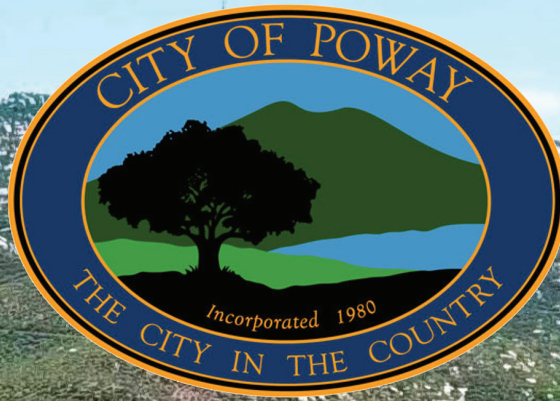




City of Poway

Water Quality Report

Reporting for Calendar Year 2025

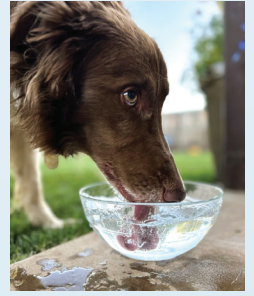


PWS ID#: CA3710015

Our Commitment

This annual water quality report explains how drinking water provided by the City of Poway meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards. We conduct over 20,000 regulatory samples and thousands of additional water quality tests annually on drinking water quality; many of the tests go beyond what is required by regulations. This report includes results of water quality tests performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. It also includes notes, background information, and definitions helpful for interpreting the data, as well as an explanation of where your water comes from. The City of Poway routinely monitors the water supplies for a range of elements that could potentially impact the quality of your water. If a potential variation is detected, our water treatment personnel take measures to restore the quality of the water. All drinking water quality in the distribution system met or exceeded required standards.

The City of Poway is committed to continuing investments for planned replacements and upgrades to our water treatment and distribution systems. With the goal of increasing the reliability of drinking water for our customers now and generations to come, the City of Poway is undertaking the largest capital improvement program (CIP) in the city's 45-year history. The CIP will include replacing the 10-million-gallon clearwell (water storage reservoir) at the water treatment plant and obtaining a new San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) treated water connection. Learn more about these projects at poway.org/water-projects.



Surface Water Sources

The City of Poway relies on two surface water sources: water that is imported from the San Diego County Water Authority and local rainfall captured by Lake Poway. The imported water composes the majority of the water needs of the community, accounting for 99.5 percent of the raw water supply. The raw water is received from the Northern California Aqueduct and Colorado River systems. These sources of water are pumped to the Lester J. Berglund Water Treatment Plant and to Lake Poway for storage.

The City of Poway completed its Watershed Sanitary Survey update in February 2025. The WSS includes an updated assessment of potential contamination source and source protection activities. The 2025 WSS can be viewed upon request from the Poway City Clerk's office 858-668-4530.

Metropolitan Water District Source Water Assessment:

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) completed its source water assessments - watershed sanitary surveys of the Colorado River in December 2020 and of the State Water Project in 2021. The Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to recreation, urban/stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting MWD at (800) 354-4420.

Why We Test So Often

Drinking water is one of the most closely monitored resources in the United States. Water systems regularly test for bacteria, disinfectants, metals, organic chemicals, radioactive substances, and many other contaminants. Some tests are performed daily, while others are conducted weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, depending on regulatory requirements and system size. Microbiological testing for bacteria, such as coliforms, ensures that disinfection is working properly. Turbidity monitoring confirms effective filtration. Chemical testing verifies that treatment processes remain optimized. All certified laboratories must meet strict quality assurance requirements to ensure accurate results. When results approach regulatory limits, corrective actions are taken immediately.

Opportunity for Public Participation:

The city welcomes and encourages your continued interest and involvement in the decision-making process. The city council meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall, located at 13325 Civic Center Drive.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.

The Treatment Process

To ensure a safe drinking water supply, the raw water undergoes a series of treatment processes including coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, taste/odor control, corrosion control, and disinfection. These treatment processes ensure that water of the highest quality is available to all our customers.



Español

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

Questions?

For additional information on the water quality testing results in this report, please call Aaron Huff, Water Treatment Plant Manager at the City of Poway Lester J. Berglund Water Treatment Plant, at (858) 668-4751.



— WATER EFFICIENCY —



82

The average number of gallons of water an American uses per day at home



9,400

The gallons of water the average family wastes each year from household leaks — equivalent to more than 300 loads of laundry.



20%

The minimum water savings achievable for your household by switching to WaterSense labeled fixtures and ENERGY STAR certified appliances



\$380

The amount the average family can save annually by retrofitting with WaterSense labeled fixtures and ENERGY STAR certified appliance



13,000

The gallons of water the average family can save per year by replacing old, inefficient toilets with WaterSense labeled models

Substances That Could Be in 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, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which 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, which 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Secondary standards relate to aesthetic qualities of water such as taste, odor, or clarity. These standards specify limits for substances that may influence consumer acceptance of the water.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) 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.

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.

