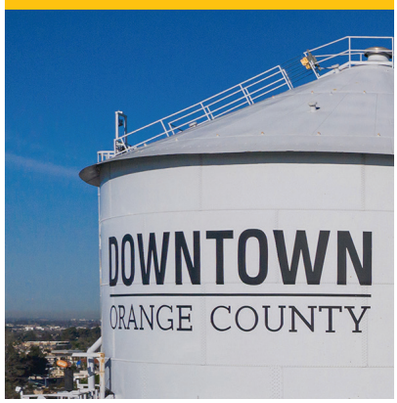
2025
WATER QUALITY REPORT

From Source to Tap: The people, systems, and infrastructure behind your water.



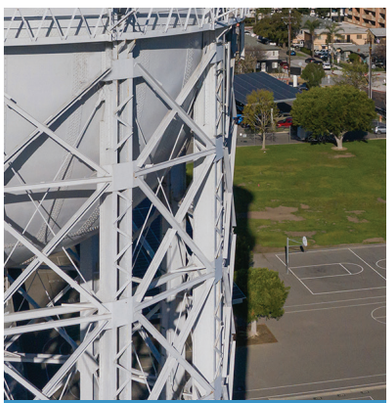












Water Quality Resilience Community Resources

A Message to the Santa Ana Community



New dog park at Centennial Park

Public Works improves daily life in Santa Ana in ways residents can see and feel, from families enjoying new parks and public spaces to safer streets, smoother travel, and infrastructure that supports the community every day.



Construction along Bristol Street

Public Works is rooted in service and powered by community. That's how teams show up every day across Santa Ana. Many staff live in the city, and those who don't spend countless hours here maintaining the infrastructure residents rely on and delivering improvements that strengthen quality of life.

The focus is clear: delivering long-overdue projects and real, tangible results. Santa Ana residents deserve to see progress, not promises. Across the city, projects are moving forward and reaching completion, reflecting a commitment to accountability, coordination, and follow-through.

This year, the City reached key milestones, including the opening of the Centennial Park dog park, the new Salvador Quintana Park, and the new Santa Anita Community Center. In the months ahead, additional community-focused projects will come online, including the Portola Park Splash Pad and Centennial Park lighting improvements, along with continued progress on major corridors such as Bristol Street to improve mobility and safety. Delivering these projects takes more than plans. It requires alignment, shared purpose, and the ability to execute. Public Works teams are focused on what matters most to the community, working within available resources while finding practical ways to move projects forward. The addition of an in-house construction team is strengthening this effort, providing greater control over schedules, improving responsiveness, and supporting more efficient project delivery.

This same commitment extends to one of the most essential services Public Works provides: water.

Every day, Santa Ana Water Resources operates a highly regulated system that delivers water to homes, schools, businesses, and public facilities across the city. For customers, the expectation is simple: water that is clean, reliable, and ready when they need it. Behind that expectation is a complex, coordinated process happening every day, often out of sight.

Salvador Quintana Park



Portola Park Splash Pad in construction

This year's theme brings that full journey into focus. It highlights what it takes to move water from its source to your tap—and the people, systems, and decisions involved along the way.

From managing local groundwater and imported supplies to maintaining wells, pipelines, and storage facilities, each part of the system plays a role. Water quality is continuously monitored through rigorous testing, while operations teams manage pressure, respond to service needs, and ensure reliable performance under changing conditions.

At the same time, long-term investments are essential to keeping the system strong. The City continues to advance projects that support water quality, expand local supply, and improve system performance, including PFAS treatment improvements and key infrastructure upgrades. Technology, including the City's smart meter program, is also improving how the system is managed and how customers understand their water use.

Together, these efforts reflect what it takes to deliver water every day, not just meeting regulatory standards, but sustaining reliable performance and preparing for future needs.

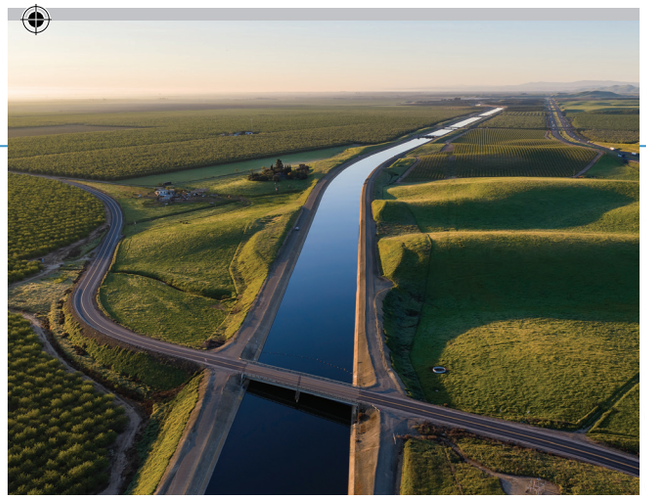
This report provides a closer look at that work: where Santa Ana's water comes from, how it is tested, what the results show, and how the system operates from source to tap.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report.

Delivering reliable, high-quality water every time you turn on the tap takes a coordinated effort: rigorous testing, treatment, ongoing maintenance, technology investments, planning, and skilled people working behind the scenes.



New community center at Santa Anita Park



Colorado River Aqueduct, courtesy of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

About This Report



F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant, courtesy of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

This report is your annual snapshot of Santa Ana's drinking water quality: where your water comes from, what was detected, and how results compare with state and federal standards.

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is a yearly summary of Santa Ana's drinking water quality. It explains where your water comes from and what's in it.

At the heart of the report are data tables showing year-round test results for more than 120 constituents (substances found in water, whether naturally occurring or a result of human activities). These tables list the quantity of each constituent detected in Santa Ana's water, how it compares with the allowable state and federal limits, and where it likely came from. Only constituents detected in Santa Ana's water are included in the data tables. This report covers only tap water provided by the City, not bottled water.

Read on to learn more about your tap water and how the City ensures the highest quality water is delivered to you year after year.

Need-To-Know Information Such as:





Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant, courtesy of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California



About Your Drinking Water



Water Quality Lab at Weymouth Water Treatment Plant, courtesy of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Where Santa Ana's Water Comes From

Every year, the City of Santa Ana delivers 10 billion gallons of water to residents and businesses, drawing from two sources: 85% groundwater and 15% imported water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD is a regional wholesaler serving 26 member agencies across Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties.

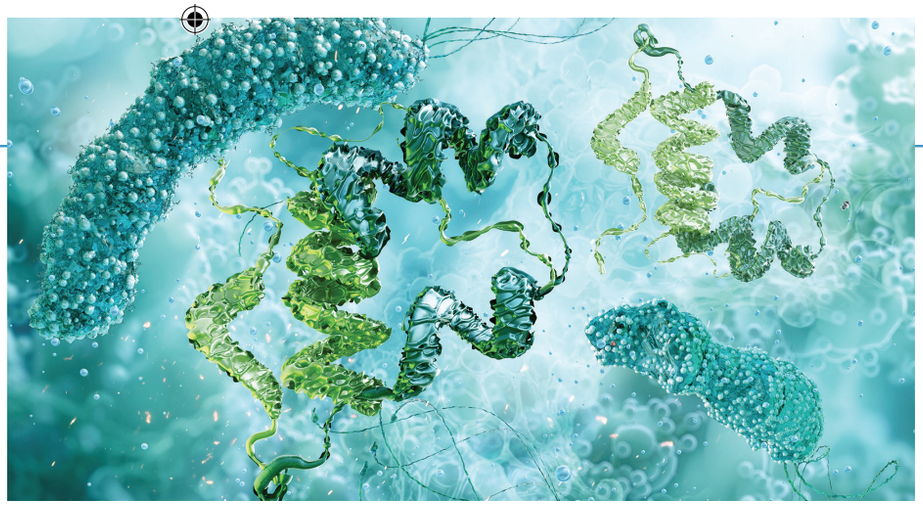
Imported Water: MWD transports Colorado River water from Lake Havasu through the 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct to Lake Mathews near Riverside. It also brings water from Northern California's Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta via the 444-mile California Aqueduct, part of the State Water Project. This water is treated at the Diemer Water Treatment Plant in Yorba Linda or the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant in La Verne before reaching Santa Ana. The city has seven MWD connections.

Groundwater: Santa Ana sits atop the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which holds approximately 500,000 acre-feet (162.9 billion gallons) of usable water and spans 270 square miles. The basin's deep aquifers, extending more than 2,000 feet, naturally filter water as it moves through layers of sediment. Santa Ana pumps groundwater to the surface using 21 city-owned wells.

