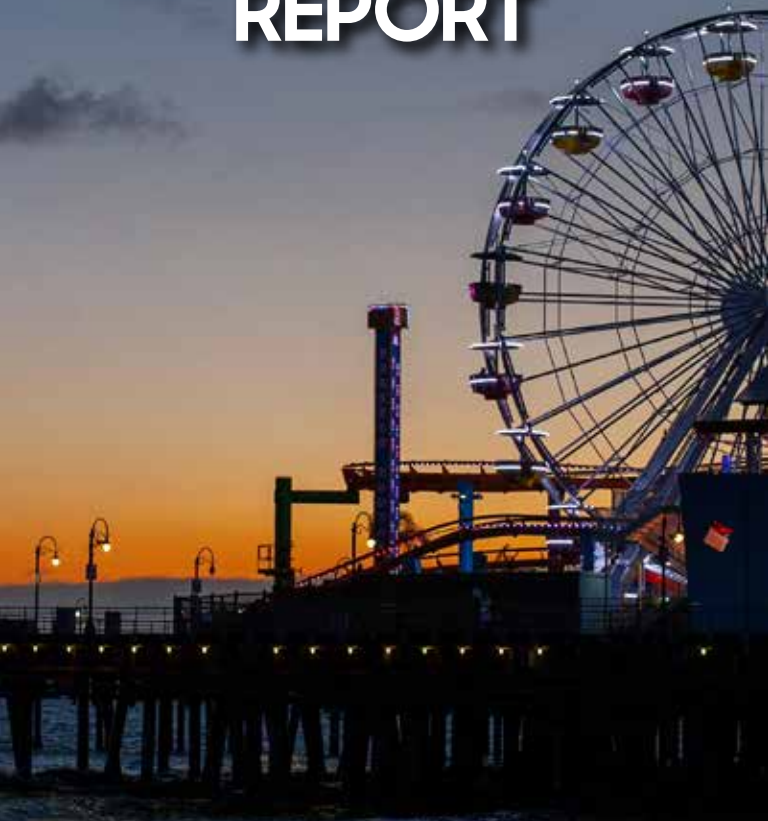
City of Santa Monica

WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT



JUNE 2026

REPORTING PERIOD JAN-DEC 2025

TO DOWNLOAD THIS REPORT VISIT
SANTAMONICA.GOV/TOPIC-EXPLAINERS/YOUR-GUIDE-TO-WATER

Dear Community Members,

On behalf of the City of Santa Monica, we are pleased to publish the 2026 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report to provide a summary of water quality data for the 2025 calendar year. Throughout the year, Santa Monica Water continued to meet and exceeded all federal and state drinking water standards established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Drinking Water (DDW).

As part of its commitment to a more sustainable and climate-resilient future, the City of Santa Monica is investing in innovative solutions to strengthen its local water supply and reduce dependence on imported water. Guided by its 2018 Sustainable Water Master Plan, the City completed two major projects in February 2025 that are helping secure safe, reliable drinking water for the community. The Olympic Well Field Restoration Project brought the new Olympic Advanced Water Treatment Facility (Olympic AWTF) online, using advanced, multi-barrier treatment technologies to remove contaminants left behind by past industrial activity. This restores the Olympic sub-basin as a safe and productive local water source. At the same time, upgrades to the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant introduced the world's first municipal-scale Flow Reversal Reverse Osmosis (FRRO) retrofit system. This cutting-edge technology improves treatment efficiency by 10 percent, allowing the City to produce more high-quality drinking water without increasing groundwater pumping or expanding the facility. Together, these investments reflect Santa Monica's leadership in sustainable water management—delivering clean, safe water that meets and exceeds all state and federal standards while protecting local resources for future generations.

Achieving these long-term goals is made possible by continued partnership with the community. The City of Santa Monica appreciates the community's ongoing commitment to water use efficiency and its support for necessary rate adjustments that help maintain financial and system stability in the face of climate uncertainty. Through these shared efforts, Santa Monica will continue to invest in reliable, high-quality water service while safeguarding local resources for years to come.

On behalf of the City of Santa Monica Public Works Department and the employees of the Water Resources Division, thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely,

Sunny Wang

Water Resources Manager

**Contact information is available on the last page of this report.*

Santa Monica's Water Source And Treatment System

The Arcadia Water Treatment Plant was recently retrofitted to enhance overall production efficiency and aid in sustainable groundwater management.

The City of Santa Monica currently obtains up to 75% of its water from local groundwater wells within the City and in West Los Angeles. The City extracts its water from three sub-basins within the Santa Monica Basin (Charnock, Olympic, and Arcadia Sub-basins), with the Charnock Sub-basin being a local supply for more than 100 years!

Over 20 years ago, Methyl tert-Butyl Ether (MTBE) and tert-Butyl Alcohol (TBA), compounds once used as gasoline additives, were detected in three of the Charnock Sub-basin wells. These contaminants found their way into the groundwater via Leaking Underground Storage Tanks from various gasoline stations within the Charnock Sub-basin. In response, the City of Santa Monica completed the Charnock Well Field Restoration Project in 2010. The treatment from this project uses virgin Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration, from coconut shells, to remove MTBE and TBA concentrations to levels well below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 5 part per billion (ppb).

