2025 Annual Water Quality Report

Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association

Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association (RCLWA) is a mutual water company established in 1886, located in the unincorporated town of Altadena, in Los Angeles County, California. For 139 years, RCLWA has supplied potable drinking water to the central and eastern portions of Altadena, north of Pasadena. The approximate population is 9,600 people served by approximately 3,140 water service connections. A five-member Board of Directors governs RCLWA. The mission of RCLWA is to provide shareholders within its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way. In addition to providing high-quality water, RCLWA is committed to enhancing its infrastructure to ensure the reliable availability of water for its customers. We are doing this by evaluating our system of pipes and replacing them through improvement projects throughout the year.

Conserving Our Most Precious Resource

Altadena is a semi-desert region that relies on limited imports of water to supplement its local supply. To effectively reduce our water demand and preserve our resources, water conservation is essential. In line with state mandates, the most significant measure to extend available water supplies is to achieve a 20% reduction in water usage. The following conservation measures are in place:

- No hosing down driveways, sidewalks, or other paved surfaces.
- No irrigating turf or landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable rain.
- Adjust sprinklers and irrigation systems to avoid overspray, runoff, and waste.
- Shut off decorative fountains, ponds, and other similar aesthetic features, unless a water recycling system is used.
- Use a hose that is fitted with a shut-off nozzle.
- Customers must routinely check faucets, toilets, and pipes for leaks and repair them.
- Outside irrigation is allowed up to 2 days per week.
  (No restrictions on the days of the week) Irrigate before 9:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m.

www.rclwa.org | www.bewaterwise.com | www.saveourwater.com.

Where Does My Tap Water Come From?

RCLWA provides potable drinking water via groundwater wells, a conventional treatment plant, and from an imported source. The imported source water is obtained from Foothill Municipal Water District, a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Typically, we do not operate our wells between November and April. We import water almost exclusively during this period since purchased water is historically more readily available during the winter months. During the remaining months, we operate our wells as the primary source of potable drinking water. By pumping our wells during the summer months, we can save operating costs. RCLWA's treatment plant treats surface water that is acquired from the local foothill area. In 2025, RCLWA pumped 1165 acre-feet of groundwater, treated 139 acre-feet of surface water, and did not import any water. An acre-foot of water is equal to 325,829 gallons.

Source Water Assessment

Every five years, MWD is required by DDW to examine possible sources of drinking water contamination in its State Water Project and Colorado River source waters. The most recent watershed sanitary surveys of MWD's source water supplies from the Colorado River was updated in 2020 and the State Water Project was updated in 2021. Water from the Colorado River is considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. Water supplies from Northern California's State Water Project are most vulnerable to contamination from urban/ stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater. USEPA also requires MWD to complete one Source Water Assessment (SWA) that utilizes information collected in the watershed sanitary surveys. MWD completed its SWA in December 2002. The SWA is used to evaluate the vulnerability of water sources to contamination and helps determine whether more protective measures are needed. A copy of the most recent summary of either Watershed Sanitary Survey or the SWA can be obtained by calling MWD at (800) CALL-MWD.

In 2025, RCLWA conducted thousands of water quality tests for more than 100 different contaminants. We test weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, and every three years, depending on the constituent. All water quality samples are collected by specially trained and State-certified operators and analyzed by State-certified independent laboratories. Once again, we are pleased to report that the water delivered to your home or business meets or exceeds, all State and Federal Drinking Water requirements. It is important that you know what was detected and how much of the substance was present in your drinking water. For your information, the following tables have been compiled to show what substances were detected in RCLWA's water supplies during 2025. The State permits RCLWA to monitor certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations of these contaminants change infrequently. Some data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

Water Quality Monitoring

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800426-4791). You can also get more information on tap water by logging on to these helpful web sites: https:// www.epa.gov/ground-water-anddrinking-water (USEPA web site) or https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/ Fluoridation.html (DDW web site).

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, 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, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems;
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Should I Take Additional Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to constituents in the water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons, and infants, can be particularly at risk of infections. These people should seek advice from their healthcare provider about their drinking water. The USEPA and the Centers for Disease Control have guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants, which are available through the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791, and online at http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline/.

Lead in Tap Water

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. Rubio Cañon is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but it 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 http://www.epa.gov/lead.

What Are Water Quality Standards?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the DDW 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 must provide the same protection for public health. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)**: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial pathogens. • Primary Drinking Water Standard: MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

- **Regulatory Action Level (AL)**: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Notification Level (NL)**: An advisory level which, if exceeded, requires the drinking water system to notify the governing body of the local agency in which users of the drinking water reside (i.e. City Council, County Board of Supervisors).

What is a Water Quality Goal?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and DDW have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the USEPA.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)**: The level of a 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.
- **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.

How Can I Participate in Decisions On Water Issues That Affect Me?

Residents are welcome to call the office and discuss concerns with the water compliance specialist or other members of management. Residents may also request an in-person meeting. Email requests may be sent to info@rclwa.org

How Do I Contact My Water Agency If I Have Any Questions About Water Quality?