Most customers receive a blend of groundwater and imported water. The water quality standards for each source are detailed in the data tables starting on page 14. Imported water and groundwater are listed separately, along with an additional table showing the quality of Santa Ana's water distribution system.

One of seven reservoirs located in Santa Ana





How Drinking Water Is Regulated



Water testing at a Santa Ana reservoir

To protect public health, the U.S. EPA and the State Water Board set strict limits for certain contaminants. Santa Ana Water Resources meets these standards year after year through routine monitoring and ongoing system management.

Tap water may contain different types of chemicals (organic and inorganic), microscopic organisms (e.g., bacteria, algae, viruses) and radioactive materials (radionuclides), many of which are naturally occurring. Health agencies require monitoring for these constituents because, at certain levels, they may pose health risks.

Water Quality Standards

Drinking water standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) set limits on over 90 constituents that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The U.S. EPA rules also set water-testing schedules and methods that water systems must follow. The data tables in this report show the following types of water quality standards:

Primary Standards



Mandatory health-related standards regarding potable water. For each contaminant, a Primary Standard either specifies a treatment technique or sets a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).



Secondary Standards

Aesthetic standards (non-health related) that could cause odor, taste, or appearance problems in drinking water.

Unregulated Parameters

Information about contaminants that are monitored, but are not currently regulated by federal and state health agencies.

Water Quality Goals



In addition to mandatory water quality standards, the U.S. EPA and California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. The data tables in this report include three types of water quality goals:

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.

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 Cal/EPA.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.



Water quality testing


Testing lab

How Maximum Levels Are Set

Regulatory agencies set maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for constituents to ensure drinking water is safe and looks, tastes, and smells good. Some constituents are listed with "TT" (Treatment Technique) in the MCL column because they do not have a numerical MCL. Instead, specific treatment requirements must be met.

One constituent, **total chlorine residual, has a Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** instead of an MCL. The MRDL is the maximum level of a disinfectant allowed in treating drinking water. While disinfectants are necessary to eliminate harmful microbes, drinking water regulations also limit how much disinfectant may be added.

Turbidity is another constituent with a unique requirement, whereby 95% of the measurements taken must remain below a specified level. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the efficiency of the filtration system.

Primary vs. Secondary Standards

Constituents that are grouped in the "Primary Standards" section may be unhealthy at certain levels. Constituents that are grouped under the "Secondary Standards" section can affect the appearance, taste and smell of water, but do not affect the safety of the water unless they also have a primary standard. Some constituents (e.g., aluminum) have two different MCLs, one for health-related impacts, and another for non-health-related impacts.

How Compliance Is Measured

With a few exceptions, if the average amount of a constituent detected in tap water over the course of a year is no greater than the MCL, then the regulatory requirements are considered to be satisfied. The highest and lowest levels measured over a year are shown in the range. Requirements for safety, appearance, taste, and smell are based on average levels recorded, not the range.

How Drinking Water Is Regulated



New automated testing units

Additional Information

Additional information about drinking water safety and standards can be found from these sources.

State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water

1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 449-5577
www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Chemicalcontaminants.html

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Ground Water And Drinking Water

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
NW, Mail Code 4606M
Washington, DC 20460-0003
www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water

Consumer Information

www.epa.gov/ccr

Information On How Drinking Standards Are Established

www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations

Drinking Water and Your Health

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 human activity.

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 visiting the U.S. EPA's website at www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water or calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.



Water testing at a Santa Ana PFAS treatment facility

Contaminants That May Be Present

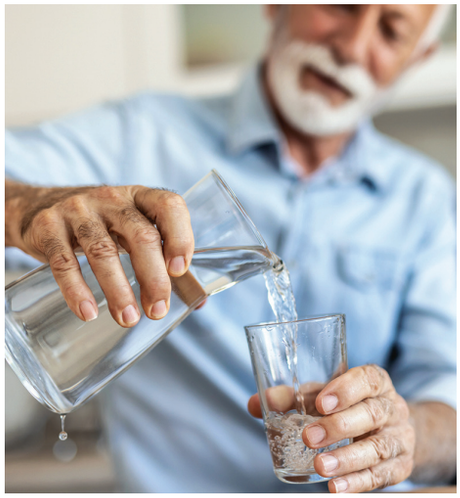
Water agencies are required to use the following language to discuss the source of contaminants that may reasonably be expected to be found in drinking water, including tap water and bottled water. Contaminants that may be present in sources of drinking water include:

- **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 byproducts 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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Water 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. Additional information on bottled water is available on the California Department of Public Health's website at http://cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/Pages/FDBPrograms/FoodSafetyProgram/Water.aspx.

Information for People with Weakened Immune Systems

Although Santa Ana meets all drinking water standards, 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, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. EPA and CDC (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to reduce the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants can be found by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water hotline at 800-426-4791 or online at: www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water and www.cdc.gov/drinking-water.



People with weakened immune systems may be more vulnerable to contaminants and should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

Protecting Our Groundwater

Source water protection is an important issue for all of California. Treatment to remove specific contaminants can be more expensive than measures to protect water at the source, which is why MWD and the City of Santa Ana invest resources to support improved watershed protection programs that, in turn, safeguard our groundwater.

Imported Water Assessment: Public water systems are required to submit a comprehensive sanitary survey of their watersheds to the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water every five years. These sanitary surveys examine possible sources of contamination and recommend actions to protect source waters. The most recent surveys for MWD's source waters are the Colorado River Watershed Sanitary Survey 2022 Update and the California State Water Project Watershed Sanitary Survey 2021 Update. The next updates for the Colorado River and State Water Project watershed sanitary surveys are due in 2026 and 2027 respectively. You can request a copy of the most recent Watershed Sanitary Surveys by calling MWD at 213-217-6000.

Groundwater Assessment: The most recent sanitary survey of the drinking water wells for the City of Santa Ana was completed in 2024. As in any urban area, Santa Ana's wells are considered most vulnerable to historic agricultural activities, golf courses and application of fertilizers, which are associated with contaminants detected in the water supply. Our wells are also considered most vulnerable to chemical/petroleum pipelines, chemical/petroleum processing, dry cleaners, gas stations, junk/scrap/salvage yards, metal plating/finishing/fabrication, plastics/synthetics producers and sewer collection systems, **although constituents associated with these activities were not detected.**

These water sources are tested throughout the year to ensure the supplied water remains safe.

For a copy of the most recent sanitary survey for Santa Ana's distribution system and groundwater, call the Santa Ana Water Resources Division at 714-647-3380.



Protecting Water at the Source

Find the Solution to the Pollution

Draw a line to match each pollution source with the action that helps prevent it.

SOLUTION (How to help)

1. Dispose of unused medication at a designated drop-off site.
2. Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash.
3. Fix car leaks to prevent oil from washing into storm drains.
4. Install rain gardens or use pervious surfaces to reduce polluted runoff.
5. Choose a commercial car wash that recycles water.
6. Reduce pesticide and fertilizer use, especially before rain.
7. Properly dispose of household chemicals like paint, cleaners, and motor oil.
8. Repair sewer plumbing to prevent leaks that can contaminate groundwater.
9. Don't litter. Pick up trash so it doesn't end up in storm drains.
10. Contact your city and ask to volunteer at a cleanup day event.

POLLUTION (What it prevents)

A. Motor oil leaks
B. Flushing medications
C. Pet waste
D. Fertilizers and pesticides
E. Car washing at home
F. Paint, cleaners, and chemicals
G. Sewer pipe leaks and corrosion
H. Trash in gutters and storm drains
I. Runoff carrying pollutants into storm drains
J. Litter in your local waterway

Answer Key: 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-I, 5-E, 6-D, 7-F, 8-G, 9-H, 10-J

This year's National Source Water Protection Week will be observed **September 27–October 3, 2026** as a reminder of the importance of protecting the lakes, rivers and other sources that supply our drinking water.

Learn more at:
www.awwa.org/communications-and-outreach/source-water-protection-week

SCAN ME

Additional Water Quality Information

What is a service line? A service line is the pipe that connects a home or building to the water main. Under new federal requirements, water systems must identify the material of both the City-owned and customer-owned portions of these lines.

Lead, Copper, and Your Home's Plumbing

What residents should know about lead exposure and service lines

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 Ana 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 Santa Ana Water Resources Division at 714-647-3380. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Lead Service Line Inventory

As part of updated federal Lead and Copper Rule requirements, public water systems must develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials, including both the City-owned and customer-owned portions of the service line.

The City of Santa Ana has completed its initial lead service line inventory and determined that there are no lead or galvanized service lines requiring replacement in its distribution system, including privately owned or customer-owned service lines.