TO PUT THESE UNITS INTO CONTEXT:

One part per billion (ppb)	= 1 second in 31.7 years = 1 teaspoon in 1.3 million gallons
One part per million (ppm)	= 1 second in 11.6 days = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons

The City of Santa Monica Water Resources Division values transparency, we hope that you find this report clear and easy to understand. If you have any questions, please call Cameron Helm at (310) 434-2672.

El Departamento de Recursos Hídricos de la Ciudad de Santa Mónica valora la gestión transparente; Esperamos que este informe le resulte claro y fácil de entender. Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor comuníquese al (310) 434-2672.

**Contact information is available on the last page of this report.*

SANTA MONICA WATER TREATMENT PROCESS

Charnock Treatment Plant

1) Charnock Well Field
Groundwater, contaminated with the gasoline additive MTBE, is pumped up from 400 feet below ground surface and treated through the City's multi-barrier treatment system.

2) Greensand Filtration
The pumped groundwater is first filtered through greensand filters to remove naturally occurring iron and manganese.

3) GAC Filtration
Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters remove MTBE and other industrial pollutants from the groundwater.

4) Pump to Treatment Plant
Filtered water from the Charnock Treatment Plant is pumped to the City's Arcadia Water Treatment Plant for further treatment.

Olympic Advanced Water Treatment Facility

1) Olympic Well Field
The groundwater from the Olympic Well Field requires its own treatment facility to remove industrial pollutants (e.g., VOCs) from historical industrial activities that contaminated the well field.

2) Greensand Filtration
The pumped groundwater is first filtered through greensand filters to remove naturally occurring iron and manganese to protect the UV/AOP system.

3) Ultraviolet Advanced Oxidation
Ultraviolet Light Advanced Oxidation Process (UV/AOP) uses hydrogen peroxide and UV light to create hydroxyl radicals that destroy industrial contaminants like VOCs and 1,4 Dioxane present in the groundwater supply.

4) GAC Filtration
GAC filters are provided as polish step and secondary barrier for contaminant removal (e.g., 1,2,3-TCP).

5) Pump to Treatment Plant
Filtered water from the Charnock Treatment Plant is pumped to the City's Arcadia Water Treatment Plant for further treatment.

Arcadia Water Treatment Plant

1) Pretreatment Filtration
Greensand filtration is provided to remove naturally occurring iron and manganese as well as particulate matter from the groundwater supply to protect downstream treatment processes.

2) Flow Reversal Reverse Osmosis Filtration
Filtration through Flow Reversal Reverse Osmosis (FRRO) reduces water hardness and provides another barrier for contaminant removal in the City's multi-barrier treatment system.

3) Treated Water Quality
The final treated drinking water at the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant is disinfected, fluoridated, and conditioned to ensure safe, high-quality water is distributed to the community.

4) Storage
The City operates four water storage reservoirs that is used to meet peak water demand periods in the City and also provides essential water supplies for emergency response.

5) Final Delivery
Safe, high-quality drinking water is delivered throughout the community through a citywide network of more than 200 miles of pipelines.

City of Santa Monica

Treated water from the Charnock Well Field is then sent to the Arcadia Treatment Plant, and along the way it blends with water from the Arcadia Sub-basin wells. Once the water arrives at the Arcadia Treatment Plant, it undergoes a treatment process that includes Iron/Manganese removal, filtration, FRRO softening, disinfection, and fluoridation.

The Olympic Sub-basin undergoes a slightly different treatment process to remove contaminants specific to that sub-basin. This water is sent to the new Olympic Advanced Water Treatment Facility that was completed in 2025 and co-located at the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant. Here, the water goes through Iron/Manganese filtration, Ultraviolet Advanced Oxidation (UV/AOP) to remove 1,4-Dioxane, Trichloroethylene, and Tetrachloroethylene, and followed by GAC as an additional filtration barrier and adsorb 1,2,3-Trichloropropane before it combines with the other groundwater sources for further treatment through the FRRO system.

The City of Santa Monica is the first in the nation to implement FRRO technology to soften the groundwater, which is the process of removing scale-forming calcium and magnesium from hard water. FRRO changes the direction of flow periodically through the membranes, increasing the recovery of purified water and the efficiency of the treatment process.

The complete treatment process is further outlined on the previous two page “Santa Monica Water Treatment Process” diagram.

Santa Monica’s drinking water is supplemented with imported water purchased from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). Treated MWD water is blended with our locally produced water and then distributed to our residents. MWD imports water from two separate sources. One is the Colorado River water, which is delivered from Lake Havasu through a 242-mile-long aqueduct and originates as snowmelt from mountainous regions in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. The second is from the State Water Project, which is delivered through the 441-mile-long California Aqueduct and originates in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. MWD water is filtered at their treatment plants and undergoes extensive treatment before entering Santa Monica’s water system.

The California Aqueduct in the Central Valley.

For more For information about the City’s treatment facilities, please call the City of Santa Monica Water Resources Division (see back cover for contact information) or visit *santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/your-guide-to-water.*

**Contact information is available on the last page of this report.*

Background on Drinking Water Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.**
- Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.and mining activities.

