Water Quality Report

REPORTING YEAR 2023

ANNUAL

DRAFT

Presented By

ATASCADERO MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

SERVING THE COLONY SINCE 1913

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Por favor traduzcala o hable con alguien que la entienda.

PWS ID#: CA 4010002

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

We are pleased to present our annual water quality report covering January 1 through December 31, 2023. Atascadero Mutual Water Company's (AMWC) highly competent staff constantly seeks the best approaches to delivering the highest quality water possible to you and is dedicated to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We are committed to meeting the state's water source protection, water conservation, and community education goals and serving the needs of all our water users.

WHAT'S THE SOURCE OF MY WATER?

AMWC's water sources are groundwater from the Atascadero Basin, the underflow of the Salinas River, and Lake Nacimiento (via the Nacimiento Water Project (NWP) pipeline). AMWC pumps the groundwater from its 15 wells into its distribution system. If needed, water from the NWP can be discharged into AMWC's recharge basin to replenish the groundwater.

The watershed that replenishes the Atascadero Basin encompasses a 247-square-mile area along the Salinas River, extending to its headwaters. Of that area, only a small percentage (about 550 acres) is owned by AMWC. The majority of the watershed is composed of open space and residential or commercial development.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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 http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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. 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.

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;

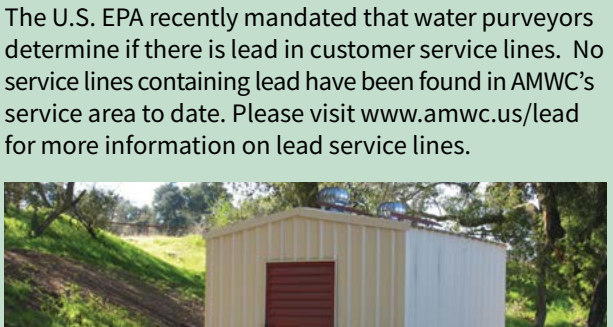
Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or can result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

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

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.



LEAD IN HOME PLUMBING

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

The U.S. EPA recently mandated that water purveyors determine if there is lead in customer service lines. No service lines containing lead have been found in AMWC's service area to date. Please visit www.amwc.us/lead for more information on lead service lines.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAM

Drinking Water Source Assessment Plans (DWSAPs) assess the area around a drinking water source through which contaminants might move and reach that drinking water supply. They include an inventory of possible contaminating activities (PCAs) that might lead to the release of microbiological or chemical contaminants within the delineated area and a determination of the PCAs to which the drinking water source is most vulnerable.

According to the DWSAPs, our water system has a physical barrier effectiveness rating of low to moderate. It is important to understand that this susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality, only the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area. If you would like to review the DWSAPs, please feel free to contact our office during regular business hours.

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES

PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals. Three of these chemicals have been detected in some of AMWC's water supply wells; perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS). Some wells have levels of these chemicals below the response level[1] but above notification level[2] established by the SWRCB. Four wells were found to have PFOA levels above the response level.

The SWRCB approved blending water from these four wells with water from other wells with very low or no PFAS detections to reduce PFAS levels. Recent sampling shows that the blended water consistently has levels of PFOA, PFOS, and PFHxS below the response level of 10, 40, and 20 parts per trillion (ppt), respectively. Notification levels for these three chemicals is 5.1, 6.5, and 3.0 ppt, respectively. AMWC is currently designing and seeking funds to construct a water treatment facility using granulated activated carbon to remove PFAS from the drinking water.

[1] Response Level – Water source must be taken out of service.
[2] Notification Level – SWRCB recommends that water utility notify customers.

DO YOU NEED A GUEST SPEAKER?

