



# 2024 Water Quality Report



*City of*  
**La Palma**  
Public Works &  
Community  
Services  
Department

This report reflects  
water quality testing  
conducted during 2023.



## Your 2024 Water Quality Report

Since 1990, California public water utilities have been providing an annual Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), to their customers.

**This year's report covers calendar year 2023 drinking water quality testing and reporting.** Your City of La Palma Public Works & Community Services Department (City) vigilantly safeguards its water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets the quality standards required by federal and state regulatory agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) are the agencies responsible for establishing and enforcing drinking water quality standards.

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. For example, the Orange County Water District (OCWD), which manages the ground water basin, tests for unregulated chemicals in our water supply. 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 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 regulated and unregulated contaminants.

The State allows the City to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.

# Constant Monitoring Ensures Continued Excellence

## Sources of Supply

The City's water supply is groundwater managed by the OCWD, and MWDSC treated surface water from Northern California and the Colorado River. OCWD's groundwater comes from a natural underground aquifer that is replenished with water from the Santa Ana River, local rainfall, 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.

## Orange County's Water Future

For years, Orange County has enjoyed an abundant and 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 the Municipal Water District of Orange County (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



*Whitsett Intake Pumping Plant on the Colorado River.*

and developing new water supplies, as well as protecting and improving 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 and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the layers of the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal and human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ◆ **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- ◆ **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- ◆ **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

- ◆ **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
- ◆ **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

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 must 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.



## 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 to infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

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

For information about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact the Public Works & Community Services Department at (714) 690-3310.

The City Council meets only on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, CA 90623. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

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



Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring						
Chemical	Notification Level	PHG (MCLG)	Average Local Groundwater	Average MWD Surface Water	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Bromide (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	0.048	NR	0.042 – 0.056	2020
Lithium (ppb)	Not Regulated	n/a	ND	20	ND – 36.7	2023
Manganese (ppb)**	SMCL = 50	n/a	30	1.7	ND – 57.8	2020
Total Organic Carbon (Unfiltered) (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	0.24	NR	0.14 – 0.4	2020

SMCL = Secondary MCL      \*\*Manganese was included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring

2002, the Stage 1 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule lowered the total THM maximum annual average level to 80 parts per billion and added HAAs to the list of regulated chemicals in drinking water. Your drinking water complies with the Stage 1 Disinfectants/ Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

Stage 2 of the regulation was finalized by USEPA in 2006, which further controls allowable levels of DBPs in drinking water without compromising disinfection itself. A required distribution system evaluation was completed in 2008 and a Stage 2 monitoring plan has been approved by DDW. Full Stage 2 compliance began in 2012.

### 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 or on the internet at: [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

### Arsenic Advisory

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic of 10 micrograms per liter, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The USEPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. Additional information on arsenic is available from the EPA website, [www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic).

### Source Water Assessments

#### Imported (MWDSC) Water Assessment

Every five years, MWDSC is required by DDW to examine possible sources of drinking water contamination in its State Water Project and Colorado River source waters.

The most recent surveys for MWDSC’s source waters are the Colorado River Watershed Sanitary Survey – 2020 Update, and the State Water Project Watershed Sanitary Survey – 2021 Update.

Water from the Colorado River is considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/storm-water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. Water supplies from Northern California’s State Water Project are most vulnerable to contamination from urban/stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater.

USEPA also requires MWDSC to complete one Source Water Assessment (SWA) that utilizes information collected in the watershed sanitary surveys. MWDSC completed its SWA in December 2002. The SWA is used to evaluate the vulnerability of water sources to contamination and helps determine whether more protective measures are needed.

A copy of the most recent summary of either Watershed Sanitary Survey or the SWA can be obtained by calling MWDSC at (800) CALL-MWD (225-5693).

### Groundwater Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the City was completed in December 2002. The groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with detected contaminants: body shops, chemical/petroleum processing/storage, electrical/electronic manufacturing, gas stations, historic gas stations, known contaminant plumes, machine shops, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, photo processing/ printing, repair shops, sewer collection systems, wastewater treatment and disposal facilities.

A copy of the complete assessment is available at State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, 2 MacArthur Place, Suite 150, Santa Ana, CA 92707. You may request a summary of the assessment by contacting the City at (714) 690-3313.

Further information and a summary of the assessments, is available by contacting the City of La Palma at (714) 690-3310.

### PFAS

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that may pose a hazard to health. They have been widely used in a variety of products and are resistant to heat, water, oils and stains.

The City monitors PFAS levels in our supply wells per the latest State guidelines. Currently, the City does not have any wells affected by PFAS. However, the City is aware of the possibility of PFAS infiltrating several areas in Orange County. The City is committed to addressing this in the coming future should it affect residents.

Additional information regarding PFAS is available on the California Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water website at [www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/).

#### PFAS can be found in:



2023 City of La Palma Distribution System Water Quality					
Disinfection Byproducts	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	17	6.2 – 15	No	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	6	ND – 4.6	No	Byproducts of chlorine disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4 / 4)	0.51	0.08 – 0.84	No	Disinfectant added for treatment
Aesthetic Quality					
Color (color units)	15*	1	ND – 1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	1	ND – 1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	1	0.2 – 1.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits

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

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

\*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 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding AL / Number of Sites	AL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	ND	0 / 30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.15	0 / 30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Thirty residences were tested for lead and copper at-the-tap during 2021.

Lead was detected in 1 home; none exceeded the regulatory Action Level. Copper was detected in 19 homes; none exceeded the AL.

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

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring in the Distribution System					
Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Bromochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.7	0.5 – 1.2	2020
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	ND	ND – 0.6	2020
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.5 – 0.8	2020
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.9	0.6 – 1.6	2020
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	MCLG = 0	0.4	0.3 – 0.7	2020

# Quality Water is Our Priority - Depend on Us



Turn the tap and the water flows, as if by magic. Or so it seems. The reality is considerably different, however. Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers is a scientific and engineering feat that requires considerable effort and talent to ensure the water is always there, always safe to drink.

Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment and distribution operators must be licensed.

Our licensed water professionals have an understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- ◆ Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- ◆ Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- ◆ Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- ◆ Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- ◆ Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind every drop.

**This report contains  
important information about  
your drinking water.**

**Translate it, or speak with  
someone who understands it.**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información ó traducción, favor de contactar a Customer Service Representative. Telefono: (714) 690-3310.

이 보고서에는 귀하가 거주하는 지역의 수질에 관한 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 이것을 번역하거나 충분히 이해하시는 친구와 상의하십시오.



## City of La Palma

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