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

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 (800-426-4791).

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 people, and infants can be particularly at risk of infections. These people should seek

**Contact information is available on the last page of this report.*

advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/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.

***You can help protect source water purity by controlling what enters storm drains. The following sites provide guides on how you can protect Drinking Water Sources:*

www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/easy-things-you-can-do-protect-drinking-water-sources

Information on environmentally friendly products is available at: www.santamonica.gov/departments/public-works/office-of-sustainability-and-the-environment

To report storm drain pollution, please contact the City's Wastewater Department. See back cover for contact information.

Source Water Vulnerability Assessments

Between 2000 and 2012, the SWRCB DDW completed Source Water Vulnerability Assessments for all the City's groundwater wells. The assessments are required for all water utilities nationwide to evaluate the vulnerability of drinking water sources for "possible contaminating activities." Vulnerabilities most associated with contamination include commercial, industrial, urban runoff and municipal activities. Based on the vulnerability assessments, Santa Monica Wells #3 and #4 located mid-city, Arcadia Wells #4 and #5, and Charnock Wells #13, #16, #18, #19 and #20, located in West L.A. are considered most vulnerable to commercial, industrial, residential, and municipal activities. Santa Monica Well #1, located on the north side of the city, and the Arcadia Wells are considered most vulnerable by their proximity to sewer collection systems, although monthly analyses have detected no related contamination.

In the summer of 2023, two new wells were drilled within the Charnock sub-basin to replace aging wells that has been in service for over 50 years. After planning, construction, and testing, the City is now in the process of permitting the two new wells to replace Charnock #13 and #18. Because the new wells, Charnock Wells #21 and #22, are pulling water from the same sub-basin, they will go through the same multi-barrier treatment to produce safe, high-quality drinking water for the community. Though extracting the same water, a Drinking Water Source Assessment is required by DDW to survey the quality of the water and ensure our treatment processes will produce safe, quality drinking water. A copy of this assessment can be found in Santa Monica City Hall as well as the Water Resources office.

For more information on the source water vulnerability assessment, please contact the City of Santa Monica Water Resources Division.

MWD most recently completed a comprehensive sanitary survey for their source waters, the Colorado River Watershed in 2022 and the California State Water Project in 2021. These sanitary surveys are conducted to determine sources of contamination and propose measures to protect source waters. The Colorado River and State Water Project supplies are most vulnerable to stormwater runoff, recreational activities, wastewater discharges, wildlife, fire impacts, and weather extremes caused by climate change.

A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting MWD (see back cover for contact information).

Water Quality Data Tables

Santa Monica Water continues to meet and exceed all USEPA and State Drinking Water Health Standards. The following data tables compare our water quality with Drinking Water Health Standards. The data is organized by source of water in two categories, each with two sub-parts:

LOCAL GROUNDWATER

- Arcadia Treatment Plant: Collects water from 9 wells, completes treatment, and delivers it via a distribution system.
- Santa Monica Well #1: Treats supply at the source and pumps directly into distribution.

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT (MWD) Treatment Plants from where Santa Monica receives treated water.

- Weymouth Plant
- Jensen Plant

Our state-certified laboratory perform routine tests to ensure clean and healthy drinking water.

The results are presented in two tables: ***Primary Drinking Water Quality Results*** and ***Secondary Drinking Water Quality Results***. The primary results cover contaminants that may affect the public's health. These contaminants include hazardous chemicals, metals, bacteria, and radioactivity. The secondary results cover parameters that may affect the aesthetics of the water, such as taste, appearance, and odor. These parameters include turbidity, minerals, and pH among others.

For questions regarding water quality, call the City of Santa Monica Water Resources Division (see back cover for contact information).

CITY OF SANTA MONICA WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR 2025