Test Results

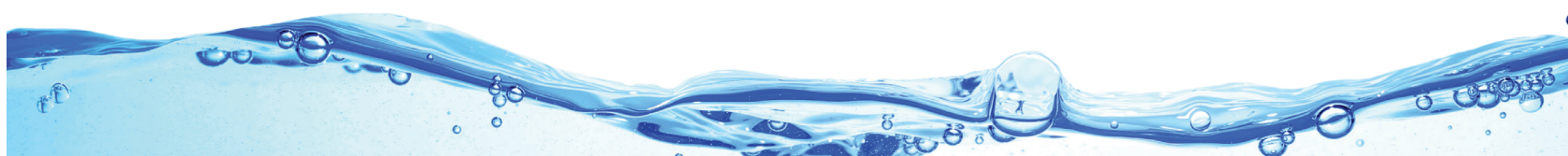
Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

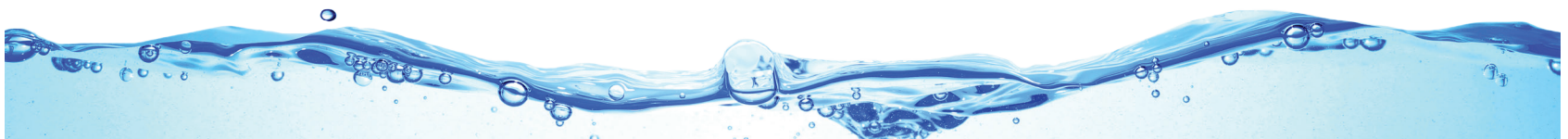
We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



REGULATED SUBSTANCES											
				Distribution System		Lake Poway Water		Imported Water			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Clarity											
Turbidity ³ (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	0.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2025	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff
Inorganic Chemicals											
Aluminum (ppm)	2025	1	0.6	0.08	ND-0.18	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ppb)	2025	10	0.004	NA	NA	2.0	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	2.0	1	NA	NA	0.3	NA	0.2	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.26	ND-0.63	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radioactivity											
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2025	15	(0)	NA	NA	6.96	NA	ND	ND-3.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2024 ⁶	50	(0)	NA	NA	5.99	NA	ND	ND-4.5	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	2024 ⁶	20	0.43	NA	NA	1.67	NA	2.4	1.5-3.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits



REGULATED SUBSTANCES CONTINUED											
				Distribution System		Lake Poway Water		Imported Water			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Microbiological											
<i>E. coli</i> (# of positive samples)	2025	TT	0	1 positive sample ¹	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Human or animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria (# of positive samples)	2025	TT	0	1 positive sample	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Human or animal fecal waste
Disinfection Byproducts and Disinfectant Residuals											
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (removal ratio)	2025	80	NA	52.0	23.0–62.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	22.0	14.0–28.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	2.72	0.08-3.92	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2025	TT ²	NA	NA	NA	2.6	1.7-3.2	3.3	3.1–3.4	No	Naturally present in the environment
Lead and Copper											
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community											
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.3	0.3	0.16	ND–0.26	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives			
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0.2	ND	ND–ND	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits			
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES ⁵											
				Distribution System		Lake Poway Water		Imported Water			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	2025	0.2	0.6	0.08	ND–0.18	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residue from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2025	500	NS	NA	NA	110	NA	82	79–85	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Seawater influence
Color (units)	2025	15	NS	0.1	ND-2	5	NA	4	3–5	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Odor, Threshold (TON)	2025	3	NS	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
pH (units)	2025	6.5–8.5	NA	7.9	7.0-8.4	8.12	7.00-8.48	8.1	8.0–8.2	No	Naturally occurring
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2025	1,600	NS	NA	NA	940	NA	786	763–810	No	Substances that form ions when in water; Seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	500	NS	NA	NA	170	NA	152	147–156	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2025	1,000	NS	NA	NA	560	NA	485	470–500	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	5	NS	0.1	ND–0.8	NA	NA	0.6	NA	No	Soil runoff



UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES⁴

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	Distribution System		Lake Poway Water		Imported Water		TYPICAL SOURCE
		AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	
Alkalinity (ppm)	2025	NA	NA	120	NA	111	109–113	NA
Boron (ppb)	2025	NA	NA	NA	NA	140	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Calcium (ppm)	2025	NA	NA	53	NA	53	51–55	NA
Hardness, Total [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2025	NA	NA	237	NA	218	214–223	NA
Lithium (ppb)	2025	NA	NA	NA	NA	30	NA	Naturally occurring; Used in electrochemical cells, batteries, and organic syntheses and pharmaceuticals
Magnesium (ppm)	2025	NA	NA	26	NA	20	20–21	NA
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppt)	2025	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.4	NA	NA
Potassium (ppm)	2025	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.2	4.0–4.4	Salt present in the water; Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	2025	NA	NA	98	NA	75	72–78	NA

¹ Following the detection of *E. coli* in a routine sample, repeat samples were collected and analyzed in accordance with regulatory requirements. The results did not trigger an *E. coli* MCL violation.

