from water supplies.

Even before the State of California imposed strict PFAS regulations in 2019, Pico Water District became one of the first agencies to confront the challenges these chemicals present and quickly began developing a treatment solution. The District decided to construct ion exchange facilities at three well sites to ensure that the water we deliver meets these strict standards.

Ion exchange works by drawing water over specialized resin beads that attract and bind to the negatively charged PFOA molecules, effectively eliminating them from the water supply.

Due to challenges related to COVID-19, construction was delayed due to contractor staffing issues, supply chain interruptions and cost increases. While our wells have been ready to operate with treatment since July 2023, they required approval by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water before being reactivated. The first approval for Well 11 was received in May 2025. State approval for the treatment facilities at Wells 5A and 8 is expected in the coming months.

SCAN ME

To learn more about PFAS and how Pico Water District is addressing the issue, visit our website at picowaterdistrict.net/your-water/#pfoa

A NEW GENERATION OF WATER LEADERS

Pico Water District is excited to encourage local students to pursue careers in the water industry. One way we achieve this is by supporting the District's scholarship program. This year, we invite you to celebrate Ashley Rivera and Evan Tabullo, who each received a $500 scholarship toward their higher education.

Each year, members of the Pico Water District Board of Directors donate their personal funds to support scholarships for local students pursuing higher education, as a way to give back to the Pico Rivera community. The program encourages academic achievement, water conservation, and interest in careers in the water industry.

To qualify, applicants must:

- Be graduating high school seniors
- Plan to attend a college or university
- Live in the Pico Water District service area
- Complete an application and meet all requirements

Pico Water District and the Board of Directors are proud of this year's recipients and look forward to supporting next year's applicants.

ONLINE BILL PAYMENTS MADE EASY

Pico Water District offers secure online payments through Xpress Bill Pay, making it easy to pay your water bill in just minutes using a credit card, debit card, or electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your bank account.

With online bill pay, you can schedule automatic payments, set up payment reminders, and never worry about missing a due date. You'll also have 24/7 access to your account, allowing you to view your current bill and compare it with previous ones.

Xpress Bill Pay is available online or through the Xpress Bill Pay app, compatible with Apple and Android devices.

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ABOUT YOUR WATER QUALITY REPORT

This Annual Water Quality Report covers water quality testing that was performed in 2024 and is based on requirements established by the State of California. Included in this report are details about where your water comes from, how it is tested, what is in it, and how it compares with state and federal limits. We strive to keep you informed about the quality of your water and to provide a reliable supply that meets all state and federal regulatory requirements. This report contains important information about your drinking water. Get it translated or speak with someone who understands it. For more details about the information contained in this report, please call (562) 692-3756.

Si desea una copia de este informe en español, llame al (562) 692-3756 o visite nuestro sitio web en www.picowaterdistrict.net.

WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM

Pico Water District relies on the Central Groundwater Basin for 100% of its supply. The District conducted an assessment of its groundwater supplies in 2002. Groundwater supplies are considered most vulnerable to contaminants from chemical/petroleum processing/ storage, metal plating/finishing/ fabricating, landfills/dumps, automobile gas stations, fleet/truck/bus terminals, railroad yards/ maintenance/fueling areas, motor pools, dry cleaners, automobile repair shops, electrical/electronic manufacturing, sewer collection systems, lumber processing and manufacturing, water supply wells, parking lots/malls, veterinary offices/clinics, fire stations, office buildings/complexes, food processing, research laboratories, rental yards, junk/scrap/salvage yards, automobile body shops, wood/pulp/paper processing and mills, furniture repair/manufacturing, and hospitals. A copy of the approved assessment may be obtained by requesting one at the Pico Water District office.

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the state prescribe regulations that limit certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. All 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. You can also get more information on tap water by visiting these helpful websites: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/safewater. State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Drinking Water: www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs.

CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE WATER INCLUDE:

Microbial contaminants, including 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, 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, 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, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

LEAD IN TAP WATER

Pico Water District meets all standards for lead in the U.S. EPA Lead and Copper Rule, however, if present then 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. Pico Water District 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. 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 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

SHOULD I TAKE ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS?

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.

