ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By

City of South Gate Water Department

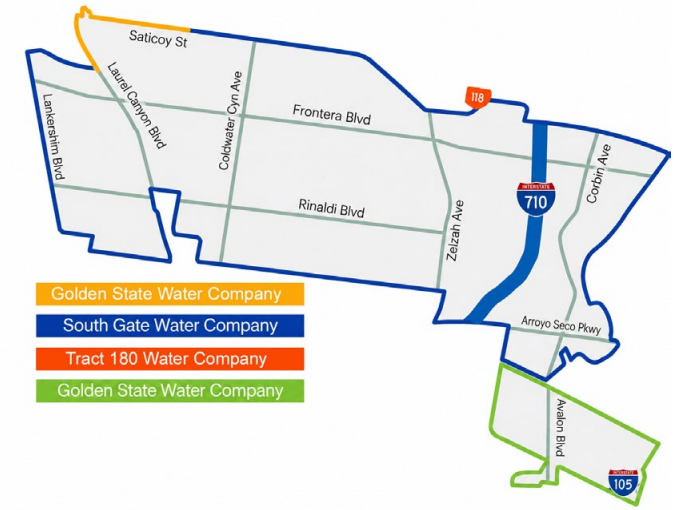
PWS ID#: CA1910152

Introduction

Since 1991 California water utilities have been providing information on water served to their consumers. This report is a snapshot of the tap water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, how it is tested, what is in it, and how it compares with state and federal limits. We strive to keep you informed about the quality of your water and provide a reliable and economic supply that meets all regulatory requirements.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Your tap water comes from local deep groundwater wells that supply our service area, shown on the adjacent map. The quality of groundwater delivered to your home is presented in this report.



Public Meetings

The public is welcome to attend city council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, South Gate City Hall, 8650 California Avenue.

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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 (800-426-4791) or epa.gov/safewater.

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 them.

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.

Source Water Assessment

The City of South Gate conducted an assessment of its groundwater supplies in 2003 and amended the assessment in 2016 to include new Well 29. Groundwater supplies are considered most vulnerable to water supply wells and the following activities: dry cleaners, car washes, auto repair shops, bus terminals, parking lots/malls, appliance repair, office buildings, rental yards, high-density housing, recycling centers, apartments and condominiums, schools, roads/streets, storm drain discharge points, and medical/dental offices/clinics. A copy of the approved assessment may be obtained by contacting South Gate Water Operations Supervisor Daniel Dhayer at (323) 357-9653.

Questions?

If you have specific questions about your tap water quality, please contact Daniel Dhayer, South Gate Water Operations Supervisor, at (323) 357-9653.

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.

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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Lead in Home 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 South Gate Water Department 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, or 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 and wish to have your water tested, contact City of South Gate Water Department at (323) 563-5790. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory for The City of South Gate Water Department may be viewed at https://www.cityofsouthgate.org/News-articles/Water-System-Lead-Inventory. Please contact Gerry Vasquez / Water Quality & System Lead Operator for the City of South Gate at 323-563-5796 if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Should I be Concerned About What I'm Pouring Down my Drain?

If your home is served by a sewage system, your drain is an entrance to your wastewater disposal system and eventually to a drinking water source. Consider purchasing environmentally friendly home products whenever possible, and never pour hazardous materials (e.g., car engine oil) down the drain. Check with your health department for more information on proper disposal methods.

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

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	2025	6	10	0.07	ND–0.52	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Arsenic (ppb)	2025	10	0.004	1.7	ND–3.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2025	1	2	0.1	ND–0.13	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	0.96	0.66–1.37	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
E. coli (positive samples)	2025	TT	0	0	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	2.0	1	0.38	0.32–0.38	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2025	15	(0)	3.40	ND–7.48	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2025	50[1]	(0)	5.64	NA	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	2.2	ND–2.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2025	10[2]	20	0.2	0.58–11	No	Erosion of natural deposits; transformation of naturally occurring trivalent chromium to hexavalent chromium by natural processes and human activities such as discharges from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	1.2	ND–2.3	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	2025	5	0.05	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2025	5	0.019	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Tetrachloroethylene [PCE] (ppb)	2025	5	0.06	0.52	ND–3.9	No	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2025	TT	NA	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	10.8	2.3–15.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Trichloroethylene [TCE] (ppb)	2025	5	1.7	0.48	ND–3.2	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Uranium (pCi/L)	2025	20	0.43	2.44	1.5–3.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits

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)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2024	1.3	0.3	0.50	0.057–0.870	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2024	15	0.2	ND	NA	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2025	500	NS	39.2	1.2–64	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	2025	15	NS	3.8	ND–7.5	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Corrosivity (units)	2025	Noncorrosive	NS	12.1	NA	No	Natural or industrially influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon, and oxygen affected by temperature and other factors
Iron (ppb)	2025	300	NS	ND	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2025	50	NS	6.0	ND–31	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (TON)	2025	3	NA	ND	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
pH (units)	2025	6.5–8.5	NA	7.5	6.9–8.0	No	Naturally occurring
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2025	1,600	NS	673.3	590.0–750.0	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	500	NS	97	83–120	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2025	500	NA	410	360–480	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	5	NS	0.1	0.1–0.2	No	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [3]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
1,4-Dioxane[4] (ppb)	2025	0.8	ND–1.9	Used as a stabilizer in chlorinated solvents (particularly 1,1,1-trichloroethane); found in paints, dyes, greases, varnishes, adhesives; byproduct in consumer products including cosmetics, soaps, and detergents; can leach from landfills and enter groundwater from septic systems or treated wastewater discharges.
Alkalinity (ppm)	2025	190	170–210	Hydrolysis of calcium and magnesium oxides in coal ash, producing hydroxide and carbonate/bicarbonate alkalinity in leachate and groundwater
Calcium (ppm)	2025	70.9	61.6–83.2	Change to Dissolution of calcium oxide (CaO) and calcium sulfate ($CaSO_4$) from fly ash, bottom ash, and FGD residues.
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2025	238.2	204–279	Naturally occurring
Langelier Index (units)	2021	0.5	NA	Natural or industrially influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon, and oxygen
Magnesium (ppm)	2025	14.8	12.1–17.3	Naturally occurring
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppt) NL=500	2025	2.7	ND–5.1	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid [PFHpA] (ppt)	2025	1.9	ND–3.4	Not a CCR-derived constituent. Typical sources include AFFF firefighting foams, stain- and grease-resistant coatings on textiles/carpets/food packaging, and as a breakdown product of longer-chain PFAS
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] (ppt) NL=3.0	2025	3.3	ND–5.6	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt) NL=1000	2025	4.1	ND–7.9	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppt) NL=4.0	2025	16.2	ND–30	Firefighting foam; discharge from electroplating facilities; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppt) NL=4.0	2025	7.1	ND–12	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [3]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Potassium (ppm)	2025	3.1	2.6–3.6	Naturally occurring; Found in water softeners
Sodium (ppm)	2025	44.2	40–48	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	0.78	ND–3.0	Soil runoff

[1] The SWRCB considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

[2] Hexavalent chromium was detected in several wells in 2025. The detection limit for purposes of reporting for hexavalent chromium is 0.1 ppb. The City of South Gate monitors for hexavalent chromium and has not exceeded a running annual average of 10 ppb.

[3] Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

[4] The notification level of 1 ppn for 1,4-dioxane was exceeded in several wells in 2025. Some people who use water containing 1,4-dioxane in excess of the notification level over many years may experience liver or kidney problems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer based on studies in laboratory animals. This well system monitors samples quarterly for 1,4-dioxane.

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.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

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.

NL: Notification Level

NS: No standard.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

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).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

TON (Threshold Odor Number): A measure of odor in water.

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

µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

PFAS Exceedance

PFOA and PFOS are manmade fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). These substances have been synthesized for water and lipid resistance and have been used extensively in consumer products such as carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, and other materials (e.g., cookware) designed to be waterproof, stain-resistant or non-stick. In addition, they have been used in fire-retarding foam and various industrial processes. PFAS are resistant to degradation and do not break down in the environment.

In May 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) issued a lifetime health advisory for PFOS and PFOA for drinking water, advising municipalities that they should notify their customers of the presence of levels over 70 parts per trillion (PPT) or nanograms per liter (NG/) in community water supplies. In August 2019, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), revised the notification levels to 6.5 ppt for PFOS and 5.1 ppt for PFOA. The single health advisory response level (for the combined values of PFOS and PFOA) remained at 70 ppt. On February 6, 2020, DDW issued updated drinking water response levels of 10 ppt for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS based on a running four-quarter average. In 2021, DDW issued a notification level for PFBS of 500 ppt and for PFHxS of 3 ppt.

Exposure to PFOA and PFOS over certain levels may result in adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or to breastfed infants (e.g., low birth weight, accelerated puberty, skeletal variations), cancer (e.g., testicular, kidney), liver effects (e.g., tissue damage), immune effects (e.g., antibody production and immunity), thyroid effects and other effects (e.g., cholesterol changes)." Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid [PFBS] has a notification level of 500 ng/L (ppt). Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid exposures resulted in decreased thyroid hormone in pregnant female mice.