

2023 Water Quality Report

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board have regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants allowed in water provided by public water systems to ensure that tap water is safe to drink. 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

CMWD has sampled all required data including entry points in the distribution system for the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) contaminants in 2023. The analytical results for UCMR are stored in the National Contaminant Occurrence Database for drinking water, which can be found online at www.epa.gov/sdwa/national-contaminant-occurrence-database-ncod.

Water conservation

Carlsbad encourages residents and businesses to continue making water conservation a way of life. With water being a precious and limited resource, Carlsbad is doing our part by making water conservation and the efficient use of water a major priority. Even the simplest changes to daily routines make a difference.

Do your part by following the water conservation tips below and visit www.carlsbadca.gov/conservation for programs, incentives, water rules, and more tips and resources.

Indoor

- Take short showers or fill the bathtub halfway
- Turn water off when brushing teeth or shaving
- Wash only full loads of clothes
- Fix leaks (toilets, faucets, etc.)
- Install high-efficiency fixtures

Outdoor

- Install drip-irrigation
- Adjust sprinklers to reduce water lost from overspray onto impervious surfaces
- Water during cool parts of the day to reduce evaporation
- Install a smart irrigation controller
- Convert to a native landscape
- Repair broken sprinkler heads and/or irrigation lines (do not irrigate until repair is made)

How to contact us

This report covers testing for contaminants in 2023. For questions or concerns regarding the quality of Carlsbad's drinking water, contact CMWD at 442-438-2722 or email water@carlsbadca.gov.

CMWD Board meetings are held in conjunction with the Carlsbad City Council on an as needed basis on Tuesday evenings. Agendas may be obtained at www.carlsbadca.gov or Carlsbad City Hall, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive. Comments regarding drinking water are always welcome by the CMWD Board of Directors.

This report can be downloaded from www.carlsbadca.gov/water-quality-report.

Carlsbad Municipal Water District
5950 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92008
Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
442-339-2722 • water@carlsbadca.gov

Additional sources for water quality information:

San Diego County Water Authority
858-522-6600 • www.sdcwa.org

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
800-225-5693 • www.mwdh2o.com

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water & Environmental Management
619-525-4159 • www.waterboards.ca.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Ground Water & Drinking Water Safe Drinking Water Hotline:
800-426-4791 • www.epa.gov/watersense/state-water-facts

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Water provided by the Carlsbad Municipal Water District meets all 2023 state and federal drinking water standards. This report provides detailed water quality test results and more information about where Carlsbad's water comes from.

Where our water comes from

CMWD currently imports 83% of its drinking water. The water supply begins hundreds of miles away as snow melt or rainfall that flows into rivers. The two main water sources are the Colorado River, where the water is transported through the Colorado River Aqueduct, and Northern California, where water moves through the California Aqueduct (also known as the State Water Project).

Water from these sources is treated by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at its Lake Skinner Treatment Plant in Riverside County and by the San Diego County Water Authority. After rigorous treatment, the water travels through pipelines owned by the San Diego County Water Authority, and is then purchased and distributed by CMWD to its customers.

The Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant produces 17% of Carlsbad's water through the San Diego County Water Authority, which blends the water with the region's imported water supply and delivers it to water agencies throughout San Diego County.

What's in your water before it's treated?

Both tap and bottled drinking water comes from oceans, rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, 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, picks 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 can come from wastewater 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

- Pesticides and herbicides, that can 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.

CMWD
has met all
2023 federal and
state drinking
water standards.