PARAMETER	PHG/ [MCLG]/ {MRDLG}	State MCL/ {MRDL}	LOCAL WELL WATER Arcadia Plant Average	Range	IMPORTED SURFACEWATER Jensen Plant Average	Range	IMPORTED SURFACE WATER Weymouth Plant Average	Range	DATES SAMPLED if other than 2025(b)	Meets Std	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS (MANDATORY HEALTH-RELATED STANDARDS)											
Clarity											
Maximum Turbidity (NTU)	NS	5	NA	NA	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Soil runoff
Microbiological											
Total Coliform Bacteria (% positive samples/month)	[0]	5%	Citywide Highest Monthly: 0% Positive Samples			Range: ND	No violations			Y	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform/E. Coli	[0]	(c)	Citywide Maximum: 0 Positive Samples							Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Organic Chemical											
Methyl tert-Butyl Ether (MTBE) (ppb)	13	13(5*)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Leaking underground storage tanks
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	1.7	5	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Discharge from metal degreasing sites
1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP) (ng/L)	0.7	5	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Discharge and leaching from industrial/agricultural, and hazardous waste sites used as cleaning solvent for paint, varnish, and degreasing; pesticide by product
Disinfection Byproducts & Residuals											
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NS	80	Citywide LRAA: 14.9			Range: 5.9 - 21.6				Y	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NS	60	Citywide LRAA: 2.9			Range: ND - 6.7				Y	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Chlorine/Chloramines (ppm)	{4}	{4}	Citywide Average: 1.80			Range: ND - 3.5				Y	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Bromate (ppb)	0.1	10	NA	NA	4.1**	1.4 - 6.7	3.0**	ND - 12		Y	By-product of drinking water ozonation
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	N/A	TT	NA	NA	2.3**	1.9 -2.4	2.5**	1.6 - 2.8			
Inorganic Chemicals											
Aluminum (ppb)	600	1000 (200*)	ND	ND	60**	ND - 79	96**	ND - 100		Y	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment process
Arsenic (ppb)	0.004	10	1.2	1.2	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	1	7.4	7.4	ND	ND	129	129		Y	Discharge from oil and metal industries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (total) (ppb)	[100]	50	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; natural deposits erosion
Chromium (hexavalent) (ppb)	0.02	10	0.1	0.1	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Naturally occuring; industrial waste discharge
Copper (d) (ppm)	0.3	AL=1.3 (1.0*)	Citywide, 90th percentile: 0.11			0 sites out of 33 exceeded the AL				Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride After Treatment (ppm)	1	2	Control Range: 0.6 - 1.2			Citywide Range: 0.7 - 1.1				Y	Water additive for dental health
Lead (d) (ppb)	0.2	AL=15	Citywide, 90th percentile: 1.44			0 sites out of 33 exceeded the AL (d)				Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Nitrate (as N) (ppm)	10	10	0.4	ND - 0.5	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	1	6	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Industrial waste discharge
Radionuclides											
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	[0]	15	NA	NA	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	[0]	50	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND - 5		Y	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	[0]	5	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	0.43	20	1.1	0.9 - 1.2	2	2 -3	ND	ND - 3		Y	Erosion of natural deposits

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

PDWS = Primary Drinking Water Standards are MCLs, MRDLs, and Treatment Techniques TTs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.

PHG = Public Health Goal is 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.

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal is 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.

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level is 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.

MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal is 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.

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level is 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.

LRAA = Locational Running Annual Average. The running annual average is based on monitoring location.

AL = Regulatory Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

NA = Not Applicable

ND = Monitored for but Not Detected

NS = No Standard

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units - used to measure cloudiness of drinking water.

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

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

pCi/L = picocuries per liter

* = Secondary Standard

** = Highest Running Average (RAA)

(a) = SM Well#1 is pumped into a transmission line, is blended with Imported Surface Water and enters the system at 19th St. & Idaho Ave.

(b) = The City is not required to test for every parameter each year. If indicated, data is from a previous year.

(c) = The E. coli MCL is based on routine and repeat samples testing positive for coliforms and/or E. coli, or failure to collect required repeat samples. Fecal Coliform/E. Coli constitutes an acute MCL violation. No Level 1 Assessments or MCL violations occurred for 2024.

(d) = The MCL has been replaced with a treatment technique requiring agencies to optimize corrosion control. Results given are from first draw, at-the-tap monitoring performed every three years.

FOR ADDITIONAL WATER QUALITY QUESTIONS CONTACT THE LEAD CHEMIST, GABE CABRAL, AT (310) 434-2672.

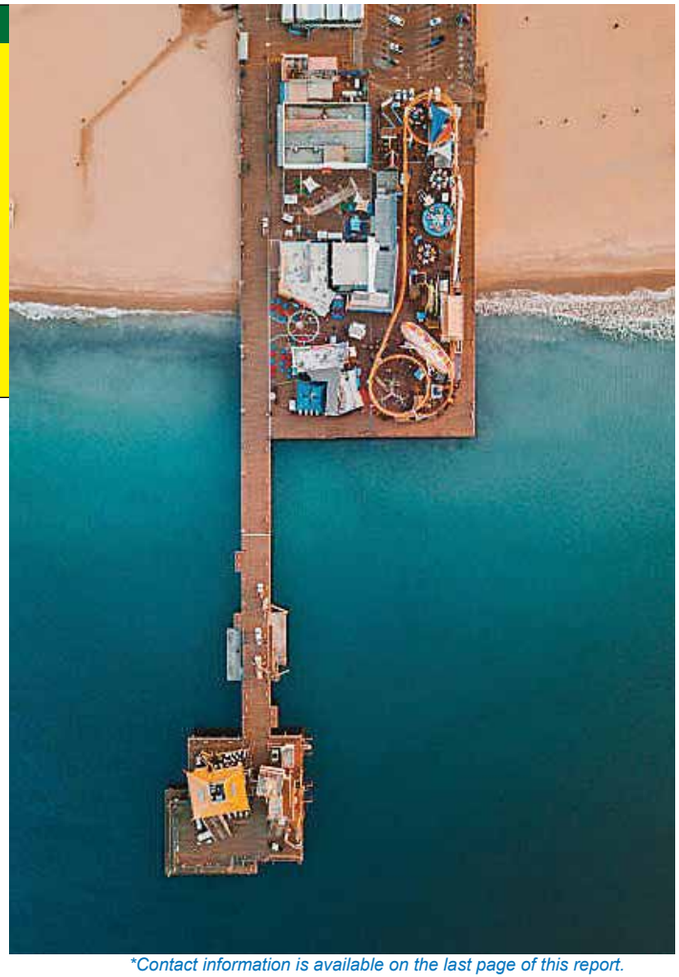
**Contact information is available on the last page of this report.*

