

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021



Presented By



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

PWS ID#: 1910130



We've Come a Long Way

Once again, we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2021. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at all hours—to deliver the highest-quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

From the General Manager

As the worldwide pandemic continues to be at the front of our minds and prices of materials and commodities as a whole continue to increase, Quartz Hill Water District (QHWD) is striving to maintain consistency in our water reliability and quality. Due to the lower rainfall average at the start of this year, QHWD started with a zero-percent allocation from the State Water Project (aqueduct water) and was looking to utilize some of our long-term water storage agreements and exercise our water portfolio. However, an extremely wet January has changed our immediate outlook. We are continuing to keep high hopes for the rest of the year regarding the rainfall and our drought status. Since we live in a desert, we will obviously continue to hope for more rainfall events. Though we might get more rain, we cannot forget the lessons we learned during these past droughts as we move toward our state's message of "Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life."

QHWD is also implementing key steps in our strategic plan, which is to be conservation-minded and proactive in safeguarding our finite resources by purchasing surplus surface water when it's available from AVEK, our state water contractor, and continuing to book water with the Antelope Valley Water Master each year. This and many other practices will guarantee a bright future for QHWD and preservation of one of Antelope Valley's most precious resources: groundwater.

QHWD utilizes two sources of water: groundwater and surface water. All groundwater produced by QHWD comes from one of ten wells the district owns and operates. In 2021 44 percent of the total amount of water used by QHWD came from these wells. The groundwater wells vary in depth from 500 to 600 feet and are monitored daily to ensure that only the highest quality of water is distributed through our system. The surface water, or secondary source of water, that supplies the QHWD comes from AVEK's Quartz Hill Treatment Plant. This source provided 56 percent of the total water used during the calendar year 2021. This water is supplied to the district through two interconnections that are both located south of M8.

QHWD is very fortunate that both the groundwater and surface water are of a quality that exceeds the state requirements, so only the best quality of water is provided to our customers. As we know, many people around the globe do not have access to safe drinking water. The quality of water used for drinking, cooking, and agriculture directly affects public health, safety, and welfare. QHWD has and will always remain dedicated to providing clean, healthy, pure water. This is accomplished with a rigorous sampling strategy. Some examples of this are monthly general physical samples and weekly bacteriological samples throughout the system. This is just one way we ensure that only the highest quality of water is delivered to our customers. Additional parameters, not shown in this pamphlet, were tested but not reported because there was no detection. All water quality analyses were conducted by a state-certified laboratory in compliance with California Department of Public Health drinking water standards.

Respectfully,

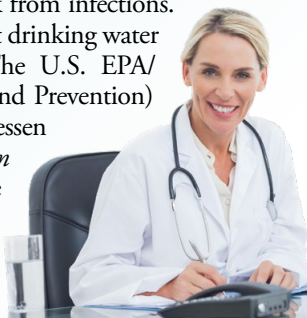
Chad J. Reed, General Manager

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 may be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/

CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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 <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



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/3leRyXy>.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Brent Byrne, General Manager, at (661) 943-3170. The Antelope Valley East Kern (AVEK) Water Agency Water Quality Report is available upon request.

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (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. 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.

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 can 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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.

Variances and Exemptions

Each year, in accordance with state regulations and requirements, we evaluate which constituents have never been detected in our area and apply for an exemption on those test requirements. The State Board carefully evaluates the data and approves which items we do not have to test for during that testing period. Exemptions are issued on certain constituents when they have a long history of nondetection during required testing.

Protecting Your Water

Bacteria are a natural and important part of our world. There are around 40 trillion bacteria living in each of us; without them, we would not be able to live healthy lives. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern, however, because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease.

In 2016 the U.S. EPA passed a regulation called the Revised Total Coliform Rule, which requires water systems to take additional steps to ensure the integrity of the drinking water distribution system by monitoring for the presence of bacteria like total coliform and E. coli. The rule requires more stringent standards than the previous regulation, and it requires water systems that may be vulnerable to contamination to have procedures in place that will minimize the incidence of contamination. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment and correct any problems quickly. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under this regulation due to its more preventive approach to identifying and fixing problems that may affect public health.

Though we are fortunate in having the highest-quality drinking water, our goal is to eliminate all potential pathways of contamination into our distribution system, and this requirement helps us accomplish that goal.

Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

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 components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. (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 at (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



What's Your Water Footprint?

You may have some understanding about your carbon footprint, but how much do you know about your water footprint? The water footprint of an individual, community, or business is defined as the total volume of freshwater that is used to produce the goods and services that are consumed by the individual or community or produced by the business. For example, 11 gallons of water is needed to irrigate and wash the fruit in one half-gallon container of orange juice. Thirty-seven gallons of water is used to grow, produce, package, and ship the beans in that morning cup of coffee. Two hundred and sixty-four gallons of water is required to produce one quart of milk, and 4,200 gallons of water is required to produce two pounds of beef.

According to the U.S. EPA, the average American uses over 180 gallons of water daily. In fact, in the developed world, one flush of a toilet uses as much water as the average person in the developing world allocates for an entire day's cooking, washing, cleaning, and drinking. The annual American per capita water footprint is about 8,000 cubic feet, twice the global per capita average. With water use increasing sixfold in the past century, our demands for freshwater are rapidly outstripping what the planet can replenish.

To check out your own water footprint, go to www.watercalculator.org.



BY THE NUMBERS

The number of Americans who receive water from a public water system.

300
MILLION

1
MILLION

The number of miles of drinking water distribution mains in the U.S.

The number of gallons of water produced daily by public water systems in the U.S.

34
BILLION

135
BILLION

The amount of money spent annually on maintaining the public water infrastructure in the U.S.

The number of active public water systems in the U.S.

