

2025 Consumer Confidence Report

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report • Fire Clay Tile • Water System No. CA3510009

Water System Information

Water System Name: Fire Clay Tile

Water System Number: CA3510009

Report Date: 6/30/2026

Type of Water Source(s) in Use: Well (groundwater)

System Classification: Nontransient noncommunity public water system; population served 100; 4 service connections. Domestic Water Supply Permit No. 02-05-23P-3510009.

Treatment: Point-of-use (POU) arsenic treatment filters at seven locations.

Name and General Location of Source(s): Well 02, Water System No. 3510009, 521 Quarry Rd., Aromas, CA 95004

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: A source water assessment was conducted for the Fire Clay Tile Well 02 and submitted on 3/18/2022. To obtain a copy of the Source Water Assessment, contact David Galaviz at (831) 234-4620.

Summary of Vulnerability to Potential Contaminating Activities: Well 02 draws from an aquifer in which arsenic, iron, and manganese occur naturally at elevated concentrations, and these naturally occurring constituents are the source's principal vulnerability. The well is located on an industrial site bordered by agricultural fields and adjacent to a rock products facility, so surrounding agricultural and industrial land uses are the potential contaminating activities of note. The water system serves no residential connections. The site is on an on-site septic system, with the nearest sewage disposal approximately 400 feet from the well, and the well is protected by a controlled area, a concrete floor plate, and drainage directed away from the wellhead. Fire Clay Tile inspects the well on the schedule required by its permit and reports any new potential contaminating activity to the Division of Drinking Water.

Opportunities for Public Participation: Fire Clay Tile is a privately owned nontransient noncommunity water system and does not hold public board meetings. Employees and occupants may raise questions or concerns about the water system at any time with the EHS Director, David Galaviz, at (831) 234-4620 or safety@fireclaytile.com, or through the posted water quality notices in the break room.

For More Information, Contact: David Galaviz, EHS Director — (831) 234-4620 — safety@fireclaytile.com

About This Report

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025, and may include earlier monitoring data.

Importance of This Report

Language in Spanish: Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse con Fire Clay Tile a 521 Quarry Rd., Aromas, CA 95004, o llamar a David Galaviz al (831) 234-4620, para asistirlo en español.

Terms Used in This Report

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

Term	Definition
Level 2 Assessment	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
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. Environmental Protection Agency (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 Standards (PDWS)	MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment 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 California Environmental Protection Agency.
Regulatory Action Level (AL)	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS)	MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.
Treatment Technique (TT)	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Variances and Exemptions	Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.
Point-of-Use (POU) Treatment	A treatment device installed at an individual tap used for the purpose of reducing contaminants in drinking water at that one tap.
ND	Not detectable at testing limit.
Detection Limit for purposes of Reporting (DLR)	The lowest concentration of a contaminant that must be reported to the State Board. Results below the DLR are reported as ND.
90th Percentile	For lead and copper, the value below which 90 percent of the samples in a monitoring round fall. Compliance with the action level is determined by the 90th percentile, not by any single sample.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units — a measure of the cloudiness of water.
MPN	Most Probable Number — a statistical estimate of the number of bacteria in a sample.
ppm	parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Sources of Drinking Water and Contaminants that May Be Present in Source Water

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

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

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

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or 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.

Regulation of Drinking Water and Bottled Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

About Your Drinking Water Quality

Drinking Water Contaminants Detected

Tables 1 through 6 list the drinking water constituents monitored during the most recent sampling for each constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Results below the Detection Limit for purposes of Reporting are shown as ND. Any result that exceeds an AL, MCL, MRDL, or SMCL is asterisked (*). Additional information is provided later in this report.

2025 laboratory analyses were performed by CM Analytical, Inc. (ELAP Certification No. 1423) and BSK Associates Laboratory for the January through May monitoring period, and by Monterey Bay Analytical Services, Inc. (ELAP Certification No. 2385) from June through December, with certain analyses subcontracted to BSK Associates Laboratory and McCampbell Analytical, Inc.