CITY OF SANTA MONICA WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR 2025

PARAMETER	LOCAL PHG/ [MCLG]/ {MRDLG}	IMPORTED State MCL/ {MRDL}	IMPORTED WELL WATER Arcadia Plant Average	Range	DATES SURFACEWATER Jensen Plant Average	Range	SURFACE WATER Weymouth Plant Average	Range	SAMPLED if other than 2025(b)	Meets Std	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS (AESTHETIC STANDARDS)											
Chemical Parameters											
Chloride (ppm)	NS	500	24	19.6 -27.4	49	46 - 52	92	86 -98		Y	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Color (units)	NS	15	<5	<5	1	1	1	1		Y	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	NS	300	20	ND - 35.4	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	NS	50	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor- Threshold (units)	NS	3	<1	<1	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Naturally-occurring organic materials; chlorine
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	NS	1600	295	252 - 373	504	503 - 504	868	754 - 981		Y	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	NS	500	45.3	39.3 - 54.0	71	64 - 78	176	139 -212		Y	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	NS	1000	177	138 - 207	297	293 - 301	536	456 - 617		Y	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	—	5	0.01	0.05 - 0.18	ND	ND	ND	ND		Y	Soil runoff

ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS								
Alkalinity (ppm)	NS	NS	65.7	56.6 - 95.2	98	96 - 100	110	95 - 124
Boron (ppb)	NS	NL=1000	140	140	190	190	130	130
Calcium (ppm)	NS	NS	21.2	17.4 - 27.7	32	31 - 34	56	43 - 70
Hardness (as CaCO3) (ppm)	NS	NS	103	80 - 129	140	137-142	234	189 - 280
Magnesium (ppm)	NS	NS	9	9	14	13 -14	22	19 - 25
pH (units)	NS	NS	8.2	8.0 - 8.4	8.3	8.3 - 8.4	8.2	8.2 - 8.3
Potassium (ppm)	NS	NS	0.6	0.6	2.8	2.8 - 2.9	4.4	3.8 - 5
Radon (pCi/L)	NS	NS	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Sodium (ppm)	NS	NS	25	25	48	46 -50	89	78 - 100
1, 4-Dioxane (ppb)	NS	NL=1	ND	ND	NA	NA	NA	NA
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) (ppt)	3	NL=10	NA	NA	2.1	2.1	ND	ND
tert-Butyl Alcohol (TBA) (ppb)	NS	NL=12	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND



KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

PHG = Public Health Goal is 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.

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal is 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.

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level is 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.

NL = Notification Level is a health based advisory level established by Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels, but warrants notification.

NA = Not Applicable

NS = No Standard

ND = Monitored for, but Not Detected

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units - used to measure cloudiness of drinking water.

ppb = Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppm = Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppt = Parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/l)

umho/cm = micromhos per centimeter

< = less than

******* = Santa Monica Well #1 offline in 2023 for maintenance purposes. For reporting purposes, this information is from 2021, 2022, or 2023 (prior to offline status).

(a) = SM Well (a) = SM Well#1 is pumped into a transmission line, is blended with Imported Surface Water and enters the system at 19th St. & Idaho Ave.

(b) = We are not required to test for each parameter every year. If indicated, data is from a previous year.

(c) = MWD has developed a flavor-profile analysis method that can more accurately identify odor occurrences.

FOR ADDITIONAL WATER QUALITY QUESTIONS CONTACT THE LEAD CHEMIST, GABE CABRAL, AT (310) 434-2672.

**Contact information is available on the last page of this report.*

Santa Monica Drinking Water Quality

Permission and oversight to operate a community water system is granted annually by the DDW and the USEPA.

Santa Monica's water supply undergoes constant field and laboratory testing to ensure the highest water quality before reaching your tap. The water is sampled and analyzed daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, annual, and triennial. In addition, our water quality management practice includes ensuring optimum performance of all assets associated with water production and distribution. This includes the source wells, treatment plants, distribution system, and reservoirs. Managing reservoirs to meet varying demand and testing the water at over 100 locations throughout City's distribution system monthly are just two examples of how water quality goals are maintained.

We look for more than 100 substances including microorganisms, pesticides, herbicides, asbestos, lead, copper, petroleum-based products, and by-products of industrial and water treatment processes. As a result, we conduct more than 8,000 laboratory tests each year.