If you have specific questions about your tap water quality, please contact our offices at 626.797.0509 or email to info@rclwa.org.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información ó traducción, favor de contactar a la oficina (626) 797-0509.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse con Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association at 583 E Sacramento St, Altadena, CA 91001, (626) 797-0509 para asistirlo en español.

How Do I Read the Water Quality Table?

The first column of the water quality table lists substances detected in your water. The next columns list the MCL and PHG or MCLG, as appropriate. Following are columns that list the average concentration and range of concentrations found in your drinking water. The last column describes the likely sources of these substances in drinking water. To review the quality of your drinking water, compare the highest concentration and the MCL. Check for substances greater than the MCL. Exceedance of a primary MCL does not usually constitute an immediate health threat. Rather, it requires testing the source water more frequently for a short duration. If test results show that the water continues to exceed the MCL, the water must be treated to remove the substance, or the source must be removed from service.

Surface Water Quality Data

	RCLWA	MWD Purchased Water	

Parameter	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detection	Average Amount	Range of Detection	MCL Violations	Typical Source of Contaminant
Radiological								
Alpha Radiation (pCi/L)	15.0	0	13.7 (A)	7.6 - 14	ND	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20.0	1.0	15.4	15 – 19	ND	ND - 3	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L)	5.0	0	0.62	0.57 – 0.67	ND	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Organic Chemicals								
1,2,3 – Trichloropropane (ug/L)	5.0	0.7	ND	ND	ND	ND	No	Degreasing solvent associated with pesticides
Inorganic Chemicals								
Aluminum (mg/L)	1	0.6	ND	ND	96	ND-100	No	Residue from the water treatment process
Arsenic (ug/L)	10.0	0.004	ND	ND	ND	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L) (A)	2.0	1.0	2.2 (A)	1.9 – 2.4	0.7	0.5 – 0.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate as N (mg/L as NO3-N)	10	10	0.95	0.71 – 1.1	ND	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary Standards (B)								
Chloride (mg/L)	500	N/A	6.8 (B)	6.8 – 45.5	92	86 - 98	No	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits
Zinc (mg/L)	5.0	N/A	ND (B)	ND	ND	ND	No	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (us/cm)	1600	N/A	400 (B)	400 – 790	868	754 - 981	No	Substances that form ions in water
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	N/A	33 (B)	33 – 73	176	139 - 212	No	Runoff or leaching of natural deposits
Iron (ug/L)	300	N/A	ND (B)	ND	ND	ND	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Manganese (ug/L)	50	NL=500	ND (B)	ND	ND	ND	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1000	N/A	240 (B)	240 – 480	536	456 - 617	No	Runoff or leaching of natural deposits

A) High Fluoride and Alpha Radiation in local surface water are blended with groundwater to reduce Fluoride and Alpha Radiation below the MCL. MCL compliance is determined by measuring Fluoride (weekly) and Alpha Radiation (Quarterly) at a representative location within the distribution system. **B)** The parameter is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).

Unregulated Parameters Requiring Monitoring								
Sodium (mg/L)	N/A	N/A	16	0 - 16	89	78 - 100	No	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits
Hardness (mg/L)	N/A	N/A	180	180 - 380	234	189 - 280	No	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits
Perchlorate (ug/L)	6	1	ND	ND	ND	ND	No	Industrial waste discharge
Alkalinity (mg/L)	N/A	N/A	160	120 - 165	110	95 - 124	N/A	Runoff or leaching from natural deposits
Chromium VI (ug/L)	10	0.02	ND	ND	ND	ND	No	Industrial waste discharge

Turbidity – combined filter effluent	Treatment Technique	Turbidity Measurement	Turbidity Measurement	TT Violations	Typical Source of Contamination
Highest Single Measurement	5.0 NTU	0.17	0.06	No	Soil run-off
Percentage less than 0.5 NTU	95 %	100 %	100 %	No	Soil run-off

Disinfection By-Products							
Parameter	MCL	Average Amount	Range of Detection	Average Amount	Range of Detection	MCL Violations	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	80	1.1	0 – 1.1	31	24 - 30	No	Byproducts of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (five)(ug/L)	60	ND	ND	3.1	ND – 4.9	No	Byproducts of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (five) system (ug/L)	60	2.3	ND – 4.6	9.4	ND - 18	No	Byproducts of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine Residual (mg/L)	4	1.1	0.84 – 2	2.6	1.1 – 3.1	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

The Information Collection Rule (ICR) is a multi-year national program administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The primary purpose of the ICR is to gather nationwide occurrence data on chemicals that may be formed during drinking water disinfection. The results of the ICR will assist the EPA in regulating many of these disinfection by-products over the next few years.