Table 1. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Coliform Bacteria

Microbiological Contaminants	Sample Dates	No. of Samples Collected	Highest No. of Detections	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	Monthly, Jan – Dec 2025	12 collected (6 at the designated site)	0 (all Absent / <1 MPN)	Naturally present in the environment
E. coli	Monthly, Jan – Dec 2025	12 collected (6 at the designated site)	0 (all Absent / <1 MPN)	Human and animal fecal waste

No total coliform or E. coli was detected in any 2025 sample. No Level 1 or Level 2 assessment was triggered during 2025. Twelve routine samples were collected during 2025. The six samples collected from July through December were taken at the Brick Building Breakroom Sink rather than the routine monitoring site designated in our State-approved Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan, and therefore did not satisfy the routine monitoring requirement for those months. See Table 7.

Table 2. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Lead and Copper

Lead and Copper	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb) — 1st half 2025	6/26/2025	5	1	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb) — 1st half 2025	6/26/2025	5	151	0	1300	300	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb) — 2nd half 2025	7/1/2025 – 12/31/2025	34	ND	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb) — 2nd half 2025	7/1/2025 – 12/31/2025	34	118	0	1300	300	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Fire Clay Tile monitors for lead and copper on a six-month schedule, with five samples required from distribution sites each round. First-half 2025 values are those reported to the Division of Drinking Water on the Lead and Copper Tap Sample Results Reporting Form dated 8/14/2025; results were posted in a public area that same day in accordance with 40 CFR 141.85(d).

Under Condition 21 of Permit Amendment No. 1, Fire Clay Tile conducted increased lead and copper monitoring during the second half of 2025, sampling each point-of-use device as its filter reached successive levels of treated flow. Second-half 2025 values in Table 2 are the 90th percentile results for that 34-sample monitoring period as determined by the Division of Drinking Water and published in Permit Amendment No. 3. Lead was non-detect across all 34 samples. Neither the lead nor the copper action level was exceeded at any point during 2025.

Separately, a special sample collected on 7/30/2025 at the Brick Building breakroom sink returned a lead result of 66.7 ppb, above the 15 ppb action level for that individual tap. Because the action level is determined by the 90th percentile of a monitoring round rather than by any single sample, this result is not a system-wide action level exceedance. The tap was removed from service, signage was posted, and all persons served were notified. A confirmation resample of the same tap on 9/2/2025 was non-detect for lead. See Table 7.

Table 3. Sampling Results for Sodium and Hardness

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	11/2021	71	N/A	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	11/2021	570	N/A	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

Table 4. Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic, treated water at POU devices — compliance monitoring (ppb)	1/2025 – 9/2025	2.6 (highest)	ND – 2.6	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic, untreated source water — Well 02 (ppb) (not a compliance point)	2/2025, 5/2025, 11/2025	19.0 (annual average)	18.1 – 20	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppb)	11/2021	140	N/A	1000	2000	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	11/2024	0.17	N/A	2	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as N) (ppm)	2/11/2025	ND	N/A	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2/2023, 6/2023, 9/2023	ND	N/A	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	3/2022	ND	N/A	5	0.019	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	11/2024	ND	N/A	20	0.43	Erosion of natural deposits

No result in Table 4 exceeded a primary MCL.

How Arsenic Is Treated and Measured at Fire Clay Tile

Groundwater from Well 02 naturally contains arsenic above the 10 ppb MCL. Under Domestic Water Supply Permit No. 02-05-23P-3510009, the State Water Board approved point-of-use (POU) arsenic treatment devices as Fire Clay Tile's method of complying with the arsenic MCL, following a pilot study conducted under California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 64418.2. POU devices are installed at seven locations, and each filter is exchanged after no more than 1,000 gallons of treated flow.

Under Condition 36 of the permit, compliance with the arsenic MCL is determined from the treated water leaving the POU devices, not from the untreated well. During 2025, every POU compliance sample was at or below 2.6 ppb, well under the 10 ppb MCL, and no POU effluent sample exceeded the MCL at any time. Fire Clay Tile was therefore in compliance with the arsenic MCL throughout 2025.

The untreated Well 02 results are shown above for transparency because the permit requires quarterly source monitoring to verify that the POU devices continue to perform. Untreated well water is not delivered to any tap used for drinking.

