

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2019



***Presented By***  
**City of Torrance**

## Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of

source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Andy Darlak, Water Operations Manager, at (310) 781-6900.

## Public Meetings

The Torrance Water Commission meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the West Annex of City Hall, 3031 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. In special circumstances, meetings may be postponed or cancelled. Please check [www.TorranceCA.Gov/events](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov/events) for the most up to date meeting information.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



## Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. (If you do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.) If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Torrance Municipal Water Utility serves approximately 107,000 residents. In 2019 the Municipal Water Utility distributed approximately 18,162 acre-feet, or approximately 5.8 billion gallons, of drinking water to its customers. One acre-foot of water is equivalent to 325,900 gallons, or an acre of land covered with one foot of water.

Torrance purchased 80 percent of the total potable water supply from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), a regional wholesaler of imported surface water. This water originates from two sources: Colorado River, via the 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct, and Northern California, via the 441-mile California Water Aqueduct. The Metropolitan Water District performs advanced multistage treatment of imported water in five regional treatment plants.

The remaining 20 percent of the municipal potable water supply came from one operating well pumping from the West Coast Ground Water Basin and a groundwater desalination project.

## The Benefits of Fluoridation

Our water system treats your water by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level to help prevent dental caries in consumers. State regulations require the fluoride levels in the treated water be maintained within a range of 0.6-1.2 ppm, with an optimum dose of 0.7 ppm. Our monitoring showed that the fluoride levels in the treated water ranged from 0.64-0.90, with an average of 0.70 ppm. Information about fluoridation, oral health, and current issues is available from [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml).



## Substances That Could Be in Water

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or can result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

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

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Water Conservation - Preserving Our Most Precious Resource

Water is a precious and limited resource, particularly in semi-arid California, where droughts frequently occur. Conservation and efficient use of our limited supply are essential to maintaining the reliability and sustainability of this vital resource. By making conservation a way of life in California, we save water, minimize waste, restore aquifers, reduce the harmful impacts of droughts, and prepare for the uncertainties associated with climate change.

Here are some ways you can reduce your water use and save money on your water bill:

- Water your landscape early in the morning or in the evening.
- Water your lawn or other landscaping only when needed.
- Shut off your sprinklers after a rain.
- Landscape your yard with water-efficient Mediterranean or California-friendly plants.
- Use mulch around trees and plants.
- Make sure your sprinklers are leak-proof and the spray is aimed at the yard and not at sidewalks, streets, or driveways.
- Fix all outdoor and indoor leaks.
- Check for and fix silent leaks in toilets and plumbing fixtures.
- Take five-minute or shorter showers.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.
- Wash your car with a bucket instead of a hose.

For more information on conservation, turf replacement rebates, free water-efficient landscaping workshops, and other conservation rebates, visit these websites:

- BeWaterWise.com
- TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks



## Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water source for the city was completed in May 2015. This study was done in compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, Assessment Program, the goal of which is to determine the water system's vulnerability to possible sources of contamination. The assessment determined that our groundwater is most vulnerable to historic gas stations and underground storage tanks. For a copy of the complete assessment, contact the City of Torrance Public Works Department at (310) 781-6900 or visit <https://www.torranceca.gov/home/showdocument?id=16939>.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fourth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 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 in order to determine if U.S. EPA 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.

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify unregulated contaminants for potential regulations. Every five years, EPA identifies a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored for by the nation's water utilities over a three year period. This occurred in 2018-2020 with the fourth UCMR (UCMR-4). The City of Torrance has monitored for a total of 30 chemical contaminants from its wells along with a corresponding sampling from the distribution system reflecting water from each well and no detections were found. Once EPA has obtained this occurrence data nationally, they are required to determine if there is a meaningful opportunity for increased health protection of drinking water by regulating these contaminants. The findings from this monitoring are reported in this year's Consumer Confidence Report.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES										
			City of Torrance Groundwater		MWD Surface Water		Monitored in the Distribution System			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Aluminum</b> (ppm)	1	0.6	ND	NA	0.12	ND–0.12	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
<b>Barium</b> (ppm)	1	2	0.13	ND–0.13	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Chlorine</b> (ppm)	[4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	[4 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.6	0.2–2.3	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
<b>Fluoride</b> (ppm)	2.0	1	0.23	0.17–0.31	0.7	0.1–0.9	0.70	0.64–0.90	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Haloacetic Acids–Stage 2</b> (ppb)	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9.6	1.1–10.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Methyl tert-Butyl Ether [MTBE]<sup>1</sup></b> (ppb)	13	13	0.88	ND–3.5	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Leaking from underground gasoline storage tanks; discharge from petroleum and chemical factories
<b>Nitrate [as nitrate]</b> (ppm)	45	45	ND	NA	0.5	ND–0.5	NA	NA	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Total Coliform Bacteria [federal Revised Total Coliform Rule]</b> (% positive samples)	TT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Total Coliform Bacteria [federal Revised Total Coliform Rule]</b> (Positive samples)	TT	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 2</b> (ppb)	80	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	55.9	4.8–59.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Turbidity</b> (NTU)	TT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.9	0.05–0.9	No	Soil runoff

REGULATED SUBSTANCES						
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community						
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.12	0/200	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	ND	0/200	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES											
				City of Torrance Groundwater		MWD Surface Water		Monitored in the Distribution System			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Aluminum (ppb)	200	NS	ND	NA	123	ND–123	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes	
Chloride (ppm)	500	NS	185	170–230	53	53–58	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	
Color (Units)	15	NS	ND	NA	ND	ND–1	<5	<5–<5	No	Naturally occurring organic materials	
Corrosivity	Non-corrosive	NS	12.6	12.3–12.8	12.2	12.0–12.5	NA	NA	No	Natural or industrially influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in the water, affected by temperature and other factors	
Iron (ppb)	300	NS	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	
Manganese (ppb)	50	NS	38	22–51	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits	
Methyl tert-Butyl Ether [MTBE] <sup>1</sup> (ppb)	5	NS	0.88	ND–5.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Leaking underground storage tanks; discharge from petroleum and chemical factories	
Odor–Threshold (Units)	3	NS	2.1	1.0–4.0	2.5	1.0–4.0	ND	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials	
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1,600	NS	590	590–1,200	491.5	435–521	NA	NA	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence	
Sulfate (ppm)	500	NS	75	65–300	82	65–93	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000	NS	590	510–720	357	246–611	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	
Turbidity (Units)	5	NS	0.05	ND–0.9	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff	

<sup>1</sup> MTBE was detected in one well in 2014 after treatment effluent samples were nondetectable.

## 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 percent of our lead and copper detections.

**AL (Regulatory Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NS:** No standard

**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.

**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).

**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.