151
THOUSAND

199
THOUSAND

The number of highly trained and licensed water professionals serving in the U.S.

The age in years of the world's oldest water, found in a mine at a depth of nearly two miles.

2
BILLION

Community Participation

We welcome input from our rate payers. The board of directors meets online or in our boardroom (depending on social distancing requirements) the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The public is always welcome to attend board meetings.

You may call Board Secretary Debi Pizzo to find out if the meeting will be held via GoToMeeting or in person at (661) 943-3170. This information is also printed and posted on the agenda.

Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water.
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions.
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results.
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry.
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels.
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies.
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 40 percent of bottled water is actually just tap water, according to government estimates.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out its website at <https://goo.gl/Jxb6xG>.

Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

Tip Top Tap

The most common signs that your faucet or sink is affecting the quality of your drinking water are discolored water, sink or faucet stains, a buildup of particles, unusual odors or tastes, and a reduced flow of water. The solutions to these problems may be in your hands.

Kitchen Sink and Drain

Handwashing, soap scum buildup, and the handling of raw meats and vegetables can contaminate your sink. Clogged drains can lead to unclean sinks and backed-up water in which bacteria (i.e., pink or black slime growth) can grow and contaminate the sink area and faucet, causing a rotten egg odor. Disinfect and clean the sink and drain area regularly and flush with hot water.

Faucets, Screens, and Aerators

Chemicals and bacteria can splash and accumulate on the faucet screen and aerator, which are located on the tip of faucets and can collect particles like sediment and minerals, resulting in a decreased flow from the faucet. Clean and disinfect the aerators or screens on a regular basis.

Check with your plumber if you find particles in the faucet screen, as they could be pieces of plastic from the hot water heater dip tube. Faucet gaskets can break down and cause black, oily slime. If you find this slime, replace the faucet gasket with a higher-quality product. White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and showerheads may be caused by water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.

Water Filtration/Treatment Devices

A smell of rotten eggs can be a sign of bacteria on the filters or in the treatment system. The system can also become clogged over time, so regular filter replacement is important. (Remember to replace your refrigerator filter!)

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the SWAP, our water system had a susceptibility rating of medium. If you would like to review the SWAP, please feel free to contact our office during regular business hours.

Water Stress

Water stress occurs when the demand for water exceeds the amount available during a certain period or when poor water quality restricts its use. Water stress causes deterioration of freshwater resources in terms of quantity (aquifer overexploitation, dry rivers, etc.) and quality (eutrophication, organic matter pollution, saline intrusion, etc.).

According to the World Resources Institute (www.wri.org), the Middle East and North Africa remain the most water-stressed regions on Earth. However, several states in the western half of the U.S. are similarly experiencing extremely high levels of water stress from overuse. It is clear that even in countries with low overall water stress, individual communities may still be experiencing extremely stressed conditions. For example, South Africa and the United States rank #48 and #71 on WRI's list, respectively, yet the Western Cape (the state home to Cape Town) and New Mexico experience extremely high stress levels.

There are undeniably worrying trends in water quality. But by taking action now and investing in better management, we can solve water issues before it's too late.



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 15 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.

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 are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

One of our raw water source sites has an arsenic mitigation treatment facility. In January 2021, we had a one-time result above the maximum contaminant level (MCL), and the source was immediately removed from service. Once the appropriate adjustments were made, to the media and/or CO2 and a result below the MCL was attained, we brought the source back into our distribution system. All of our sites are checked daily. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the U.S. EPA MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2021	10	0.004	3.38	ND–16.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Chlorine (ppm)	2021	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	0.72	0.27–1.25	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Chromium, Total (ppb)	2020	50	(100)	3.67	ND–11	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2021	2.0	1	0.58	0.045–0.72	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
HAA5 [Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2012	60	NA	5.5	ND–17.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	60	NA	8.2	5.1–13.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2016	NS ¹	0.02	11.3	7.6–15	No	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as nitrate] (ppm)	2021	45	45	4.43	0.89–8.6	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2021	10	10	4.18	3.5–4.6	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2015	5	0.019	0.01	ND–0.41	No	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2012	80	NA	23.6	ND–76.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	80	NA	24.1	12.6–39.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
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)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.3	0.3	0.36	0/32	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2021	500	NS	39.5	36–43	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Odor, Threshold (units)	2021	3	NS	1	1–1	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2021	1,600	NS	540	520–550	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2021	500	NS	58.5	53–67	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2021	1,000	NS	312.5	290–330	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ²

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Boron (ppb)	2021	77.5	ND–110
Chromium VI [Hexavalent Chromium] ¹ (ppb)	2021	8.97	1.8–15
Sodium (ppm)	2021	66	59–77
Vanadium (ppb)	2021	16.5	14–17

To The Last Drop

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines drought as a deficiency in precipitation over an extended period of time, usually a season or more, resulting in a water shortage causing adverse impacts on vegetation, animals, or people. Drought strikes in virtually all climate zones, from very wet to very dry.

There are primarily three types of drought: meteorological drought refers to the lack of precipitation, or the degree of dryness and the duration of the dry period; agricultural drought refers to the agricultural impact of drought, focusing on precipitation shortages, soil water deficits, and reduced groundwater or reservoir levels needed for irrigation; and hydrological drought refers to periods of extended precipitation shortfalls that can impact water supply (i.e., stream flow, reservoir and lake levels, groundwater).

Drought is a temporary aberration from normal climatic conditions; thus, it can vary significantly from one region to another. Although normally occurring, human factors such as water demand can exacerbate the duration and impact that drought has on a region. By following simple water conservation measures, you can help significantly reduce the lasting effects of extended drought.

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.

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.

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.

¹ There is currently no MCL for hexavalent chromium. The previous MCL of 10 ppb was withdrawn on September 11, 2017.

² Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