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Colorado River

2023 CARLSBAD WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS

Parameter	Units	State or Federal MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDL]	State DLR	Range Average	Skinner Plant Effluent	Twin Oaks Plant	CMWD System Samples	Carlsbad Desal Plant	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Percent State Project Water	%	NA	NA	NA	Range	0 - 67	NA	NA	NA	
					Average	NA	NA	NA	NA	
PRIMARY STANDARDS--Mandatory Health-Related Standards										
CLARITY										
Combined Filter	NTU	0.1	NA	NA	Highest	0.07	0.013-0.081	NA	0.08	Soil runoff
Effluent Turbidity(a)	NTU	0.1	NA	NA	Average	NA	0.019	NA	NA	
	%	95(a)	NA	NA	% ≤ 0.1	100%	100%	NA	100.0%	
MICROBIOLOGICAL										
Total Coliform Bacteria (b)	%	5.0	MCLG=0	NA	Range	0	ND	NA	0	Naturally present in the environment
					Average	0	ND	NA	ND	
E. coli (c)	NA	TT	MCLG=0	NA	Positive sample	NA	ND	ND	ND	Human and animal fecal waste
INORGANIC CHEMICALS										
Arsenic	ppb	10	0.004	2	Range	ND	NA	NA	ND	Natural deposits erosion, glass and electronics, production wastes
					Average	ND	2.1	NA	ND	
2021 Copper Samples (e)	ppm	AL = 1.3	0.3	0.05	No->AL	NA	NA	0	ND	Internal corrosion of household pipes natural deposits erosion, next set of samples to be taken in 2024
					90%ile	NA	ND	0.14	ND	
Fluoride (d)	Control Range					0.6-0.8	0.6 - 1.2	NA	NA	
	Optimal Fluoride Level					0.7	0.7	NA	NA	
Treatment-related Fluoride	ppm	2.0	1	0.1	Range	0.6 - 0.8	0.6 - 0.63	NA	0.6 - 0.799	Erosion of natural deposits water additive that promotes strong teeth
					Average	0.7	0.6	NA	0.696	
2021 Lead Samples (e)	ppb	AL = 15	0.2	5	No->AL	0	0	0	0	House pipes internal corrosion; erosion of natural deposits, next set of samples to be taken in 2024
					90%ile	ND	ND	1.4	ND	
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.4	Range	ND	ND	NA	ND	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, septic tank and sewage; natural deposits erosion
					Average	ND	ND	NA	ND	
RADIOLOGICALS										
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	1	Range	ND - 3	NA	NA	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
					Average	2	NA	NA	ND	
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS, AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT PRECURSORS (o)										
Total Trihalomethanes (f) (TTHM)	ppb	80	NA	1.0	Range	21 - 37	18 - 116	4.5 - 36	ND	By-product of drinking water chlorination
					Highest LRAA	31	116	26	ND	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (f)	ppb	60	NA	1.0	Range	1.7 - 26	ND - 45	0 - 10	ND	By-product of drinking water chlorination
					Highest LRAA	15.0	45.0	7.0	ND	
Total Chlorine Residual	ppm	[4.0]	[4.0]	NA	Range	NA	1.6 - 3.6	0.33 - 3.50	2.93 -3.38	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
					Highest RAA	NA	3.0	2.38	3.18	
Bromate (g)	ppb	10	0.1	1.0	Range	ND - 2.6	ND - 7.4	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water ozonation
					Highest RAA	ND	ND	NA	NA	
SECONDARY STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards										
Chloride	ppm	500	NA	NA	Range	72 - 110	NA	NA	35 - 98	Runoff leaching from natural deposits seawater influence
					Sample	91	100	NA	75	
Color	Units	15	NA	NA	Range	1	ND - 5	NA	ND	Naturally-occurring organic materials
					Average	NA	1	NA	ND	
Odor Threshold	TON	3	NA	1	Range	2	ND	NA	ND	Naturally-occurring organic materials
					Average	2	ND	NA	ND	
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	NA	NA	Range	664 - 1040	NA	NA	225.5 - 506.4	Substances that form ions in water seawater influence
					Average	852	NA	NA	405.40	
Sulfate	ppm	500	NA	0.5	Range	113 - 236	122 - 210	NA	13 - 15	Runoff leaching from natural deposits Industrial wastes
					Average	174	166	NA	13.5	
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	ppm	1000	NA	NA	Range	401 - 670	NA	NA	122 - 318	Runoff leaching from natural deposits seawater influence
					Average	536	570	NA	216	
OTHER PARAMETERS										
CHEMICAL										
Alkalinity	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range	92 -125	NA	NA	46 - 87	
					Average	108	NA	NA	63	
Boron	ppb	NL=1,000	NA	100	Range	130	NA	NA	0.39 - 0.90	Runoff leaching from natural deposits, Industrial wastes
					Average	140	NA	NA	0.62	
Calcium	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range	39 - 72	NA	NA	17.48 - 55.2	
					Sample	56	61	NA	22.55	
Chlorate	ppb	NL=800	NA	20	Range	17	270 - 420	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorination Industrial processes
					Average	336	NA	NA	NA	
Chromium VI (h)	ppb	10	0.02	1	Range	ND	ND - 0.18	NA	NA	Runoff leaching from natural deposits; discharge from industrial waste factories
					Average	0.08	NA	NA	NA	
Corrosivity (i) (as Aggressiveness Index)	AI	NA	NA	NA	Range	12.5	NA	NA	10.3 - 11.2	Elemental balance in water; affected by temperature, other factors
					Average	NA	NA	NA	10.58	
Corrosivity (j) (as Saturation Index)	SI	NA	NA	NA	Range	0.62 - 0.75	NA	NA	0.04 - 0.62	Elemental balance in water affected by temperature & other factors
					Average	0.70	NA	NA	0.28	
Hardness	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range	165 - 291	NA	NA	43.7 - 79.6	
					Average	228	NA	NA	56.12	
Magnesium	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range	15 - 27	NA	NA	0.9 - 1.1	
					Sample	21	24	NA	1.1	
pH	pH	NA	NA	NA	Range	8.2 - 8.5	7.8 - 8.7	NA	8.16 - 8.87	
					Average	8.4	8.3	NA	8.50	
Potassium	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range	3.6 - 4.8	NA	NA	0 - 389	
					Average	4.2	4.8	NA	44.976	
Sodium	ppm	NA	NA	NA	Range	69 - 103	NA	NA	40.1 - 61	
					Average	86	99	NA	55.35	
TOC	ppm	TT	NA	0.30	2.3 - 3.0 2.6	2.2 - 2.7 2.5	2.0 - 2.5 2.2	NA	NA	Various natural and man-made sources
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA)	ppt	NL = 10	3	2	3.2	ND	ND	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water
					NA	NA	ND	NA	NA	
Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule										
Lithium, Total	ug/L	NA	NA	10	Range	18-43	NA	10-52.5	NA	Naturally-occurring; used in electrochemical cells, batteries, organic syntheses and pharmaceuticals
					Average	30	NA	23	NA	
Per and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) (k)	ug/L	4 ppt - 10 ppt	0.007 ppt	4 ppt - 10 ppt	Range	ND	ND	ND	ND	Industrial chemical factory discharges; runoff/leaching from landfills; used in fire-retarding foams and various industrial processes
					Average	ND	ND	ND	ND	