To view the City's lead service line inventory information, please visit www.santa-ana.org/water-service-line-inventory or contact the Water Resources Division at 714-647-3380.

Why Fluoride Is Added to Drinking Water

For more than 70 years, Americans have benefited from drinking fluoridated water, which has led to better dental health. Fluoridated drinking water helps keep teeth strong and reduces cavities by about 25% in both children and adults. Due to these significant health benefits, the State of California mandates that all large water suppliers fluoridate their water systems.

Since October 2007, MWD joined a majority of the nation's public water suppliers in adding fluoride to the treated water it supplies to its member water agencies, including Santa Ana, which receives approximately 15 percent of its water supply from MWD. This plan is approved by the CDC and the State Water Board. MWD adjusts fluoride levels to an optimal range of 0.7 to 0.8 ppm for dental health. Santa Ana does not add fluoride to the potable water system; well water naturally contains fluoride levels ranging from 0.18 to 0.42 parts per million (ppm).

For additional information, you may call MWD's Water Quality Information Hotline at 800-354-4420. You can also download MWD's fact sheet at www.bit.ly/MWD_Fluoride, visit the State Water Board's fluoridation website at www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html, and the American Dental Association's site at www.bit.ly/ADA_Fluoride.

Steps to Reduce Lead Exposure at Home

- **Use only cold water for drinking,** cooking, and making baby formula. (Boiling water does not remove lead).
- **Clear standing water before use:** Flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing a load of laundry before using water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula.
- **Use a certified filter to reduce lead exposure:** Ensure it is certified by an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited certifier and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- **Choose lead-free fixtures:** Before 2014, "lead-free" plumbing products could contain up to 8% lead. Look for faucets, valves, and fittings that contain no more than 0.25% lead.
- **Identify and replace lead-containing plumbing** such as lead service lines or galvanized pipes that were connected to lead service lines.
- **Flush pipes after plumbing work:** New pipes or fixtures can release metals. Run cold water at a high flow rate for five minutes daily for at least three days.

Additional Water Quality Information

Protecting Your Drinking Water from Cross-Connections

The City of Santa Ana works diligently to deliver high-quality drinking water, but once water enters your property, potential risks can arise. One major concern is cross-connections, which can allow contaminants to enter your drinking water if not properly managed. A cross-connection occurs when a water supply line is connected to equipment or systems that contain non-potable substances (unsafe to drink). Examples include:

- A hose submerged in polluted water
- A heating boiler with treatment chemicals
- An underground lawn sprinkler system

To help safeguard the water system, the City maintains a robust cross-connection control program. Backflow preventers are installed at high-hazard facilities and other designated premises to protect against backflow. The City also performs routine hazard assessments and on-site inspections to identify any potential or existing cross-connections and ensure appropriate protections are in place.

How You Can Help Protect Your Home

In addition to the City's system-wide protections, individual property owners play a vital role in preventing cross-connections. Simple, affordable devices can safeguard both your home's drinking water and the public distribution system:

Air Gap: An open space between a water outlet and the highest possible water level in a sink, tub, or tank. This prevents contaminated water and any substances within it from being siphoned back into the drinking water supply if water pressure drops. Common examples include the metal cap near kitchen sinks for dishwashers (often called an "air gap fitting") and the space between a faucet spout and a sink or tub.

Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (AVB): A device installed on outdoor irrigation systems and certain plumbing fixtures to prevent contaminated water from flowing back into the drinking water supply. AVBs feature an air inlet valve that opens when water pressure drops, breaking any siphoning effect that could draw in pooled water around sprinkler heads that may contain fertilizers, pesticides, or animal waste. These must be installed above the highest point of water use in a system.

Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker: A small, screw-on device that attaches to outdoor faucets (spigots) to prevent backflow from garden hoses. It contains a spring-loaded check valve that stays closed during normal water use but opens to release air if pressure drops, preventing contaminated water from being siphoned back into the home's plumbing or the public water system. HBVBs are essential for garden hoses, preventing backflow if the hose end is submerged in water or exposed to contaminants.

Updated Cross-Connection Control Requirements

As of July 1, 2025, the City of Santa Ana is in full compliance with the State Water Board's Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH). This updated policy reinforces one of the most important tools we use to protect our drinking water from contamination: preventing backflow from non-potable sources.

The CCCPH enhances the City's already strong cross-connection control program by providing updated technical guidance, regulatory requirements, and educational materials. The goal is to protect the drinking water distribution system, and the community that relies on it, by ensuring contaminants cannot enter through cross-connections.

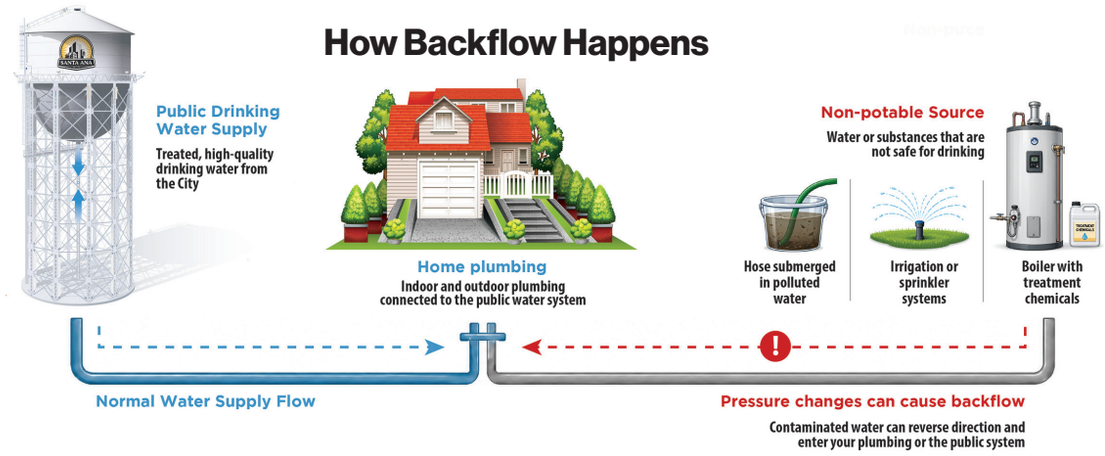
You may ask: how does the City ensure our water remains safe? Preventing backflow is a key part of the answer. Through inspections, enforcement, and community education, this program helps maintain the quality and reliability of Santa Ana's water supply.

Residents and businesses play an essential role, too. By understanding cross-connections and installing appropriate backflow prevention devices, you help safeguard the water in your home and across the entire community.



Backflow prevention assembly testing

How Backflow Happens



How to Read the Water Quality Tables

The data presented on the following tables are from the most recent monitoring completed in compliance with regulations. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

You will find three data tables showing a list of chemicals tested in each of the following water sources:

- **Santa Ana Distribution System**
- **Santa Ana Groundwater**
- **Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Treated Surface Water**

For each table, start with the chemical name and read across.

1. **The 'Chemicals' column lists substances found in Santa Ana's drinking water.**
2. **'MCL' is the highest level of substance (contaminant) allowed.**
3. **'MCLG' is the goal level for that substance (this may be lower than what is allowed).**
4. **'Average Amount' is the average level measured for the substance (less is better).**
5. **'Range of Detections' is the highest and lowest amounts measured.**
6. **A "No" under 'MCL Violation' indicates government requirements were met.**
7. **'Typical Sources in Drinking Water' tells you where the constituent usually originates.**

Note: Unregulated Constituents are measured, but maximum allowed contaminant (MCL) levels have not been established by the government.

Glossary

Terms & Abbreviations

Chemicals
Elements or compounds found in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)
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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)
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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)
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.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS)
MCLs, MRDLs and treatment techniques (TTs) for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.

Public Health Goal (PHG)
The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the Cal/EPA.

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

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

Variances and Exemptions
State Water Board permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a TT under certain conditions.

Measurements

Santa Ana conducts extensive sampling and testing to ensure your water meets all water quality standards. In 2025, we collected 11,400 samples for contaminants at various sampling points in our water system; all of which were below state and federal maximum allowable levels. Contaminants are measured in:

Parts per million (ppm)
or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

Parts per billion (ppb)
or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

Parts per trillion (ppt)
or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

PicoCuries per liter (pCi/L)
A measurement of radioactivity in water.

Micromhos per centimeter (umho/cm)
A measurement for conductivity of water.

Grains per gallon (grains/gal)
A measurement of water hardness often used for sizing household water softeners. One grain per gallon is equal to 17.1 mg/L of hardness.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU)
A measurement of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is noticeable to the average person.

