

2023
Water Quality
Report



City of
Fountain Valley
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT





Your 2023 Water Quality Report

Since 1990, California public water utilities have been providing an annual Water Quality Report to their customers. **This year's report covers calendar year 2022 drinking water quality testing and reporting.** The City of Fountain

Valley Water Department (City) vigilantly safeguards your water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets or exceeds the quality standards required by federal and state regulatory agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) are the agencies responsible for establishing and enforcing drinking water quality standards.

Pursuant to the California Safe Drinking Water Act, the City monitors over 100 chemicals in your water supply. This report includes only the

chemicals actually detected in the water. In some cases, the City goes beyond what is required by testing for unregulated chemicals that may have known health risks but do not have drinking water standards. Unregulated chemical monitoring helps USEPA and DDW determine where certain chemicals occur and whether new standards need to be established for those chemicals to protect public health.

Through drinking water quality testing programs carried out by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) for groundwater, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC) for treated surface water, and the City for the water distribution system, your drinking water is constantly monitored from source to tap for contaminants that are regulated and unregulated.

The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of our results, though representative of current conditions, are more than one year old.

Constant Monitoring Ensures Continued Excellence

Sources of Supply

The City's water supply is a blend of groundwater from six City wells and one imported water connection originating from Northern California and the Colorado River by the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) via MWDSC.

Groundwater comes from a natural underground aquifer that is replenished with water from the Santa Ana River, local rainfall, recycled Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) water, and imported water. The groundwater basin is 350 square miles and lies beneath north and central Orange County from Irvine to the Los Angeles County border and from Yorba Linda to the Pacific Ocean. More than 20 cities and retail water districts draw from the basin to provide water to homes and businesses.

In 2022, the City only provided groundwater, which is reflected in the charts provided.



Englebright Dam on the Yuba River

Orange County's Water Future

For years, Orange County has enjoyed an abundant, seemingly endless supply of high-quality water. However, as water demand continues to increase statewide, we must be even more conscientious about our water supply and maximize the efficient use of this precious natural resource.

OCWD and MWDOC work cooperatively to evaluate new and innovative water management and supply development programs, including water reuse and recycling, wetlands expansion, recharge facility construction, ocean and brackish water desalination, surface storage and water use efficiency programs. These efforts are helping to enhance long-term countywide water reliability and water quality.

A healthy water future for Orange County rests on finding and developing new water supplies, as well as protecting the quality of the water that we have today. Your local and regional water agencies are committed to making the necessary investments today in new water management projects to ensure an abundant and high-quality water supply for our future.

Basic Information About Drinking Water Contaminants

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 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.

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.
- ◆ **Pesticides and herbicides**, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- ◆ **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.



- ◆ **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.
- ◆ **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the DDW 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.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

Chloramines

Although the City did not import water in 2022, the City can import water as needed from MWDSC which produces water using chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, as its drinking water disinfectant.

Chloramines are effective killers of bacteria and other microorganisms that may cause disease. Chloramines form fewer disinfection by-products and have no odor when used properly.

People who use kidney dialysis machines may want to take special precautions and consult their physician for the appropriate type of water treatment.

Customers who maintain fish ponds, tanks or aquaria should also make necessary adjustments in water quality treatment, as these disinfectants are toxic to fish.

For more information, or if you have any questions about chloramines, please call (714) 593-4624.



We Invite You to Learn More About Your Water's Quality

For information or concerns about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact Kevin Deason, Water Quality Technician, at (714) 593-4624, send an email to kevin.deason@fountainvalley.org, or visit the City's website at fountainvalley.org.

You may also address your concerns at the regularly scheduled City Council Meetings held at City Hall at 10200 Slater Avenue in Fountain Valley on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. The City firmly believes in the public's right to know as much as possible about the quality of their drinking water and the health of their watershed.

Your input and concerns are very important to us.

For more information about the health effects of the listed contaminants in the following tables, call the USEPA hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visit epa.gov/safewater.

We Comply with All State & Federal Water Quality Regulations

About Lead in Tap Water

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.

The City is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 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, (800) 426-4791, or at epa.gov/lead.



What are Water Quality Standards?

Drinking water standards established by USEPA and DDW set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The charts in this report show the following types of water quality standards:

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Secondary MCLs:** Set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- ◆ **Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS):** MCLs, MRDLs and Treatment Techniques (TTs) for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.
- ◆ **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

What is a Water Quality Goal?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and DDW have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The charts in this report include three types of water quality goals:

- ◆ **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 USEPA.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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 California Environmental Protection Agency.

How are Contaminants Measured?

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. 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)

2022 City of Fountain Valley Drinking Water Quality Local Groundwater

Chemical	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Average Local Groundwater	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Radiologicals – Tested in 2020						
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	2.7	1.6 – 4	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Inorganic Chemicals – Tested in 2022						
Fluoride (ppm) naturally-occurring	2	1	0.36	0.31 – 0.41	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm) treatment-related	2	1	See Footnote 1		No	Water Additive for Dental Health
Nitrate as N (ppm)	10	10	1.1	0.71 – 1.5	No	Agriculture Runoff and Sewage
Nitrate and Nitrite as N (ppm)	10	10	1.1	0.71 – 1.5	No	Agriculture runoff and sewage
Secondary Standards* – Tested in 2022						
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	32	29 – 34	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	542	474 – 597	No	Substances that Form Ions in Water
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	67	61 – 80	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	324	238 – 366	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	n/a	0.15	ND – 0.4	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Unregulated Chemicals – Tested in 2022						
Alkalinity, total as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	169	153 – 181	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	61	52 – 70	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)	Not Regulated	0.02	1.3	0.54 – 2.4	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Industrial Discharge
Hardness, total as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	195	164 – 227	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (grains/gallon)	Not Regulated	n/a	11	9.6 – 13	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	11	8.3 – 13	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	8	7.9 – 8	n/a	Hydrogen Ion Concentration
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	2.2	1.8 – 2.9	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	41	36 – 46	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits

ppb = parts-per-billion; ppm = parts-per-million; pCi/L = picoCuries per liter; NTU = nephelometric turbidity units; µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter; ND = not detected;

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; (MCLG) = federal MCL Goal; n/a = not applicable; PHG = California Public Health Goal; NL = Notification Level

*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color)

(1) The Fountain Valley water system treats your water by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level in order to help prevent dental caries in consumers.