² The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio of percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

³ Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

⁴ Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

⁵ Secondary standards relate to aesthetic qualities of water such as taste, odor, or clarity. These standards specify limits for substances that may influence consumer acceptance of the water.

⁶ Testing is only required triennially.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

CFU/mL: Colony-forming units per milliliter.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

MCLG (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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NS: No standard.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

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

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

PHG (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 California EPA.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

Removal ratio: A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

TON (Threshold Odor Number): A measure of odor in water

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

µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.



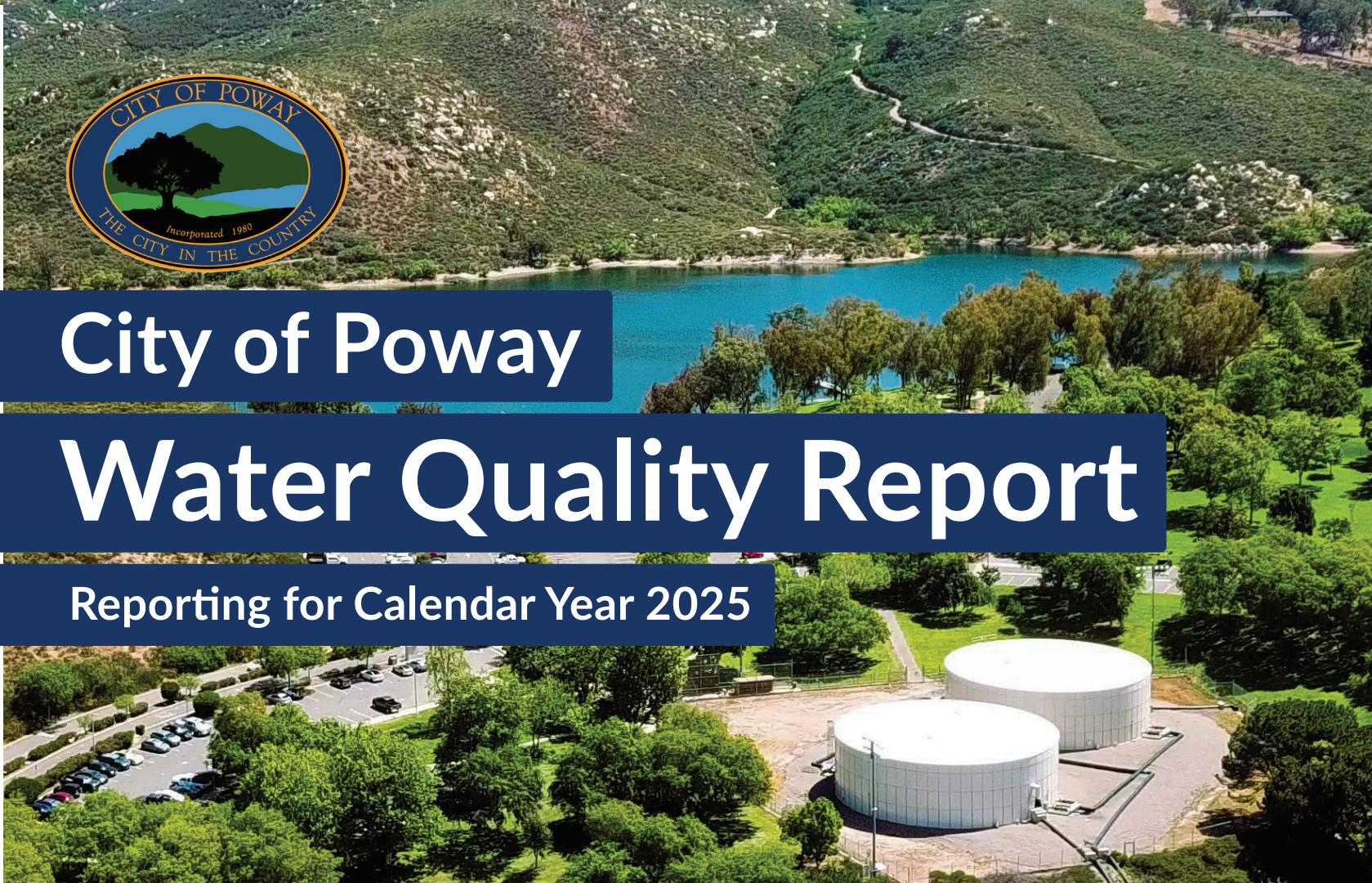
Lead in Home Plumbing

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 Poway 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, or 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 it tested, contact the City of Poway at (858) 668-4751. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Mandated by the U.S. EPA effective 2021, the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions monitor for lead and copper contamination after the water has left the distribution system. Water is collected from selected representative household faucets every three years. The most recent sampling was in 2025, and the next sampling is due in 2028. Poway has completed a lead service line inventory. For a copy of the information, please contact Public Works Utilities at (858) 668-4700.



City of Poway
P.O. Box 789
Poway, CA 92074



City of Poway

Water Quality Report

Reporting for Calendar Year 2025