Additional Abbreviations

AL = Regulatory Action Level
NA = Not Applicable
ND = Not Detected
NL = Notification Level
SMCL = Secondary MCL

2025 Water Quality Tables

2025 CITY OF SANTA ANA DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM'S WATER QUALITY

1 2 4 5 6 7

Type	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Chemical
DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS					
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4 / 4)	1	ND - 2.9	No	Disinfectant Added for Treatment
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	29	ND - 32	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	7	ND - 7.7	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
AESTHETIC QUALITY					
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	1	1	No	Naturally Occuring Organic Materials
Turbidity (ntu)	5*	ND	ND - 2.7	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits

Twelve locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids.
Fifty locations are tested monthly for color, odor and turbidity. Color was not detected in 2025.

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; **MRDLG** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal; **ntu** = nephelometric turbidity unit; **ND** = not detected.
*Chemical is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (color, odor, and taste).

UNREGULATED CHEMICALS REQUIRING MONITORING AT ENTRY POINTS TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Lithium (ppb)	n/a	n/a	4.6	ND - 39	2025
Perfluoro Butane Sulfonic Acid (ppt)	500	n/a	ND	ND - 2.5	2025
Perfluoro Hexane Sulfonic Acid (ppt)	3**	n/a	2.9	ND - 8.5	2025
Perfluoro Hexanoic Acid (ppt)	n/a**	n/a	ND	ND - 4.1	2025
Perfluoro Octane Sulfonic Acid (ppt)	6.5**	1	4.2	ND - 14	2025
Perfluoro Octanoic Acid (ppt)	5.1**	0.007	2.7	ND - 8.9	2025
Perfluoro Pentanoic Acid (ppt)	n/a	n/a	ND	ND - 5.9	2025



2025 Water Quality Tables

2025 CITY OF SANTA ANA GROUNDWATER QUALITY

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Chemical	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Chemical
Radiologicals							
Uranium (pCi/l)	20	0.43	2.6	ND - 4.9	No	2024	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Inorganic Chemicals							
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	ND	ND - 2.**6**	No	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	ND	ND - 0.107	No	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.33	0.18 - 0.42	No	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	10	0.02	1.4	0.29 - 2.3	No	2024	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Nitrate (ppm as N)	10	10	1.9	0.46 - 4.8	No	2025	Runoff and Leaching from Fertilizer Use; Leaching from Septic Tanks and Sewage; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite (ppm as N)	10	10	1.9	0.46 - 4.8	No	2025	Runoff and Leaching from Fertilizer Use; Leaching from Septic Tanks and Sewage; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	6	1	1	ND - 2.7	No	2025	Discharge from Industrial Operations
Secondary Standards*							
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	43	20 - 71	No	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Color (color units)	15*	n/a	0.14	ND - 3	No	2025	Naturally Occuring Organic materials
Specific Conductance (umho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	623	443 - 789	No	2025	Substance that forms Ions when in water
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	82	51 - 130	No	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	396	284 - 488	No	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Turbidity (ntu)	5*	n/a	ND	ND - 0.15	No	2025	Soil Runoff
Unregulated Chemicals							
Alkalinity, total (ppm as CaCO3)	Not Regulated	n/a	159	137 - 175	n/a	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Bicarbonate (ppm as HC03)	Not Regulated	n/a	194	171 - 210	n/a	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	68	37 - 90	n/a	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (grains/gal)	Not Regulated	n/a	14	7.6 - 18	n/a	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (ppm as CaCO3)	Not Regulated	n/a	239	130 - 307	n/a	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	14	7.9 - 18	n/a	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Perfluoro Butane Sulfonic Acid (ppt)	NL = 500	n/a	ND	ND - 3	n/a	2025	Industrial Discharge
Perfluoro Hexane Sulfonic Acid (ppt)	NL = 3**	n/a	ND	ND - 9.5	n/a	2025	Industrial Discharge
Perfluoro Hexanoic Acid (ppt)	Not Regulated**	n/a	ND	ND - 4.6	n/a	2025	Industrial Discharge
Perfluoro Octane Sulfonic Acid (ppt)	NL = 6.5**	1	4	ND - 18	n/a	2025	Industrial Discharge
Perfluoro Octanoic Acid (ppt)	NL = 5.1**	0.007	ND	ND - 10	n/a	2025	Industrial Discharge
Perfluoro Pentanoic Acid (ppt)	Not Regulated	n/a	ND	ND - 7.3	n/a	2025	Industrial Discharge
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	7.9	7.4 - 8.2	n/a	2025	Acidity, Hydrogen Ions
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	2.3	1.4 - 2.9	n/a	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	43.9	37.1 - 52	n/a	2025	Erosion of Natural Deposits

*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).
**Effective October 29, 2025, the NLs for perfluoro hexane sulfonic acid, perfluorooctanoic acid, and perfluoro octane sulfonic acid were revised to 3.0 ppt, 4.0 ppt, and 4.0 ppt, respectively; a NL of 1000 ppt was established for perfluorohexanoic acid.

LEAD AND COPPER ACTION LEVELS AT RESIDENTIAL TAPS

Chemical	Action Level (AL)	Public Health Goal	90th Percentile Value	Range of Detections	Sites Exceeding AL / Number of Sites	AL Violation?	Typical Source of Chemical
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	ND	ND	0 / 66	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.17	ND - 0.38	0 / 66	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

In 2024, 66 residences were tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. Lead was not detected in any sample. Copper was detected in 52 samples, none of which exceeded the AL for copper. A regulatory action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

2025 Water Quality Tables

2025 METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TREATED SURFACE WATER QUALITY

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Chemical	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Diemer Average	Weymouth Average	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Chemical
Radiologicals - Tested in 2023 and 2025							
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	15	(0)	ND	ND	ND - 5	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	50	(0)	ND	ND	ND - 6	No	Decay of Natural and Man-made Deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	1	ND	ND - 3	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Inorganic Chemicals - Tested in 2025							
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	0.058	0.096	ND - 0.01	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	0.13	0.129	0.129 - 0.13	No	Refinery Discharge, Erosion of Natural Deposits
Bromate (ppb)	10	0.1	2.4	3	ND - 12	No	Byproduct of Drinking Water Ozonation
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.7	0.7	0.5 - 0.8	No	Water Additive for Dental Health
Secondary Standards - Tested in 2025							
Aluminum (ppb)	200*	600	58	96	ND - 100	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	92	92	84 - 99	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Color (color units)	15*	n/a	1	1	1	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	873	868	754 - 987	No	Substances That Form Ions In Water
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	182	176	139 - 218	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	545	536	456 - 625	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Unregulated Chemicals - Tested in 2025							
Alkalinity, total as CaCO3 (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	108	110	93 - 124	NA	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Boron (ppm)	NL = 1	n/a	0.13	0.13	0.13	NA	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	56	56	43 - 70	NA	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total as CaCO3 (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	236	234	189 - 280	NA	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (grains/gallon)	Not Regulated	n/a	14	14	11 - 16	NA	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	22	22	19 -25	NA	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	8.3	8.2	8.2 - 8.3	NA	Hydrogen Ion Concentration
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	4.3	4.4	3.8 - 5	NA	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	88	89	78 - 100	NA	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT	n/a	2.4	2.5	1.6 - 2.8	NA	Various Natural and Man-made Sources

Turbidity - Combined Filter Effluent Metropolitan Water District Filtration Plants	Treatment Technique	Turbidity Measurements		TT Violation?	Typical Source of Chemical
		Diemer	Weymouth		
1) Highest single turbidity measurement (NTU)	0.3	0.05	0.06	No	Soil Runoff
2) Percentage of samples less than or equal to 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	100%	No	Soil Runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, an indication of particulate matter, some of which might include harmful microorganisms. Low turbidity in Metropolitan's treated water is a good indicator of effective filtration. Filtration is called a "treatment technique" (TT). A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of chemicals in drinking water that are difficult and sometimes impossible to measure directly. NTU = nephelometric turbidity units.

UNREGULATED CONSTITUENTS REQUIRING MONITORING

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Lithium (ppb)	n/a	n/a	22	ND - 36	2023

Chloramines and Chlorine

The City is required* to disinfect your water to prevent waterborne pathogens by using chlorine or chloramines (which are compounds of chlorine and ammonia). Both effectively kill bacteria and other microorganisms that can cause disease. The water we import from MWD is disinfected using chloramines, a type of disinfectant that is very stable and reduces the formation of disinfection by-products in water. The City of Santa Ana disinfects locally produced water with chlorine, which is injected into our water system with precise dosing measures. We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine disinfectant to protect the safety of your water.