1,4-Dioxane And Drinking Water

1,4-Dioxane is a synthetic contaminant that has leached into numerous groundwater sources in Southern California. It is a colorless liquid solvent and solvent stabilizer used in industrial and commercial applications. 1,4-Dioxane is an unregulated contaminant, meaning it has not completed the regulatory standard setting process to be prescribed a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). However, it has a notification level (NL) as a precautionary measure that represents a level of contamination that is not a health risk but justifies notification to the public. 1,4-Dioxane is classified as a probable carcinogen believed to cause health effects after long-term exposure or ingestion. In 2024, the City completed the Olympic AWTF, co-located at the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant, to remove 1,4-dioxane through UV/AOP. The UV/AOP uses UV light and hydrogen peroxide to create hydroxyl radicals to effectively remove 1,4-dioxane and other volatile organic contaminants from our groundwater supply.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

PFAS are a group of compounds containing carbon to fluorine chemical bonds, one of the strongest in organic chemistry. They are manufactured and used to enhance repellency of water, grease, and soil in consumer products; thus, they are very stable and resistant to environmental degradation. If exposed, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS) are readily absorbed but not readily eliminated from the human body. According to the SWRCB potential health concerns, long-term exposure can cause harmful health effects to a developing fetus or infant; suppress the immune system; disrupt the thyroid function, increase liver weight; and can lead to cancer.

Apart from drinking water, PFOA and PFOS exposure can occur from other sources: firefighting foaming/fire preventing agents; products that repel water, grease, and soil.

In January 2026, SWRCB DDW issued updated drinking water notification levels (NLs) and response levels (RLs) for PFAS in an amendment to General Order DW 2022-0001-DDW. According to OEHHA recommendations, these levels provide some health risk protection in sensitive populations and demonstrate low cancer risk with 70-year lifetime exposure.

If a utility exceeds the RL(s), regulations require the water source be taken out of service, provide treatment, or notify customers. In addition to lowering NLs and RLs, the amendment to PFAS monitoring includes changes to how RL exceedances are calculated. The RL exceedance notification must be repeated until the concentration is mitigated and below the RL.

This general order serves to protect public health and safety regarding the increasing prominence of PFAS. Lowering the NL and RL of treated water requires water systems to take action sooner and increase communication with customers about their water quality.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Constituent	Notification Level (ppt)	Response Level (ppt)
PFBS	500	5000
PFHxS	3.0	10
PFHxA	1000	10,000
PFOS	4.0	40
PROA	4.0	10
Parts per trillion (ppt) = 1 second in 31,709.8 years		

Ultraviolet Light Advanced Oxidation Process Removes Industrial Contaminants from the Olympic Well Field.

In April 2024, USEPA published the final PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR). The final rule requires community water systems to complete initial monitoring requirements for PFAS by April 2027. This monitoring period for PFAS will help prepare for California-specific PFAS regulations. The City is currently performing the required monitoring for our source water to determine our vulnerability and the appropriate monitoring frequency for PFAS moving forward.

A few of the City's source waters have shown minimal detections of PFAS during the monitoring period. However, granular activated carbon (GAC) and reverse osmosis (RO), both parts of the City's treatment process, are effective at removing many PFAS compounds. Treated water that enters the City's distribution system continues to be analyzed for PFAS contaminants and report as non-detect.

Operators Monitor Water Quality, Treatment Processes, and Production 24/7 at the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant.

*Contact information is available on the last page of this report.

Lead in Plumbing

The City's laboratory chemists closely monitor lead results to ensure healthy drinking water, and to evaluate and determine Santa Monica's water system has achieved "optimized corrosion control." The most recent round of testing was completed in 2025 with the next round scheduled for 2028. A pool of "high risk" homes, which were plumbed before the ban on lead in solder, have been tested every three years since 1992 and has continually indicated there is little tendency of our water to leach lead out of plumbing.

If your home plumbing contains lead, there is a limited potential for lead to leach into your water. Fortunately, the minerals in our water help to protect against pipe corrosion, greatly reducing the potential of lead entering the water. These minerals form a film called "scale" that prevents water from coming into direct contact with home plumbing. The most common place to find lead in household plumbing is in chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures. California enacted stricter regulations for plumbing fixtures in 2010 further reducing the potential for lead leaching from household plumbing.

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Santa Monica is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the City of Santa Monica Water Quality Office. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.*

The City of Santa Monica has completed a lead service line inventory required by the U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions which has concluded that the City's distribution system does not contain any lead. The City's statement regarding our lead service line inventory can be found at

www.santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/water-service.

If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Water Quality Office. 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.*

*Contact information is available on the last page of this report.

At Home Filters

The decision to buy a water filter or home treatment system is a matter of personal preference. Our water meets or exceeds rigid state and federal health standards. If you decide to buy a filter or system, be a smart shopper and do some homework. Any treatment device you buy should be registered with the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). Contact NSF toll free at (800) 673-6275 or visit *www.nsf.org.*

Bottled Water

You may find that using a reusable water bottle or keeping a pitcher of tap water in your refrigerator is a low-cost, water-thrifty alternative to buying more expensive bottled water, and it's far better for the environment. Even when the one-time use bottle is reused or recycled, the petrochemicals used in creating the bottle and the transportation of the water have a significant impact on the environment.

Water Conservation

The City of Santa Monica has developed a sustainable water supply and taken responsible steps to improve water conservation amid a changing climate. To assist you in monitoring your water usage, we encourage you to register for our Advanced Metering Infrastructure system to help better monitor and understand your water usage. Please visit *www.santamonica.gov/ami* for more details on the program and how to sign-up. In addition, the City also provides many programs and incentives for our customers to conserve and improve the City's water supply for future generations.