The U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection of Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

PICO WATER DISTRICT 2024
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Results are from the most recent testing performed in accordance with state and federal drinking water regulations

PRIMARY STANDARDS MONITORED AT THE SOURCE – MANDATED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

ORGANIC CHEMICALS (ug/l)	GROUNDWATER AVERAGE	GROUNDWATER RANGE	PRIMARY MCL	MCLG OR PHG	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Tetrachloroethylene *(PCE)*	0.66	ND - 1.3	5	0.06 (a)	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
Trichloroethylene *(TCE)*	ND	ND	5	0.8 (a)	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Methylene Chloride	ND	ND	5	4	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories; insecticide
Carbon Tetrachloride	ND	ND	0.5		Sources of environmental contamination include industrial facilities and hazardous waste sites.
POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (ng/l)					
PFOS	19.73	11 - 29	-		These chemicals are widely used in firefighting foams, in grease and stain-resistant materials, and for non-stick coatings such as pots, pans, clothing, and carpets.
PFOA	10.33	6.8 - 14	-		
PFHxS	3.59	2 - 4.8	-		
PFBS	5.94	4.8 - 8.5	-		
INORGANICS					
Nitrate *(mg/l as N)*	2.86	2.3 - 3.2	45	45 (a)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use/septic tanks/sewage, natural erosion
RADIOLOGICAL (pCi/l) (sampled 2022-2024)					
Gross Alpha *(b)*	2.49	.568 - 3.47	15 (c)	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226	0.08	ND - 0.173	5	-	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	1.11	.085 - 1.9	5	-	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	1.75	0.68 - 4.1	20 (c)	0.5 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits

PRIMARY STANDARDS MONITORED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM – MANDATED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

MICROBIALS	AVERAGE % POSITIVE	RANGE % POSITIVE	PRIMARY MCL	MCLG OR PHG	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Total Coliform Bacteria	0%	0%	5%	0%	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform & E. Coli Bacteria	0%	0%	0%	0%	Human and animal fecal waste
No. of Acute Violations	0	0	-	-	
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (d)	**AVERAGE**	**RANGE**	**PRIMARY MCL**	**MCLG OR PHG**	**MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER**
Trihalomethanes-TTHMS *(ug/l)*	6.8	2.6 - 12	80	-	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids *(ug/l)*	0.6	ND - 1.7	60	-	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Free Chlorine Residual *(mg/l)*	0.87	0.42 - 1.26	4.0 (e)	4.0 (f)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
AT THE TAP PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS 39 sites sampled in 2023	**90TH PERCENTILE**	**# SITES ABOVE ALL**	**SECONDARY MCL**	**MCLG OR PHG**	**MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER**
Copper *(ug/l)*	0.49 (g)	0	1.3 AL	0.17 (a)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Lead *(ug/l)*	0.64 (g)	0	15 AL	2 (a)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, industrial manufacturer discharges

SECONDARY STANDARDS MONITORED AT THE SOURCE – FOR AESTHETIC PURPOSES

SOURCE GROUND WATER Sampled 2023-2024	AVERAGE	RANGE	SECONDARY MCL	MCLG OR PHG	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Sulfate *(mg/l)*	105	62 - 140	500	-	Runoff/leaching form natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids *(mg/l)*	456	300 - 570	1,000		Runoff/leaching form natural deposits
Turbidity *(NTU)*	0.2	0.1 - 0.25	5 Units	-	Soil runoff

SECONDARY STANDARDS MONITORED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM – FOR AESTHETIC PURPOSES

GENERAL PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS	AVERAGE	RANGE	SECONDARY MCL	MCLG OR PHG	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Color *(color units)*	ND	ND	15	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Turbidity *(NTU)*	0.15	ND - 0.45	5	-	Soil runoff
Odor *(threshold odor number)*	ND	ND	3	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials

ADDITIONAL CHEMICALS OF INTEREST

CHEMICALS	GROUNDWATER AVERAGE	GROUNDWATER RANGE	CHEMICALS	GROUNDWATER AVERAGE	GROUNDWATER RANGE
ALKALINITY *(mg/l)*	165	110 - 210	**POTASSIUM** *(mg/l)*	4.3	3.6 - 4.7
CALCIUM *(mg/l)*	78	44 - 108	**SODIUM** *(mg/l)*	47	37 - 50
MAGNESIUM *(mg/l)*	13	8 - 17	**TOTAL HARDNESS** *(mg/l)*	254	147 - 341 (14.8 grains per gallon)
PH *(standard unit)*	7.6	6.9 - 7.9	**TOC** *(mg/l)*	0.42	0.38 - 0.45

FOOTNOTES

(a) California Public Health Goal (PHG). Other advisory levels listed in this column are federal Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs).