Chloraminated and chlorinated water is safe for people and animals to drink, and for all other general uses. Three special user groups, including kidney dialysis patients, aquarium owners, and businesses or industries that use water in their treatment process, must remove these disinfectants from the water prior to use. Hospitals or dialysis centers should be aware of chloramine or chlorine in the water and should install proper equipment, such as dual carbon adsorption units, to remove these disinfectants.

**As mandated by the U.S. EPA and State Water Board.*



Well 40 PFAS Treatment Plant

From Source to Tap: The People and Systems Behind Your Water



Burris basin, courtesy of Orange County Water District

How the System Works for You

Delivering water to your tap involves far more than turning on a faucet. Behind the scenes, Santa Ana Water Resources manages a coordinated system of local groundwater, imported water, infrastructure, monitoring, maintenance, and trained professionals working every day to serve homes, schools, and businesses across the city.

Most of Santa Ana's water comes from the Orange County Groundwater Basin. Santa Ana Water Resources operates 21 groundwater wells that pump water from deep aquifers beneath the city, providing a strong local supply and reducing dependence on imported water.

Santa Ana also receives a small portion of its water from Metropolitan Water District (MWD) through seven pipeline connections. This water comes from the State Water Project and the Colorado River and is treated at Metropolitan's Diemer Water Treatment Plant in Yorba Linda and Weymouth Water Treatment Plant in La Verne before reaching Santa Ana.

Together, these sources form the first step in a continuous chain of work that most customers never see but rely on every day.

From source to tap, Santa Ana Water Resources manages the infrastructure, monitoring, maintenance, and operations needed to protect water quality and keep service dependable year-round.

What You'll Find in this Section

The next pages highlight the systems, people, and expertise behind Santa Ana's water service, and what it takes every day to deliver the high-quality water residents count on.

SOURCE TO TAP
Continued

Locally Produced Water, Managed With Care

Before water enters Santa Ana's distribution system, it moves through a carefully managed process overseen by the Water Production Section. This team manages the facilities and controls that help prepare water for delivery, including wells, pumping stations, reservoirs, treatment facilities, disinfection systems, SCADA technology, and imported water connections.

Source water is sampled and tested by MWD and the Orange County Water District (OCWD) to confirm water quality, identify constituents that require attention, and determine what treatment may be needed before water enters the distribution system. This includes monitoring for PFAS and other regulated or emerging contaminants.

Where PFAS treatment is needed, Santa Ana works closely with OCWD, which manages and safeguards the groundwater basin, to plan and construct treatment facilities at specific well sites. These projects help keep valuable local groundwater in service while ensuring the water continues to meet drinking water standards.

Water from most wells is pumped, disinfected, and stored in pumping plants before entering the distribution system. Some wells feed directly into the distribution system after disinfection and sampling.

When imported water is needed, MWD connections are opened, and that water flows directly into the distribution system. The Water Production Section manages the flow from these connections.

Disinfection is part of protecting public health. More than two decades ago, Santa Ana invested in its proprietary, onsite disinfection program using sodium hypochlorite, a safer, lower-concentration disinfectant made from salt, water, and electricity. This approach supports operational independence and helps protect the system from supply disruptions, safety risks, and changing regulatory requirements.

Residual Control Systems at key locations continuously monitor chlorine levels and precisely calibrate dosing as needed. This helps maintain Santa Ana's target chlorine residual between 0.6 and 1.0 parts per million, well below the federal limit of 4.0 ppm while still protecting public health.

Santa Ana also uses a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to monitor and control key parts of the water production system. These tools help staff track conditions at wells, reservoirs, pumping stations, treatment facilities, and disinfection systems, manage flows, respond to changing demands, and keep the system operating reliably.

Because Santa Ana depends heavily on local groundwater, protecting the Orange County Groundwater Basin is also part of protecting the City's long-term water future. The City works closely with OCWD to support recharge efforts, stormwater capture, and long-term groundwater management, helping sustain this important resource for future generations.

Producing local water is a daily operation most customers never see. Each step, from source-water testing and treatment to disinfection, system monitoring, and basin stewardship, reflects the expertise required to deliver the high-quality water residents count on.





WATER SOURCES

85%	15%
Groundwater	Imported Water

WATER PRODUCTION

21	7
Wells	Pumping Stations

What Happens Before Water Enters the Distribution System?

- Source water is sampled and tested before it reaches Santa Ana.
- Water is disinfected before entering the distribution system.
- Additional treatment is used at specific well sites where needed.
- Residual Control Systems and the SCADA system help monitor and manage production.



Tracking water conditions with the SCADA system

Moving Water Across the City

Once water is ready for delivery, it enters a complex distribution system that moves it across Santa Ana. Water from wells, pumping stations, and MWD connections feeds into this system, which includes 7 reservoirs, 7 pumping stations, and approximately 480 miles of transmission and distribution pipelines, the hidden backbone of daily water service.

Water mains are the larger pipes that move water throughout the city. From these mains, individual water services are installed to supply water to homes and businesses, fire sprinkler systems at commercial properties, and dedicated irrigation systems for large landscapes. Water meters measure use for each service connection and provide information for billing, customer service, and system management.

Reservoirs store water so it is available when demand rises during the day or when emergencies occur. Pumping stations move water from storage into the distribution system and help maintain steady pressure across different parts of the city. These stations are equipped with variable-frequency drives (VFDs), which allow pumps to adjust speed as conditions change. This helps stabilize pressure, reduce sudden surges, limit wear on equipment, and lower the chance of service disruptions.

Operators monitor the distribution system 24 hours a day, seven days a week using its SCADA control system, along with other field systems. These tools allow staff to remotely monitor and control the water distribution system, including operating pumps, filling reservoirs, maintaining pressure, troubleshooting issues, and identifying service disruptions quickly.

Water quality monitoring continues to be critical at this stage. The Water Quality Section collects samples from reservoirs and designated sampling stations throughout the distribution system. In 2025 alone, the City collected 11,400 samples and tested for more than 120 constituents.



Sampling at a reservoir



WATER QUALITY MONITORING

11,400 Samplings | **120+** Constituents Tested

TREATMENT & DISINFECTION

0.8% Chlorine Concentration Used For Disinfection

SOURCE TO TAP
Continued

This testing helps ensure the highest quality water is delivered from source to tap year after year.

Maintaining a reliable system also requires constant field work. The Water Maintenance Section repairs water main and service breaks, coordinates emergency shutdowns for repairs, installs new services and hydrants, replaces aging water mains, and exercises valves so sections of the system can be controlled when needed. Crews also maintain fire hydrants so they are ready for emergency use and routinely flush hydrants to test volume and pressure, remove sediment and rust, and help keep lines operating properly.

The Water Meter Department installs new meters, replaces aging meters of all sizes, repairs leaking meters, and helps address customer questions about water use. Much of this work happens before residents notice a problem, but it is essential to keeping water service dependable.

When issues arise, Water Resources staff coordinate across operations, maintenance, meter, and water quality teams to protect water quality, maintain service, and resolve problems as quickly and safely as possible.

Delivering water from source to tap takes more than infrastructure and equipment. It requires continuous testing, monitoring, maintenance, repairs, and the expertise of Water Resources specialists.

Beyond Delivery: Protection, Efficiency, and Outreach

Once water reaches homes, schools, businesses, and other facilities, Santa Ana Water Resources' work continues.

The division helps protect the public water supply, encourages efficient water use, and connects with the community through education and outreach.

Through its Cross-Connection Control Program, the Water Quality Section helps protect the drinking water system from contamination by managing backflow prevention requirements for certain customer connections where water could potentially flow back into the public system. This includes higher-risk uses such as irrigation systems, fire sprinkler systems, and commercial or industrial facilities.

Santa Ana Water Resources also encourages residents and businesses to use water wisely indoors and outdoors. Through hands-on workshops, water-wise landscaping education, rebate information, and community presentations, the division gives customers practical tools to reduce waste, prevent runoff, and make more efficient choices at home and at work.

Education and outreach are also important parts of the division's work. Santa Ana Water Resources partners with the Municipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC) Choice School Program, which brings water education to thousands of Santa Ana students each year.

The division also reaches the community through water related bill inserts and social media posts, tours of pumping plants and reservoirs, neighborhood presentations, the annual Youth Water Poster Contest, and more than 100 community and special events each year.





