

## Annual Water Quality Report - Reporting Year 2023

The City of Soledad  
248 Main Street  
Soledad, CA 93960

PWSID#: CA2710011

### Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Included are details about your source(s) of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Moises Arizmendi, Public Works Manager - Water Department , at (831) 223-5190 or email at [marizmendi@cityofsoledad.com](mailto:marizmendi@cityofsoledad.com).

### Community Participation

You are invited to attend City of Soledad Council meetings and share your ideas and concerns about your drinking water. The Soledad Council meets the first & third Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 248 Main Street, Soledad, California. Our Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8AM - 12:00PM and 1:00PM - 5:00PM. Zoom & Agenda Link on city website [www.cityofsoledad.com](http://www.cityofsoledad.com)

### 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>.

### 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.

#### Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Soledad's residents were fortunate, during this past year, to enjoy an abundant groundwater supply from the City's wells. All five of these wells were active. The wells have a combined pumping capacity of about 4,788 gallons per minute. In 2022, these five wells pumped a total of more than 692 million gallons of clean drinking water. To learn more about our watershed on the Internet, go to Surf Your Watershed at [www.epa.gov/surf](http://www.epa.gov/surf).

The water supply for the City of Soledad wells comes from aquifers that are continuously being replenished with releases of water from the San Antonio and Nacimiento Reservoirs. The reservoirs are operated by the Monterey County Water Resource Agency. According to Monterey County Water

Resource data, approximately 90.4% of the water from the Salinas Valley aquifers is consumed by agricultural operations. City populations consume about 9.6% of the groundwater supply.

### Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of 'medium'. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please contact the Public Works Manager during regular office hours.

### 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 2 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).

(Editor Note: Move the following text to bottom of Data Table Description section)

We participated in the 5th 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, in order to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are 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 Contaminants Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

(Editor Note: Add the following text as footnote for TTHMs table entry:)

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What's a Cross-connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection.

For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or Contact City of Soledad Water Department 831-223-5000 or Public Works Manager Moises Arizmendi 831-223-5190

**\*\* Insert (Spanish) Translation Text \*\***

## 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

### The City of Soledad

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Amount Detected	Range Low- High	Violation	Typical Source
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1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	2023	200	1000	ND	ND -	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories; manufacture of food wrappings
Arsenic (ppb)	2021	10	0.004	1.8	1.3 - 2.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2021	1	2	0.105	0.047 - 0.280	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium [Total] (ppb)	2021	50	(100)	4.46	3.0 - 6.3	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	2.0	1	.1	ND - .10	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2023	15	(0)	3.16	.648 - 7.69	No	Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5 [Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids] - Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	3.56	ND - 8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2023	10	10	0.42	0.1 - .9	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	2022	5	0.05	.335	.265 - .406	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2022	5	0.019	.304	0.000 - .608	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2021	50	30	2.2	2 - 3	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] - Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	80	NA	7.69	2 - 19	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Uranium (pCi/L)	2023	20	0.43	7.6	ND - 7.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits



## Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

### The City of Soledad

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	AL	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th %ile)	Sites Above AL/Total Sites	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.15	0/35	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0.2	ND	0/35	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

## Secondary Substances

### The City of Soledad

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Chloride (ppm)	2022	500	NS	72.6	0 - 72.6	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	2023	300	NS	99.75	85 - 107	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2023	1,600	NS	1214	1184 - 1258	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2022	500	NS	201	0 - 201	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2021	1,000	NS	564	402 - 742	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2023	5	NS	.43	.25 - .55	No	Soil runoff

## Unregulated Substances

### The City of Soledad

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Typical Source
Sodium (ppm)	2021	78	30 - 162	♦Sodium♦ refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring.

## Other Unregulated Substances

### The City of Soledad

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Typical Source
Total Hardness (ppm)	2021	296	248 - 382	"Hardness" is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally calcium and magnesium. The

				ications are usually naturally occurring.
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Specific Conductance Footnote for The City of Soledad

Test is done before filters

**Footnote for Unregulated Substances Header**

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

**Table Definitions**

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

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.

$\mu$ S/cm (microsiemens per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

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

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.

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

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.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.