

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022



Presented By
City of Torrance

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

PWS ID#: CA1910213



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, 2022. 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.

Sustained Conservation – A Key Component of Long-Term Water Reliability

This winter's storms and near-record snowpack in the key Sierra Nevada mountain range watershed broke a historic three-year drought that was one of the most severe in California's history. While this year's weather relieved drought conditions throughout the state, California is vulnerable to extreme and highly variable weather, and unfortunately, droughts often reoccur within two or three years of very wet weather events. This year's abundant rain and snowpack provided a welcome opportunity to refill depleted reservoirs and recharge groundwater basins to provide a buffer to weather drier events in the future.

Although we are experiencing short-term relief from potential water shortage conditions due to wet weather conditions in Northern California - a major source of imported water for Southern California - the Colorado River remains in a serious deficit. That is why changing climate patterns necessitate that we continually adapt how we manage, plan, and invest in our water resources and continue to conserve our vital water supplies to ensure long-term reliability and resiliency. Water efficiency needs to be a permanent part of our way of life in California, and we all must use water wisely and continue to conserve in our homes, landscapes, and businesses.

Here is how you can help and do your part to save water:

- Avoid all wasteful uses of water at all times. DO NOT overwater landscapes, wash down exterior surfaces, wash vehicles with an open hose, or water outdoor areas until at least 48 hours after a rain event.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.
- Water early in the morning or late at night to reduce water loss due to evaporation.
- Plant California-friendly, drought-resistant vegetation.
- Check for leaks both inside and outside and fix them promptly.

For more information, go to these websites:

- <https://www.torranceca.gov/our-city/public-works/water-services/water-conservation>
- BeWaterwise.com

Public Meetings

The Torrance Water Commission meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the West Annex of City Hall, 3031 Torrance Boulevard. You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water.

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>.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Torrance Municipal Water Utility serves approximately 107,000 residents. In 2022 the utility distributed approximately 18,661 acre-feet of drinking water, or 6.1 billion gallons, 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 75 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: the Colorado River, via the 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct; and Northern California, via the 441-mile California Water Aqueduct. MWD performs advanced multistage treatment of imported water in five regional treatment plants. The remaining 25 percent of the municipal potable water supply came from one well pumping from the West Coast groundwater basin and a groundwater desalination project.



QUESTIONS?

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

Substances That Could Be in Water

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

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

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

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

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

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

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

NA: Not applicable.

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

NS: No standard.

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.

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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES										
			City of Torrance Groundwater		MWD Surface Water		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
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	0.07	ND–0.21	0.15	ND–0.24	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	0.9	ND–1.4	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	1	2	0.05	ND–0.1	0.11	ND–0.11	NA	NA	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.4	0.08–2.20	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Chromium, Total (ppb)	NA	NA	0.61	ND–1.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2.0	1	0.23	0.16–0.30	0.7	0.6–0.9	0.70	0.64–0.90	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	15 ¹	(0)	0.83	ND–5.5	ND	ND–3.0	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	50 ²	(0)	NA	NA	6.0	ND–9.0	NA	NA	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids]– Stage 2 (ppb)	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	10	1.3–14.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Methyl tert-Butyl Ether [MTBE] (ppb)	13	13	3.3	ND–13	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Leaking from underground gasoline storage tanks; discharge from petroleum and chemical factories
Nitrate [as nitrate] (ppm)	45	45	ND	NA	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	5	0.05	0.02	ND–0.51	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	5	0.019	0.27	ND–1.56	ND	ND–1.0	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]– Stage 2 (ppb)	80	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	55.3	11.7–75.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.96	0.03–0.96	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	ND	NA	2.0	1.0–3.0	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits

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 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>.

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community										
			City of Torrance Groundwater		MWD Surface Water		Distribution System			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	ND	0/200	NA	NA	0.15	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	NA	NA	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		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	70	ND–210	148	ND–240	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	500	NS	114	100–130	101.5	98–105	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	15	NS	ND	NA	1	ND–1	<5	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Corrosivity (units)	Non-corrosive	NS	12.6	12.5–12.7	12.4	12.3–12.4	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	ND	NA	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	50	NS	47	ND–50	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor, Threshold (units)	3	NS	1.7	ND–3.0	3.0	ND–3.0	ND	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1,600	NS	1,000	1,000–1,100	990	964–992	NA	NA	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	500	NS	276.4	75–360	221.5	212–232	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000	NS	295	250–650	633	608–648	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5	NS	0.3	ND–0.9	ND	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff

¹Gross alpha particle activity standard also includes the radium 226 standard.

²The State Board considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

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.

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 to 1.2 parts per million (ppm), with an optimum dose of 0.7 ppm. Our monitoring showed that the fluoride levels in the treated water ranged from 0.64 to 0.90 ppm, 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.