STORAGE & DISTRIBUTION

7 Reservoirs | **480** Miles of Pipeline

DELIVERY TO CUSTOMERS

10 Billion Gallons of Water Delivered Each Year

These efforts are reinforced through public education campaigns and initiatives such as “Drink It From the Tap,” “Every Drop Counts,” “Slow the Flow,” and the City’s FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) program, which helps residents understand how everyday actions can help protect the City’s water and sewer systems.

The People Behind Your Water

Behind Santa Ana’s water system is a team of operators, engineers, inspectors, maintenance crews, water quality specialists, administrative staff, and other professionals working together every day to keep service reliable.

Many of these positions require specialized training, state certification, and continuing education in areas such as water treatment, distribution, pumps, pressure systems, disinfection, safety, regulatory compliance, and emergency response. Staff must also adapt to changing regulations, evolving technology, and the daily demands of operating a complex public water system.

Reliable water service depends not only on infrastructure, but also on the expertise, coordination, and commitment of the people who operate and maintain the system behind the scenes every day.

Improving the System Behind Your Water

Delivering reliable, high-quality water is not only about daily operations. It also depends on steady reinvestment in wells, treatment facilities, pipelines, technology, and planning so the system can continue serving Santa Ana as needs change.

Recent and ongoing projects are strengthening Santa Ana’s local groundwater supply, including the completed rehabilitation of Well 32 and continued planning for the Washington Well and Flower Well. The City is working with OCWD to add PFAS treatment facilities at Well 31, Well 38, Wells 27 & 28, and Garthe Reservoir to help keep local groundwater sources available while meeting current and future drinking water requirements.

Santa Ana also continues to renew the pipelines beneath the streets. In 2025, the City completed approximately 1,500 linear feet of water and sewer main improvements, with more than 20,000 additional linear feet currently under construction or in design.

Together, these investments reflect the full system behind every drop: local groundwater, imported water connections, reservoirs, pipelines, testing, maintenance, capital projects, technology, and skilled professionals working together to keep water service reliable from source to tap.



Garthe Pump Station

Approximately 1,500 linear feet completed in 2025, with 20,000 more under construction or in design.





PROTECTION & OUTREACH

100+
Community Events Each Year

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

1,500+
Linear Feet of Aging Pipeline Replaced

Young Artists Illustrate What Water Means to Them



A single phrase can open the door to hundreds of ideas.

This year, Santa Ana students were asked to complete the phrase "Water is _____." Their responses came through bold colors, careful drawings, and thoughtful words, showing water as life, hope, community, sustenance, and something worth protecting.

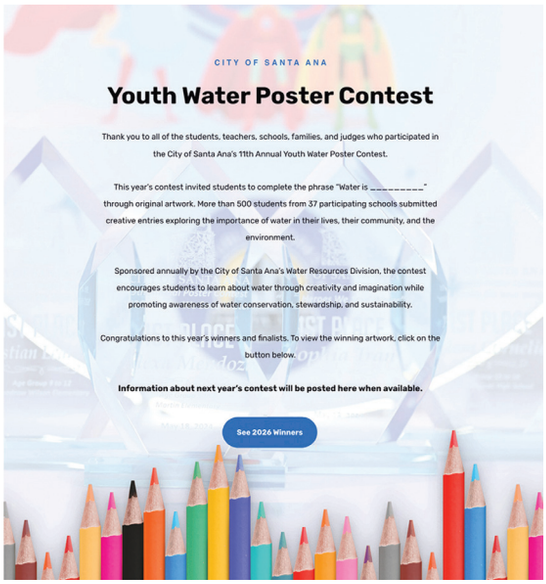
More than 500 students from 37 schools participated in the 11th Annual Youth Water Poster Contest, sharing personal and creative perspectives on what water means in their lives, community, and the world around them.

Some students described water as "a reflection of us" or "a life source," while others expressed it as "love, sustenance, hope, life, community ... what holds us through a lifetime." Together, these perspectives reflect a deeper understanding of water, not just as something we use every day, but as something that connects and sustains us all.

Sponsored annually by the City of Santa Ana's Water Resources Division, the contest encourages students to explore water-related topics through creativity while building awareness of the role water plays in their daily lives. Each year, the program introduces themes that help students think more deeply about water, from conservation and groundwater protection to water quality and stewardship.

In 2026, the City received 509 entries from students across Santa Ana. From these submissions, judges selected 12 winners, including one grand prize winner and two finalists in each of four age categories, based on originality, clarity, and connection to this year's theme.

On May 5, the Santa Ana City Council recognized the winners during a special ceremony at City Hall, attended by students, their families, and members of the community.





Mayor Valerie Amezcua celebrates the 2026 Youth Water Poster Contest winners at the Poster Contest Recognition Ceremony.

Young Artists Illustrate What Water Means to Them

The 2026 winners are:

Ages 5–8

Damian Ornelas
Grand prize winner
Lincoln Elementary

Catalina Peña
2nd place finalist
Lincoln Elementary

Roh Houlton
3rd place finalist
Springs Charter

Ages 9–12

Luella Luna Reyes
Grand prize winner
Taft Elementary

Melina Cedillo
2nd place finalist
Lathrop Intermediate

Brianna Carmona
3rd place finalist
Lathrop Intermediate

Ages 13–14

Ketzaly Lopez
Grand prize winner
Saddleback High School

Alondra Rachel Bravo
2nd place finalist
Gerald P. Carr Intermediate

Katherine Wences
3rd place finalist
Villa Fundamental Intermediate School

Ages 15–18

Thy Do
Grand prize winner
Bolsa Grande High School

Nayeli Luis-Martinez
2nd place finalist
Middle College High School

Victoria Romero
3rd place finalist
Segerstrom High School

The City extends its appreciation to the Santa Ana Unified School District, participating schools, and dedicated teachers who support and encourage student involvement each year.

We also thank our judges whose support and thoughtful review helped make this year's contest a success:

Alejandra Garcia:
CSU Long Beach student and cartographer

David Pursley:
Muralist and interactive exhibit designer with the Bowers Museum

Victorino "Victor" V. Bermejo:
Santa Ana Arts & Culture Commissioner

Tram Le:
Santa Ana Arts & Culture Specialist

The winning posters, featured on the following pages, reflect the creativity and perspective of Santa Ana's youth and a shared understanding of the importance of protecting this essential resource.

Encouraging Creativity in the Classroom

Each year, Santa Ana Water's Youth Water Poster Contest recognizes teachers who help bring the program into the classroom and encourage students to explore the importance of water through art and imagination.

Teachers had two opportunities to win a $200 Art Supply Warehouse gift card: an Early Bird Request Drawing for teachers who requested contest information or classroom materials by January 30, and a Classroom Participation Drawing for teachers who submitted 10 or more student entries.

This year's teacher drawing winners are Nena Kellar, a visual arts teacher at Saddleback High School, and Albert Perez, a third-grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School.

Ms. Kellar teaches Art 1, Art 2, drawing, and painting, helping students build technical skills while using art to explore identity, community, and current issues. She described this year's theme as timely and meaningful because it connects classroom learning to real-world topics.

Mr. Perez has taught both third and fourth grades for the past 28 years. He shared that this was the first year so many of his students participated, and said he hopes they come away with a stronger appreciation for the importance of water and how precious it is. Together, these educators help students connect creativity with awareness, turning big ideas about water into meaningful artistic expression.



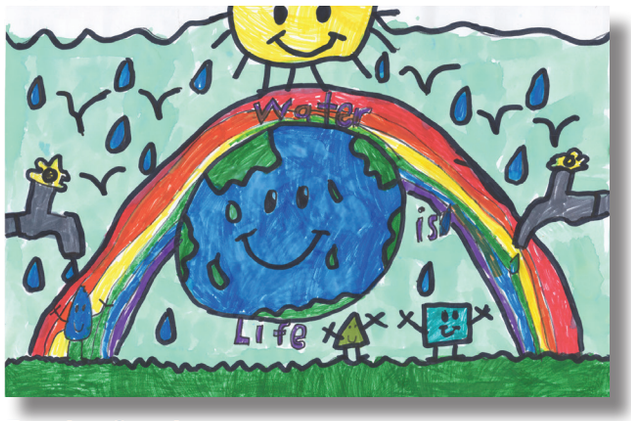
Nena Kellar



Albert Perez

Contest WINNERS 2026

Ages 5–8



Damian Ornelas



Catalina Peña



Roh Houlton

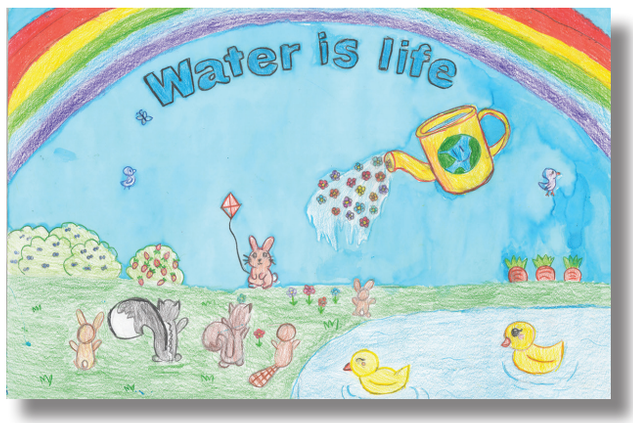
Ages 9–12



Luella Luna Reyes



Melina Cedillo



Brianna Carmona

Selected from more than 500 entries, these posters reflect what water means through the eyes of Santa Ana's youth.