AMWC offers a variety of presentations to adult and youth clubs, organizations, and troops. Topics include:

- **AMWC:** 100+ Years of Service to the Colony
- **Water 101:** Water production, treatment, Nacimiento Recharge
- **Water Conservation + Education:** water conservation, water cycle, and activities (ages 4-18)
- **Water Wise Landscaping for Atascadero**
- **Well Field Tours** (in-person, approx. 2 hours)

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AND REBATES

Each year, over 50% of the water produced by AMWC is directly applied to lawns and other landscaping, primarily during the months of May through August. To help offset the significant stress placed on our limited water resources by landscape irrigation, AMWC offers a range of water conservation resources and programs aimed at decreasing high summer water usage, including:

- Home water surveys
  - › This program is free and is designed to help manage your landscape irrigation more efficiently.
- Landscape rebates
  - › Lawn to Garden rebate
  - › Smart Irrigation rebates
- Indoor rebates
  - › High-efficiency toilets
  - › High-efficiency washers

For more information, visit www.amwc.us or call (805) 464-5347

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. Unless otherwise noted, the table represents only those substances that were detected between January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. 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 are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2023	10	0.004	0.73	ND–2.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2023	1	2	ND	ND–0.11	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	0.88	0.83-0.93	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	2.0	1	0.14	ND-0.16	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2022	15	-0	0.46	0.42–0.57	No	Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	17.2	6.2-20.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppb)	2023	100	12	ND	ND–0.015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	2023	10	10	2.11	0.48-4.4	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite (ppm)	2023	10	10	1.63	0.48-3	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppm)	2023	50	30	0.0063	ND–0.0075	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	80	NA	63.7	34.7-81.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Uranium (pCi/L)	2022	20	0.43	1.68	ND–2.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH PERCENTILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.99	2/61	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0.2	ND	0/61	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2023	500	NS	80	21-170	NO	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (CU)	2023	15	NS	2.11	ND < 3	NO	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Manganese (ppm)	2023	0.05	NS	0.007	ND-0.021	NO	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (TON)	2023	3	NS	1.81	1-4	NO	Naturally-occuring organic materials
Sulfate (ppm)	2023	500	NS	123	90-160	NO	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2023	1600	NS	752	540-1,100	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2023	1000	NS	550	290-850	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2023	5	NS	0.32	<0.10-0.95	No	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2023	222	170-320	Naturally occurring
Bicarbonate [HCO3] (ppm)	2023	337	290-390	Naturally occurring
Boron (ppb)	2023	0.37	ND–110	Erosion of natural deposits
Calcium (ppm)	2023	73	50–120	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride (ppm)	2023	80	21-170	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (grains/gal)	2023	18	12-29	Sum of polyvalent cations in water, generally naturally occurring magnesium and calcium
Magnesium (ppm)	2023	41	34-52	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese (ppm)	2023	0.007	ND-0.021	Erosion of natural deposits
o-Phosphate [as PO4] (ppm)	2023	2.2	1.8-2.4	Added as a corrosion inhibitor
Potassium (ppm)	2023	1.6	1.3-1.9	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2023	40	31-48	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2023	123	90-160	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppb)	2023	ND	ND-1.5	Natural and human-made sources
Vanadium (ppb)	2023	1.5	ND–4.5	Naturally occurring

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

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	NOTIFICATION LEVEL	RESPONSE LEVEL	TYPICAL SOURCE
Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid [PFBS]2 (ppt)	2023	4.3	ND–13	500	5,000	Industrial manufacturing. Persistent in environment.
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid [PFHxS]3 (ppt)	2023	6.6	ND–26	3	20	Industrial manufacturing. Persistent in environment.
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA]4 (ppt)	2023	1.3	ND–8.3	NA	NA	Industrial manufacturing. Persistent in environment.
Perfluorononanoic Acid [PFNA]4 (ppt)	2023	1.1	ND–5.9	NA	NA	Industrial manufacturing. Persistent in environment.
Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid [PFOS]5 (ppt)	2023	10.1	ND–31	6.5	40	Industrial manufacturing. Consumer products. Persistent in environment.
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA]6 (ppt)	2023	5	ND–17	5.1	10	Industrial manufacturing. Consumer products. Persistent in environment.

DEFINITIONS

90th percentile: 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.

grains/gal (grains per gallon): Grains of compound per gallon of water.

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.

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.

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).

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

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

AMWC holds monthly board meetings, typically on the second Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. The meetings are held at the AMWC business office at 5005 El Camino Real, Atascadero. Please call (805) 466-2428 or check our website to confirm the date. Agendas are available at the meetings and on our website. Public comment is welcome.

QUESTIONS?

Should you ever have questions regarding this report or the quality of your drinking water, please call Mike Stephens, Chief Operator, at (805) 464-5361, or email mstephens@amwc.us.