(b) Gross alpha standard also includes Radium-226 standard.

(c) MCL compliance based on 4 consecutive quarters of sampling.

(d) Running annual average used to calculate average, range, and MCL compliance.

(e) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MDRL)

(f) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDGL)

(g) 90th percentile from the most recent sampling at selected customer taps.

ABBREVIATIONS

pCi/l	picoCuries per liter
NTU	nephelometric turbidity units
umhos/cm	micromhos per centimeter
ND	constituent not detected at the reporting limit
mg/l	milligrams per liter or parts per million (equivalent to 1 drop in 42 gallons)
ug/l	micrograms per liter or parts per billion (equivalent to 1 drop in 42,000 gallons)

DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

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 of expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL (MRDL): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL GOAL (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the 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 (CalEPA).

TREATMENT TECHNIQUE (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

REGULATORY ACTION LEVEL (A.L.): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHERE DOES MY TAP WATER COME FROM AND IS IT SAFE TO DRINK?

All water delivered to Pico Water District customers comes from groundwater wells drilled in our service area. The quality of groundwater delivered to your home is presented in this report. This Water Quality Report reflects that the Pico Water District water is safe to drink and meets all federal and state requirements for drinking water.

HOW IS MY DRINKING WATER TESTED?

Your drinking water is tested regularly for unsafe levels of chemicals, radioactivity and bacteria at the source and in the distribution system. We test weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually or as needed depending on the substance being tested.

WHAT AFFECTS THE QUALITY OF WATER?

The sources of drinking 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.

WHAT ARE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) limits the amount of certain substances allowed in tap water. In California, the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water regulates tap water quality by enforcing limits that are at least as stringent as the U.S. EPA. Historically, California limits are more stringent than the U.S. EPA's.

There are two types of these limits, known as standards. Primary standards protect you from substances that could potentially affect your health. Secondary standards regulate substances that affect the aesthetic qualities of water. Regulations set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for each of the primary and secondary standards. The MCL is the highest level of a substance that is allowed in your drinking water.

Public Health Goals (PHGs) are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency. PHGs provide more information on the quality of drinking water to customers, and are similar to their federal counterparts, Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs). PHGs and MCLGs are advisory levels that are non-enforceable. Both PHGs and MCLGs are concentrations of a substance below which there are no known or expected health risks.

CONSERVATION FOR EVERY GENERATION

Water conservation remains an essential aspect of daily life for Californians. With long periods of drought and uncertain weather patterns, it's up to everyone to do their part in saving water.

By using water wisely inside and outside your home, you're helping us preserve our water supply for current and future generations. As a reminder, the following conservation measures are currently in effect for all Pico Water District customers:

- Watering outdoor landscapes can only occur before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
- Outdoor irrigation is limited to fifteen minutes per day on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- No excessive water runoff onto sidewalks, driveways, or gutters.
- Washing down hard surfaces is not allowed.
- Water fountains and other decorative features must recirculate water.
- Hoses must feature a self-closing shutoff nozzle when washing cars.
- Irrigation systems should not be used within 48 hours of measurable rainfall.
- All leaks must be repaired within 72 hours of notification from Pico Water District.

Scan me

For information on how to improve your water conservation, visit **epa.gov/watersense**.

GETTING PAID TO SAVE

Pico Water District collaborates with SoCal Water$mart to help our customers save money through rebates while reducing their overall water usage.

Qualifying residential customers earn rebates on a variety of new products, including

- **$85** on a high-efficiency clothes washer
- **$40** on a premium high-efficiency toilet
- **$100** on a leak detection device
- **$2 per square foot** of turf removal for new drought-tolerant landscaping
- **Outdoor devices** such as weather-based irrigation controllers, rotating sprinkler nozzles, rain barrels, soil moisture sensor systems, and more.

Qualifying commercial customers can earn rebates on a variety of other indoor and outdoor upgrades, including plumbing fixtures, landscaping equipment, food equipment, HVAC equipment, medical and dental equipment, and more.

Scan me

For more information, visit socalwatersmart.com

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

Follow Pico Water District on social media to stay informed about important updates, news, maintenance schedules, community events, and more.

You'll also find fun facts about where your water comes from and helpful tips to conserve water at home.

Facebook
@picowaterdistrict

Instagram
@picowaterdistrict

Pico Water District is committed to keeping our community informed and involved.