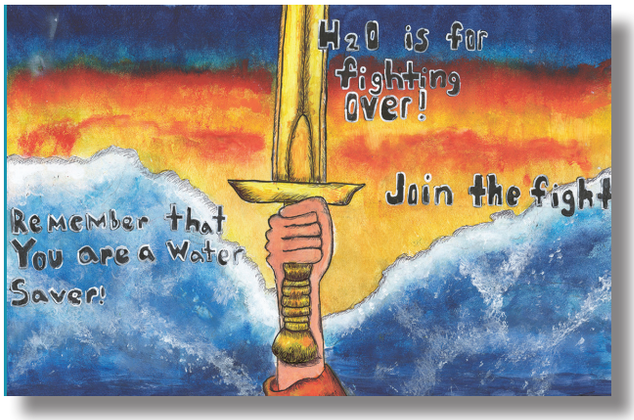
Ages 13–14



Ketzaly Lopez



Alondra Rachel Bravo



Katherine Wences

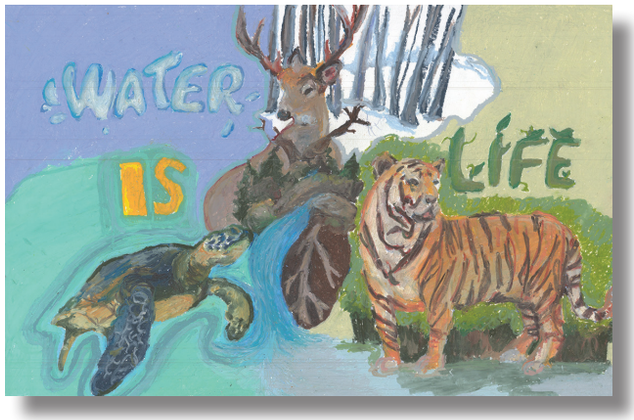
Ages 15–18



Thy Do



Nayeli Luis-Martinez

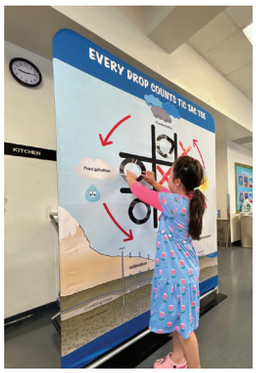


Victoria Romero

Supporting Our Community Year-Round

Water is part of everyday life in Santa Ana, and Santa Ana Water Resources brings that message directly into the community throughout the year. From parks and schools to festivals, workshops, and family events, staff help residents learn where their water comes from, how to use it wisely, and why protecting it matters.

Some events are all about hands-on learning. Others bring water education into places where students and families are already gathering to explore, celebrate, and spend time together. Whether through neighborhood meetings, community partnerships, special programs, or simple conversations at its outreach booth, Water Resources helps make water education visible, practical, and connected to daily life in Santa Ana.



Summer Splash Day Camp

Water education met summer fun at Santa Ana's Summer Splash Day Camp, where children ages 6 to 12 spent their days swimming, playing games, participating in group activities, and learning through hands-on experiences.

Santa Ana Water Resources joined the camp in summer 2025 with its Water Cycle Tic Tac Toe activity, turning an important science lesson into a game kids could play together. As campers answered questions and filled the board, they learned how water moves through the environment: from evaporation and clouds to rainfall, rivers, groundwater, and the water they use every day at home.

The activity gave students a chance to connect what they see around them with the larger water cycle happening all around the community.



Fiestas Patrias

Downtown Santa Ana came alive September 13–14, 2025 for the City's 45th annual Fiestas Patrias, one of the city's largest and most vibrant community celebrations. Families gathered along historic 4th Street for live music, cultural performances, food, vendors, carnival rides, cultural exhibitors, and the annual parade celebrating Mexican independence and Santa Ana's Latino communities.

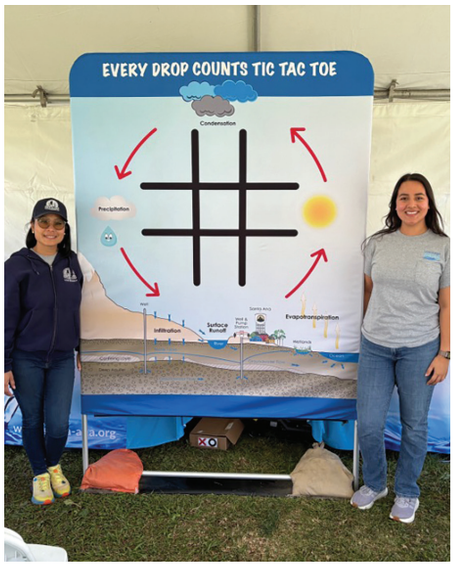
Santa Ana Water Resources joined the celebration with a booth where residents could pick up conservation materials, learn about water-saving programs, and take home giveaways. The division's Hydration Station also helped keep festival-goers and their pets refreshed with Santa Ana's award-winning tap water. Staff answered questions about water use, rebates, and simple ways families can save water at home.

In the middle of music, food, and celebration, Water Resources shared a simple message: local tap water is something to use, enjoy, and take pride in.











Plaza Navideña

Holiday lights, music, performances, and community spirit filled Plaza Calle Cuatro on November 22, 2025, during Santa Ana's annual Plaza Navideña celebration and tree lighting ceremony. The free community event included live entertainment, arts and crafts, photo opportunities with Santa, holiday games, raffles, and performances including Ballet Folklórico Renacimiento.

Santa Ana Water Resources joined the festivities with conservation materials, giveaways, and helpful information for residents. In a warm holiday setting filled with lights, music, and tradition, staff shared simple reminders about saving water and why choosing Santa Ana tap water is more affordable and better for the environment than bottled water.

From summer festivals to holiday celebrations, Water Resources stays visible in the community year-round.



Children's Water Education Festival

Santa Ana Water Resources continued its commitment to youth education at the 29th annual Children's Water Education Festival, held April 15–16, 2026, at Oak Canyon Park.

Hosted by the Orange County Water District, the festival brings together third, fourth, and fifth grade students to explore water, science, conservation, and the environment through interactive exhibits and activities designed to make learning engaging and fun.

Santa Ana Water Resources staff returned with its favorite activity: the Water Cycle Tic Tac Toe game. After a short presentation, students answer questions about the water cycle and compete in a friendly game that reinforces what they learned.

The festival welcomed more than 5,600 students in 2026 and has reached more than 163,000 students since it began. For Santa Ana Water Resources, the event is a chance to make water education active and memorable, helping young people understand how water moves through the environment and why conservation matters at home, at school, and in their community.

Children's Water Education Festival
ENGAGE TO EDUCATE
INSPIRE TO INNOVATE

Supporting Our Community Year-Round

Catch the Rain: Earth Day Workshops

Families rolled up their sleeves during Catch the Rain workshops held April 22–24, 2026, at three community gardens in celebration of Earth Day.

Santa Ana Water Resources partnered with Santa Ana Parks, Recreation and Community Services and Santa Ana Community Gardens to help residents learn more about rainwater capture, watersheds, and practical ways to conserve water at home.

Held at El Salvador Park Garden, Pacific Electric Park Garden, and Madison Park Garden, the workshops featured onsite rain barrel systems where residents could explore how rain barrels work, and offered interactive stations with family-friendly educational activities. Children built small filtration models using plastic bottles, rocks, sand, and paper materials while learning how water moves through the environment. More than 108 residents participated in the outdoor workshops.





Santa Ana Water Resources staff shared water saving tips and rebates, distributed educational flyers and materials, and provided free native plants, seed packets, watering cans, and rain barrels while supplies lasted.

Rain Barrel Program

As part of a special program, Santa Ana Water Resources funded and installed rain barrel systems at all three garden locations, along with interpretive signage to help explain how the systems work. These installations now serve as real-life examples of how captured rainwater can support gardens and outdoor spaces, while conserving this precious resource.