The fluoride levels in the treated water are maintained by the City within a control range of 0.6 ppm to 1.2 ppm.

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Groundwater Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Bromide (ppm)	n/a	n/a	0.14	0.081 – 0.24	2019
Manganese (ppb)**	SMCL = 50	n/a	1.9	ND – 12.1	2019
Total Organic Carbon (Unfiltered) (ppm)	n/a	n/a	0.17	0.08 – 0.38	2019

SMCL = Secondary MCL

**Manganese is regulated with a secondary standard of 50 ppb but was not detected, based on the detection limit for purposes of reporting of 20 ppb.

Manganese was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.

Drinking Water Fluoridation

Fluoride occurs naturally in the City's water supplies. In addition to the natural levels, the City's water system adds a small concentration of sodium fluoride to the water to promote dental benefits per a majority vote of the community.

Fluoridating the water especially helps to prevent tooth decay in children. Because of the dramatic health benefits of fluoridating drinking water, a 1997 assembly bill of the state of California has mandated all large system water suppliers to begin fluoridating their systems. In 2007 MWDSC began fluoridation of their water supply. The City's water is fluoridated to the DDW optimal range between 0.6 to 1.2 parts per million.



There are many places to go for additional information about the fluoridation of drinking water.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1-800-232-4636 [cdc.gov/fluoridation/](https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/)

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water

waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html

For more information about MWDSC's fluoridation program, please contact Edgar G. Dymally at (213) 217-5709 or via email at edymally@mwdh2o.com.

Immunocompromised People

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



Want Additional Information?

There's a wealth of information on the internet about Drinking Water Quality and water issues in general, especially the drought and conservation. Some good sites — both local and national — to begin your own research are:

City of Fountain Valley: www.fountainvalley.org

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: www.mwdh2o.com

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

www.epa.gov/safewater

California Department of Water Resources:

www.water.ca.gov

**Water Conservation
Tips & Rebate Information:**

www.ocwatersmart.com

2022 City of Fountain Valley Distribution System Water Quality

Disinfection Byproducts	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	9	ND – 16	No	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	2	ND – 5.2	No	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4 / 4)	0.42	0.2 – 0.85	No	Disinfectant added for treatment
Aesthetic Quality					
Color (Color Units)	15*	1	1 – 5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Odor (Threshold Odor Number)	3*	1	1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	0.14	ND – 0.82	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Eight locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids; thirty are tested monthly for color, odor and turbidity.

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; **MRDLG** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal; **NTU** = nephelometric turbidity units; **ND** = not detected.

* Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color)

Lead and Copper Action Levels at Residential Taps

	Action Level (AL)	Public Health Goal	90 th Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding AL / Number of Sites	AL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.15	0 / 33	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	ND	0 / 33	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

For the sampling event, 33 residences were tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of samples was collected in 2021.

Lead was not detected in any sample. Copper was detected in 24 samples, none of which exceeded the Action Level (AL).

A regulatory AL is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

In 2022, no school submitted a request to be sampled for lead.

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring in the Distribution System

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.04	ND – 0.4	2019
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.37	ND – 1.1	2019
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	MCLG = 0	0.01	ND – 0.4	2019

Source Water Assessment

Groundwater Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the City was completed in February 2003 and was updated in October 2016 for Wells 6, 9 and 10.

The groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with detected contaminants: dry cleaners, gas stations, historic gas stations, NPDES/WDR permitted discharges, and sewer collection systems.

A copy of the complete assessment is available at State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, Santa Ana District, 2 MacArthur Place, Suite 150, Santa Ana, California 92707.

Every Drop is Golden...

"And it never failed that during the dry years the people forgot about the rich years, and during the wet years they lost all memory of the dry years. It was always that way."

~ JOHN STEINBECK, *East of Eden*

Torrential rains. A Sierra snowpack over 200% of normal. Blizzards in Southern California! This winter's powerful storms provided welcome relief for drought weary California, but we should stay prepared for the dry years. Even with full reservoirs and slowly replenishing aquifers, the cyclical nature of California's water fortunes, coupled with our arid climate, guarantees a return to drought in years to come.

Much has changed since Steinbeck's day. Water conservation has become a way of life. No longer seen as a temporary patch for times of drought, conservation's role as protector of our shared waters is engrained in our behavior. We recognize that it doesn't mean we must use less water, only that we not waste the water we have. By saving water today, we ensure we'll have it tomorrow — for every drop is golden!



City of Fountain Valley

Field Services ~ Water Department
17300 Mt. Herrmann Street
Fountain Valley, California 92708



*On the Cover: Moiola Park,
photo by Manny Nunez,
MannyNunezAerial.com*

This report contains important information about your drinking water.

Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua para beber.

Traducir, o hable con alguien que entienda.

Bản báo cáo có ghi những chi tiết quan trọng về phẩm chất nước trong cộng đồng quý vị. Hãy nhờ người thông dịch, hoặc hỏi một người bạn biết rõ về vấn đề này.

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