To continue meeting our water conservation goals, the City urges our residents to continue their conservation efforts because small changes make a difference. For more information and water saving tips, please visit *www.santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/water-conservation.*

Sustainability

The City of Santa Monica offers programs and incentives for environmentally friendly measures for the community. For more information, please call or visit the Office of Sustainability website at *www.santamonica.gov/departments/public-works/office-of-sustainability-and-the-environment.*

**Contact information is available on the last page of this report.*

Santa Monica Pier

We need you!

Public involvement is fundamental to ensuring that we are meeting our water supply demand, water quality goals, and the highest customer service level. We welcome your feedback and invite you to get involved with the City of Santa Monica in the following ways:

- Participate in sustainability events
- Attend City Council and community meetings
- Sign up for the newsletters and alerts
- Please let us know how we are doing

For information on these opportunities, please call Water Resources or the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. For a digital copy of this report, please visit:

www.santamonica.gov/departments/public-works/office-of-sustainability-and-the-environment

**Contact information is available on the last page of this report.*

Where Can I Get More Information?

City of Santa Monica Public Works and Water Resources Division Offices

Water Resources/Water Quality .....(310) 434-2672
24-Hour Water Emergencies .....(310) 434-2672
Wastewater.....(310) 458-8532
Lead Chemist.....(310) 434-2672
Billing Office.....(310) 458-8224

Visit our website:
https://www.santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/your-guide-to-water

Santa Monica City Council Meetings:
2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month
Council Chamber
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica
www.santamonica.gov/departments/city-clerks-office

City of Santa Monica Office of Sustainability and the Environment ..... (310) 458-2213
Conservation Office..... (310) 458-8972
https://www.santamonica.gov/departments/public-works/office-of-sustainability-and-the-environment

Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California..... (213) 217-6000
Toll Free..... (800) 354-4420
www.mwdh2o.com

California State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water .....(818) 551-2004
www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Ground Water & Drinking Water
Safe Drinking Water Hotline .....(800) 426-4791
www.epa.gov/safewater/dwhealth.html
water.epa.gov/drink/guide

City of Santa Monica

Water Resources Division
P.O. Box 2200, 1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90406-2200

This brochure is printed with vegetable-based inks on paper made from recycled paper.

City of Santa Monica Water Resources Division
Summary of Results for Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Standards for 2025

Table 1: Summary of Results for Primary Drinking Water Standards for 2025 (Mandatory Health-Related Standards)

PARAMETER	PHG/ [MCLG]/ {MRDLG}	State MCL/ {MRDL}	LOCAL WELL WATER Arcadia Plant Average	Range	IMPORTED SURFACE WATER Jensen Plant Average	Range	IMPORTED SURFACE WATER Weymouth Plant Average	Range	Dates Sampled if other than 2025(b)	MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Clarity										
Maximum Turbidity (NTU)	NS	5	NA	NA	ND	ND	ND	ND		Soil runoff
Organic Chemicals										
Methyl tert-Butyl Ether (MTBE) (ppb)	13	13(5*)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Leaking underground storage tanks
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	1.7	5	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Discharge from metal degreasing sites
1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP) (ng/L)	0.7	5	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		
Disinfection Byproducts & Residuals										
Bromate (ppb)	0.1	10	NA	NA	4.1 **	1.4 - 6.7	3.0 **	ND - 12		By-product of drinking water ozonation
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	NA	TT	NA	NA	2.3 **	1.9 - 2.4	2.5 **	1.6 - 2.8		
Inorganic Chemicals										
Aluminum (ppb)	600	1000 (200*)	ND	ND	60**	ND - 79	96**	ND - 100		Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment process
Arsenic (ppb)	0.004	10	1.2	1.2	ND	ND	ND	ND		Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	1	7.4	7.4	ND	ND	129	129		Discharge from oil & metal industries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	[100]	50	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Discharge from steel and pulp mills; natural deposits erosion
Chromium 6 (ppb)	0.02	10	0.1	0.1	ND	ND	ND	ND		Naturally occuring; industrial waste discharge
Nitrate (as N) (ppm)	10	10	0.4	ND - 0.5	ND	ND	ND	ND		Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	1	6	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Industrial waste discharge
Radionuclides										
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	[0]	15	NA	NA	ND	ND	ND	ND		Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	[0]	50	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND - 5		Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	[0]	5	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	0.43	20	1.1	0.9 - 1.2	2	2 - 3	ND	ND - 3		Erosion of natural deposits

Table 2: Summary of Results for Primary Drinking Water Standards Monitored in Distribution System for 2025 (Mandatory Health-Related Standards)