Open Garden Day

Santa Ana Water Resources participated in Open Garden Day 2026, a beloved annual community event celebrating gardening, sustainability, and the unique character of North Santa Ana's historic neighborhoods. Visitors spent the day exploring beautifully designed private gardens, attending educational talks, browsing local vendors, and connecting with community organizations focused on environmental stewardship and outdoor living.

Throughout the event, Santa Ana Water Resources served its award-winning water and shared practical resources residents can use to create more water-wise landscapes at home. Visitors to the booth received educational materials including "Quick Tips for a California Friendly and Native Garden," "Water-Saving Tips for Your Lawn and Garden," rebate incentive information, rain barrel and turf replacement program flyers, the 2024 Consumer Confidence Report, gardening magazines, and children's water activity books.

Residents also received California poppy and California wildflower seed packets, seed kit pots, seed bookmarks, and water conservation stickers to encourage sustainable gardening practices at home. A raffle wheel added an interactive element to the booth, with prizes including watering cans, outdoor conservation kits, gardening gloves, and succulents.



The event provided another opportunity for Santa Ana Water Resources to connect with residents and promote water-efficient gardening and outdoor conservation throughout the community.

UPCOMING events*

04 JULY — **4th of July Celebration** — 6 - 9 pm
Centennial Park
3000 W. Edinger Ave.

16 AUG — **Relay for Life Car Show** — 10:00 am - 3:30 pm
Santa Ana Elks Lodge
1751 S. Elk Lane

23 AUG — **Chicano Festival** — 2 - 7 pm
Centennial Park
3000 W. Edinger Ave.

12/13 SEP — **Fiestas Patrias** — 12 - 11 pm
Downtown Santa Ana / Historic 4th Street

21 NOV — **Plaza Navideña** — 5 - 8 pm
Plaza Calle Cuatro
325 E. 4th St.

08 MAY 2027 — **Open Garden Day** (20th Anniversary) — 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Check in:
2302 North Westwood Ave.

Water education does not end with this report. Throughout the year, Santa Ana Water Resources participates in community events, workshops, school programs, and neighborhood presentations to help residents learn more about their water and practical ways they can save water at home.

Whether you want to learn how to save water outdoors, ask a question about your service, pick up conservation materials, or meet the people behind Santa Ana's water system, there are many ways to participate.

Look for Santa Ana Water Resources at upcoming City events, and check the City's website and social media channels for updates on future water-wise workshops, presentations, and community activities.





Bring This With You!

Bring this coupon to the **Santa Ana Water Resources booth** at any listed event to receive a **free exclusive prize** while supplies last.



SANTA ANA WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

One prize per household.
Prizes may vary.

Event Staff Initials: _____

Looking for ways to save water, track your use, or report a problem?

The next page includes helpful tools, rebates, and City resources you can use year-round.

*Visit **www.santa-ana.org** for the latest event updates.

Tools, Rebates, and Support

Small changes can make a big difference, especially when residents have the right tools. Santa Ana Water Resources offers programs and resources you can use to save water, save money, track water use, and report issues more easily.

Save Water. Save Money.



Want to use less water and lower your bill? Rebates can help make water-saving upgrades more affordable.

Much of a home's water use happens outdoors. In California, up to 70% of residential water use can go toward landscaping, which means smarter irrigation and turf replacement can make a real difference.

Through the SoCal Water$mart Program, Santa Ana residents may qualify for rebates on indoor and outdoor products that help save water at home.

Available rebates include:

- High-efficiency clothes washers
- Premium high-efficiency toilets
- Flow monitor devices
- Rotating sprinkler nozzles
- Weather-based irrigation controllers
- Soil moisture sensor systems
- Rain barrels and cisterns
- Turf replacement

Because rebate amounts and availability can change, please check the program before you buy or start a project.

Find rebates and apply: www.socalwatersmart.com

Smart Water Meters: Track Your Water Use

Santa Ana recently completed a major upgrade to its water system through the City's Smart Water Meter Program. The City replaced older meters with smart meters that provide more timely information about water use, improve billing accuracy, and help identify unusual usage patterns sooner.

Sign up for the smart meter customer portal to:

- View water use over time
- Spot sudden increases that may signal a leak
- Set alerts for unusual water use
- Better understand outdoor watering patterns
- Make informed choices that can help reduce waste

Smart meters also help the City operate more efficiently, reduce manual meter readings, and give staff better information to respond to issues.

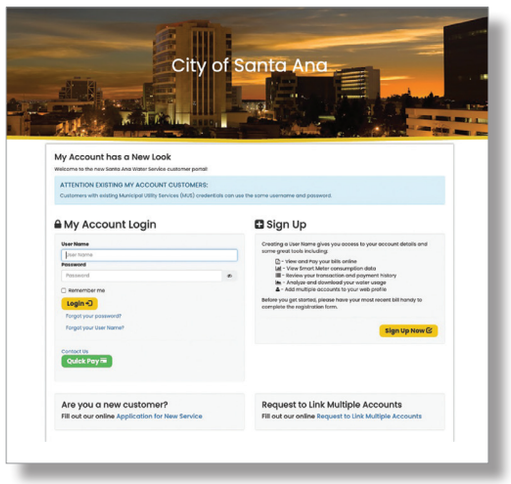


Learn more and sign up: www.santa-ana.org/smart-water-meter-program

Billing and Customer Support

For billing questions, account and payment help, payment support, or meter-related questions, contact:

Municipal Utility Services & Billing
714-647-5454



Useful Numbers to Call

Report Issues Quickly and Easily

See a water leak, pothole, graffiti on public property, illegal dumping, streetlight outage, missed street sweeping, or city tree issue?

Use the City's online reporting tool or mySantaAna app to report something at a specific location that City crews may need to inspect, repair, clean up or address. You can upload photos, provide details, and track your request online.

Report online:
www.santa-ana.org/#/city/report

Use the mySantaAna app:
www.santa-ana.org/mysantaana-app

For Public Works questions, guidance and assistance, call the Public Works Helpline at **714-647-3380.** The Helpline can also help you find the right Public Works service or resource.

PUBLIC WORKS
HELPLINE
714-647-3380
Questions & Assistance

Other City Services

Building Inspection Request Line
714-667-2738

City Manager
714-647-5200

Fire Department
714-573-6000
(call 911 for emergencies)

Mayor and City Council
714-647-6900

Parks & Recreation
714-571-4200

Planning & Building, Planning Division
(Environmental Review, Historic Preservation & New Development)
714-667-2700

Police Department (general line)
714-245-8665
(call 911 for emergencies)

Public Library
714-647-5250

Water Billing and Accounts
Municipal Utility Services & Billing
714-647-5454

Refuse and Recycling
For trash, recycling, organics, bulky-item pickup, missed collection, cart service, and dumpster questions, contact Republic Services.

Republic Services
657-467-6220

Other Helpful Numbers

Bus Information
714-636-7433

Noise Complaints
714-834-4211

Overcrowding
714-667-2780
(call 911 for emergencies)

Poison Control Center
800-876-4766





If you have questions about your water quality, contact:

City of Santa Ana, Water Resources Division
Cesar E. Barrera P.E., Deputy Public Works Director/Acting City Engineer
Armando Fernandez P.E., Acting Deputy Public Works Director/Water Resources Manager
Heidi Chou P.E., Principal Civil Engineer
Robert Hernandez, Water Services Quality Coordinator

220 South Daisy Avenue, Bldg A, Santa Ana, California 92703
phone: 714-647-3380 | **email:** conservewater@santa-ana.org | **web:** www.santa-ana.org

For more information, contact:
Santa Ana City Council
20 Civic Center Plaza
P.O. Box 1988, M31
Santa Ana, CA 92702
phone: 714-647-6900

Get Involved

If you would like to be involved in issues and decisions that affect the quality and cost of your drinking water, City Council meetings are open to the public and held at 5:45 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

The meeting location is at:
City Council Chambers
22 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92701







Follow Us

- www.facebook.com/CityofSantaAna/
- www.instagram.com/cityofsantaana/
- www.santa-ana.org
- www.santaanaccr.org

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Favor de comunicarse con la División de Recursos Hídricos de la ciudad de Santa Ana al 714-647-3380 para obtener asistencia en español.

Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Xin vui lòng liên lạc Santa Ana tại 714-647-3380 để được trợ giúp bằng tiếng việt.

这份报告含有关于您的饮用水的重要讯息。请用以下地址和电话联系 **Santa Ana Water Resources Division** 以获得中文的帮助: **714-647-3380.**