Table 5. Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Manganese, source water — Well 02 (ppb)	2/11/2025	2800	N/A	50	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits
Manganese, treated water at points of use (ppb)	1/2025 – 9/2025	58*	ND – 58	50	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits
Iron, source water — Well 02 (ppb)	2/11/2025	1700	N/A	300	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	11/2021	1300	N/A	900 (recom mended)	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
				) 1600 (upper)		
Turbidity (units)	6/26/2025	0.40	ND – 0.40	5	N/A	Soil runoff

** Indicates an exceedance of the secondary MCL at a point of use. See Table 7.*

Manganese and iron occur naturally at elevated levels in the Well 02 aquifer. Source water results are shown for information; secondary standards apply to the water delivered at the tap. Point-of-use filtration substantially reduces both constituents, and manganese at the points of use was non-detect in every 2025 sample except one, which is described in Table 7. Secondary standards address taste, odor, and appearance rather than health effects. Specific conductance of 1300 micromhos is below the 1600 upper level but above the 900 recommended level.

Table 6. Detection of Unregulated Contaminants

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Notification Level	Health Effects
None detected	2025	ND	N/A	N/A	No unregulated contaminants were detected during 2025.

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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/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 (1-800-426-4791).

Lead-Specific Language

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. Fire Clay Tile 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 do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Organic Chemical Monitoring

On September 18, 2025, Well 02 was tested for the full suite of regulated volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) by EPA Method 524.2, synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs) by EPA Methods 505, 515.4, 531.1 and 549.2, and 1,2,3-trichloropropane by Method SRL 524M. All results were ND (non-detect), including 1,2,3-trichloropropane at a reporting limit of 0.00070 ppb, well below its 0.005 ppb MCL.

Additional Special Language for Arsenic, Lead, and Manganese

Arsenic: While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. EPA 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. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Lead: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Manganese: Manganese has a secondary standard of 50 ppb, set to protect against taste, odor, and staining rather than health effects at that level. Water containing manganese above the secondary standard may have a metallic taste and may stain fixtures and laundry.

Summary Information for Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

Table 7. Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct Violation	Health Effects Language
Lead — Individual Tap Result Above the Action Level	A special sample collected 7/30/2025 at the Brick Building breakroom sink measured 66.7 ppb against the 15 ppb action level for that tap. Investigation identified closed valves upstream and downstream of the point-of-use filter at that fixture. The 90th percentile for both standard monitoring rounds in 2025 was non-detect, so this was not a system-wide action level exceedance.	7/30/2025 to 9/2/2025	The sink was removed from service and signage posted. A bilingual (English/Spanish) exceedance notification was distributed to all employees and occupants on 8/29/2025. Valve positions were corrected and the fixture resampled on 9/2/2025, returning a non-detect result for lead. All subsequent lead results at all sites have been non-detect.	Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
Total Coliform — Monitoring and Reporting	Routine monthly total coliform samples were collected at the indoor Brick Building Breakroom Sink rather than the Block Building South Wall Hose Bib designated in our State-approved Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan dated February 1, 2022. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, issued Citation and Compliance Order No. 03_05_25J_026 in December 2025 covering July through October 2025, and Citation and Compliance Order No. 03_05_26J_005 on June 2, 2026 covering November 2025 through April	July – December 2025	Fire Clay Tile notified all persons served by public notice, posted in conspicuous locations for a minimum of seven consecutive days and distributed to employees, using the notification template and wording approved by the Division of Drinking Water. A revised Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan was prepared and submitted to the Division of Drinking Water for approval, and sampling procedures and chain-of-custody labeling were reviewed with staff to prevent recurrence.	We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During July through December 2025 we did not complete all monitoring or testing for total coliform bacteria at the designated monitoring location and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. All samples that were collected during this period tested negative for total coliform and E. coli.

Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct Violation	Health Effects Language
	2026. A sample was collected in each of these months and every result was negative for total coliform and E. coli; the violation is one of monitoring location, not water quality.			
Manganese — Secondary MCL	Building X Logistics Sink 1 measured 58 ppb against the 50 ppb secondary MCL (sample collected 8/28/2025). Leaching from natural deposits.	8/28/2025 to 9/30/2025	A public notification was distributed on 9/19/2025. The arsenic treatment media at that point of use was inspected for manganese accumulation. The fixture was resampled on 9/30/2025, returning 42 ppb, below the secondary MCL.	Manganese is regulated by a secondary standard set to protect the taste, odor, and appearance of drinking water. Contaminants with secondary standards do not affect health at the secondary MCL level.

For More Information

For questions regarding this report or your drinking water, please contact:

David Galaviz, EHS Director Fire Clay Tile, 521 Quarry Road, Aromas, CA 95004

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