How to read this report

As you read the water quality tables in this report, compare the level of contaminants found in the “Skinner Plant”, “Twin Oaks Valley Plant”, and “Desal plant”and CMWD system samples columns with the standards set for them in the MCL and PHG columns. The CMWD met all drinking water standards in 2023.

The following are key terms to help you understand the standards used to measure drinking water safety.

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.

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.

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.

Abbreviations

AI	Aggressiveness Index
AL	Action Level
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CFE	Combined Filter Effluent
CFU	Colony-Forming Units
DBP	Disinfection By-Products
DLR	Detection Limits for purposes of Reporting
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MFL	Million Fibers per Liter
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
N	Nitrogen
NA	Not Applicable
ND	Not Detected
NL	Notification Level
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/L	picoCuries per Liter
PHG	Public Health Goal
ppb	parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppm	parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppq	parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter (pg/L)
ppt	parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
RAA	Running Annual Average; highest RAA is the highest of all Running Annual Averages calculated as average of all the samples collected within a 12-month period
SI	Saturation Index (Langelier)
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
TON	Threshold Odor Number
TT	Treatment Technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
µS/cm	microSiemen per centimeter; or micromho per centimeter (µmho/cm)

Required information for lead

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.

CMWD 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 at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. CMWD has complied and meets Lead and Copper standards.

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.

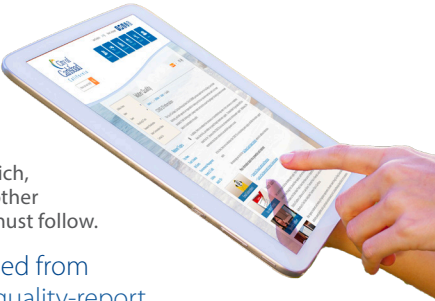
Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS) MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Treatment Technique

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

This report can be downloaded from www.carlsbadca.gov/water-quality-report.



Footnotes

- a) (Skinner) As a Primary Standard, the turbidity levels of the filtered water were < 0.3 NTU in 100% of the online measurements taken each month and did not exceed 1 NTU for more than one hour.
- b) Total coliform MCLs: No more than 5% of the monthly samples may be total coliform positive. Compliance is based on the combined distribution system sampling. In 2022, 1,560 samples were analyzed with no positive samples. The MCL was not violated.
- c) E. coli MCL: The occurrence of two consecutive total coliform-positive samples, one of which contains E. coli, constitutes an acute MCL violation. The MCL was not violated.
- d) Skinner and Twin Oaks were in compliance with all provisions of the State’s Fluoridation System Requirements.
- e) Lead and copper are regulated by Action Levels under the Lead and Copper Rule, which requires water samples to be collected at the consumers’ tap. If action levels are exceeded in more than 10% of the samples, water systems must take steps to reduce these contaminants.
- f) Twin Oaks/Skinner met all provisions of the Stage 1 Disinfectants/ Disinfection By-Products (D/DBP) Rule. Compliance was based on Locational RAA. Average and range for the treatment plant effluent were taken from daily and monthly samples for TTHM and HAA5.
- g) Twin Oaks running annual average was calculated from quarterly results of monthly and daily samples.
- h) Chromium VI reporting level is ND, which is below the state DLR of 1 ppb.
- i) AI <10.0 = Highly aggressive and very corrosive water
AI >12.0 = Non-aggressive water
AI (0.14 – 13.0) = Moderately aggressive water
- j) Positive SI index = non-corrosive; tendency to precipitate and/or deposit scale on pipes. Negative SI index = corrosive; tendency to dissolve calcium carbonate.
- k) Drinking water testing results were non-detect for all 29 PFAS compounds covered by the sampling method in the Carlsbad’s drinking water.