PARAMETER	PHG/ [MCLG]/ {MRDLG}	State MCL/ {MRDL}	CITYWIDE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Microbiological					
Total Coliform Bacteria (% positive samples/month)	[0]	5%	Citywide Highest Monthly: 0% Range: ND No violations		Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform/E. Coli	[0]	(c)	Citywide Maximum: 0 Positive Samples		Human and animal fecal waste
Disinfection Byproducts & Residuals					
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NS	80	Citywide LRAA: 14.9 Range: 5.9 - 21.6		By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NS	60	Citywide LRAA: 2.9 Range: ND - 6.7		By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Chlorine/Chloramines (ppm)	{4}	{4}	Citywide Average: 1.80 Range: ND - 3.5		Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Inorganic Chemicals					
Copper (d) (ppm)	0.3	AL=1.3(1.0*)	Citywide 90th percentile: 0.11 0 sites out of 33 exceeded the AL		Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride After Treatment (ppm)	1	2	Control Range: 0.6 - 1.2 Citywide Range: 0.7 - 1.1		Water additive for dental health
Lead (d) (ppb)	0.2	AL=15	Citywide 90th percentile: 1.44 0 site out of 33 exceeded the AL (d)		Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Table 3: Summary of Results for Secondary Drinking Water Standards for 2025 (Aesthetic Standards)

PARAMETER	PHG/ [MCLG]/ {MRDLG}	State MCL/ {MRDL}	LOCAL WELL WATER Arcadia Plant Average	Range	IMPORTED SURFACE WATER Jensen Plant Average	Range	IMPORTED SURFACE WATER Weymouth Plant Average	Range		MAJOR SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
Chemical Parameters										
Chloride (ppm)	NS	500	24	19.6 - 27.4	49	46 - 52	92	86 - 98		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Color (units)	NS	15	<5	<5	1	1	1	1		Naturally-occuring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	NS	300	20	ND - 35.4	ND	ND	ND	ND		Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	NS	50	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND		Leaching from natural deposits
Odor-Threshold (units)	NS	3	<1	<1	ND	ND	ND	ND		Naturally-occuring organic materials; chlorine
Specific Conductance (umho/cm)	NS	1600	295	252 - 373	504	503 - 504	868	754 - 981		Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	NS	500	45.3	39.3 - 54	71	64 - 78	176	139 - 212		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	NS	1000	177	138 - 207	297	293 - 301	536	456 - 617		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	-	5	0.1	0.05 - 0.18	ND	ND	ND	ND		Soil runoff

Table 4: Additional Parameters of Interest

PARAMETER	PHG/ [MCLG]/ {MRDLG}	State MCL/ {MRDL}	LOCAL WELL WATER Arcadia Plant Average	Range	IMPORTED SURFACE WATER Jensen Plant Average	Range	IMPORTED SURFACE WATER Weymouth Plant Average	Range	Dates Sampled if other than 2025(b)
Alkalinity (ppm)	NS	NS	65.7	56.6 - 95.2	98	96 - 100	110	95 - 124	
Boron (ppb)	NS	NL=1000	140	140	190	190	130	130	
Calcium (ppm)	NS	NS	21.2	17.4 - 27.7	32	31 - 34	56	43 - 70	
Hardness (as CaCO3) (ppm)	NS	NS	103	80 - 129	140	137 - 142	234	189 - 280	
Magnesium (ppm)	NS	NS	9	9	14	13 - 14	22	19 - 25	
pH (units)	NS	NS	8.2	8.0 - 8.4	8.3	8.3 - 8.4	8.2	8.2 - 8.3	
Potassium (ppm)	NS	NS	0.6	0.6	2.8	2.8 - 2.9	4.4	3.8 - 5	
Radon (pCi/L)	NS	NS	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
Sodium (ppm)	NS	NS	25	25	48	46 - 50	89	78 - 100	
1,4-Dioxane (ppb)	NS	NL=1	ND	ND	NA	NA	NA	NA	
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) (ppt)	3	NL=10	NA	NA	2.1	2.1	ND	ND	
tert-Butyl Alcohol (TBA) (ppb)	NS	NL=12	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	

All results meet standard.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

PDWS = Primary Drinking Water Standards are MCLs, MRDLs, and Treatment Techniques TTs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.
PHG = Public Health Goal is 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.
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal is 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.
MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level is 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.
MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal is the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level is 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.
LRAA = Locational Running Annual Average. The running annual average based on monitoring location.
AL = Regulatory Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
NL = Notification Level is a health based advisory level established by Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels, but warrants notification.
NA = Not Applicable
NS = No Standard
ND = Monitored for, but Not Detected
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units - used to measure cloudiness of drinking water.
TT= Treatment Technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/l)
pCi/L = picocuries per liter
***** = secondary standard
****** = Highest Running Annual Average (RAA)
***= Santa Monica Well #1 offline in 2023 for maintenance purposes. For reporting purposes this information is from 2021 or 2022.
umho/cm = micromhos per centimeter
< = less than

(a) = SM Well #1 is pumped into a transmission line, is blended with Imported Surface Water and enters the system at 19th St. & Idaho Ave.
(b) = The City is not required to test for every parameter each year. If indicated, data is from a previous year.
(c) = The E. coli MCL is based on routine and repeat samples testing positive for coliforms and/or E. coli, or failure to collect required repeat samples. Fecal Coliform/E. Coli constitutes an acute MCL violation. No Level 1 Assessments or MCL violations occurred for 2022.
(d) = The MCL has been replaced with a treatment technique requiring agencies to optimize corrosion control. Results given are from first draw, at-the-tap monitoring performed every three years.
(e) = MWD has developed a flavor-profile analysis method that can more accurately identify odor occurrences.