Groundwater Quality Data

Parameter	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detection	MCL Violation	Most Recent Sample Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Organic Chemicals							
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (ug/L)	5	0.06	4.42	1.1 - 14	No	2025	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops
MTBE (ug/L)	13	13	ND	ND	No	2025	Gasoline discharge from watercraft engines
1,2,3 – Trichloropropane (ug/L)	5	0.7	ND	ND	No	2025	Degreasing solvent associated with pesticides
Inorganic Chemicals							
Nitrate as N (mg/L as NO3-N)	10	10	6.1	5.7 – 6.4	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ug/L)	10	0.004	ND	ND	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/L)	2	1	0.96	ND – 1.5	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Aluminum (mg/L)	1	0.6	ND	ND	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary Standards*							
Chloride (mg/L)	1000	N/A	45.5	39 - 52	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Specific Conductance (us/cm)	1600*	N/A	790	670 - 910	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (mg/L)	500*	N/A	73	62 - 83	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1000*	N/A	480	400 - 560	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
* Parameter is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).							

Unregulated Parameters Requiring Monitoring							
Parameter	**MCL**	**PHG (MCLG)**	**Average Amount**	**Range of Detection**	**MCL Violation**	**Most Recent Sample Date**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Perchlorate (ug/L)	6	6	1.96	1.3 – 3	No	2025	Industrial waste discharge
Sodium (mg/L)	Not Regulated	N/A	28	25 - 31	N/A	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness (mg/L)	Not Regulated	N/A	380	300 - 460	N/A	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Boron (ug/L)	Not Regulated	N/A	50	ND - 100	N/A	2025	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Vanadium (ug/L)	Not Regulated	N/A	3.75	3.2 – 4.3	N/A	2025	Naturally occurring / Industrial waste discharge
Chromium VI (ug/L)	10	0.02	0.97	0.43 – 1.5	N/A	2025	Industrial waste discharge

Parameter	Primary MCL	Average Amount	Range of Detection	MCL Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Nitrate (as N) (mg/L)	10	6.1	5.8 – 6.2	No	Fertilizers, septic tanks
Fluoride (mg/L) *	2	0.96	0.63 – 1.5	No	Naturally present in groundwater
Total Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	80	11.5	2.6 – 25.9	No	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (five) (ug/L)	60	2.3	ND – 4.6	No	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Parameter	**Secondary MCL**	**Average Amount**	**Range of Detection**	**MCL Violation**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Color (color units)	15	ND	0 – 3	No	Naturally present in groundwater
Odor (Threshold odor number)	3	1.0	ND - 1	No	Naturally present in groundwater

Lead and Copper Action Level at Residential Taps							
Parameter	**MCL**	**AL**	**90th Percentile Value**	**Sites Exceeding MCL, Number of Sites**	**Number of Schools Requesting Lead Sampling**	**MCL Violation**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Copper (mg/L)	N/A	1.3	0.63	0 / 22	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (mg/L)	N/A	.015	ND	0 / 22	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Every three years, 20 residences are tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of samples were collected in 2025. The next collection is scheduled for July 2028. Lead was not detected; copper was detected in twelve samples, none of which exceeded the Regulatory Action Level.							
Parameter	**MCL**	**PHG (MCLG)**	**Average Amount**	**Range of Detection**	**MCL Violation**	**Most Recent Sample Date**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Radiological							
Alpha Radiation (pCi/L)	15	(0)	12.7	8.8 - 18	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	(5)	16.9	15 - 19	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L)	5	0	0.62	0.57 – 0.67	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits

Additional information on drinking water contaminants

Radioactive Contaminants – Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. 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.

Nitrate - Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L 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 infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L 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.

Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) - Some people who use water containing tetrachloroethylene in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Additional information on drinking water contaminants

Color - When water is not circulated regularly, it can pick up color from galvanized or steel pipes, causing your water to turn yellow or brownish - red. A rusty water heater can also be a problem. To remove colored water from household pipes, run your faucet for at least five minutes or until the water clears. Catch this water in a pitcher for watering plants or other non-potable purposes. RCLWA maintains a flushing maintenance program to minimize and remove sediment from the distribution system, maintaining water quality throughout the entire service area.

Fluoride - Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral found both in surface water (water from snowmelt, rivers, and streams) as well as groundwater. Fluoride has been added to U.S. drinking water supplies since 1945. While the MCL for Fluoride is set nationally at 4.0 mg/L, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has set the California MCL at 2.0mg/L. Compliance is achieved by blending canyon water with pumped groundwater or imported MWD water, which is lower in Fluoride, always reducing the Fluoride concentration below the SWRCB MCL. Testing for Fluoride is conducted weekly at representative locations throughout the distribution system.

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
- **Public Health Goal (PHG)**: California 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 Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)**: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)**: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Treatment Technique (TT**): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. Regulatory
- **Action Level (AL)**: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

µg/l = microgram per liter or parts-per-billion
ng/l = nanogram per liter or parts-per-trillion
NTU = nephelometric turbidity units
ND = not detected
MCLG = Federal MCL Goal
NR = not required to be tested
NL = Notification Level
mg/l = milligram per liter or parts-per-million
pCi/L = picoCuries per liter
µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter
MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
PHG = California Public Health Goal
TT = treatment technique
< = average is less than the detection limit for reporting

Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association

Ph: (626) 797-0509 Fax: (626) 797-0520
Web: www.rclwa.org Email: info@rclwa.org