ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024

Presented By

City of Paso Robles

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

PWS ID#: 4010007

Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information, because informed customers are our best allies.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Paso Robles produces groundwater from 19 wells and surface water from Lake Nacimiento. Surface water is treated at our water treatment plant. Water that is not immediately used in the system fills storage tanks with approximately 12 million gallons of capacity. These tanks maintain system pressure while providing storage for emergencies and firefighting.

Cross-Connections and Backflow

A cross-connection is a physical link between a potable and a nonpotable water supply. Cross-connections can create a public health hazard in the event of a backflow. Backflow is the undesirable reversal of fluids, chemicals, or any other foreign material into the public drinking water supply. Potential contamination hazards can include but are not limited to chemical plants, medical offices, veterinary clinics, laboratories, irrigation, and lawn sprinklers. Backflow can be prevented through simple plumbing changes, and when that's not possible, backflow prevention assemblies are installed. You can help prevent backflow by determining if you have any potential cross-connections in your home. Make sure faucets have an adequate gap between the faucet opening and the sink or tub. Make sure garden hoses are not left in pools or ponds, and install vacuum breakers on the hose bibs. If you have any questions or concerns regarding backflow, contact Chris Stanley at (805) 237-3866 or email cstanley@prcity.com.

Additional Monitoring

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of human-made chemicals that come from many sources, including industrial sites, landfills, fire training sites, and wastewater treatment plants. Seven of these chemicals have been detected in some of the City of Paso Robles water supply wells: perfluorobutanesulfonic (PFBS), perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA), perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA). Three wells had levels below the response level but above the notification level established by the SWRCB. One well had PFOA at levels above the response level and several other analytes above the notification level but below response levels. This well was only run for sampling purposes in 2024 and only contributed 0.000144 percent to the city's annual water supply.

Source Water Assessment

The City of Paso Robles has completed an assessment of our drinking water sources. The assessment found our sources potentially vulnerable to agricultural drainage, auto repair shops, gas stations, home manufacturing, low-density septic systems, sewer collection systems, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, animal operations, agriculture and irrigation wells, and plastic and synthetics producers. This simply means that these activities take place in the general vicinity of some wells. It does not mean there are any problems resulting from these activities, only that a potential vulnerability exists. If you would like to view the completed assessments or have questions regarding them, please contact Chris Stanley at the Paso Robles Water Division at (805) 237-3866.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Chris Stanley at (805) 237-3866 or email cstanley@prcity.com.

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, 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 by-products 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order 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.

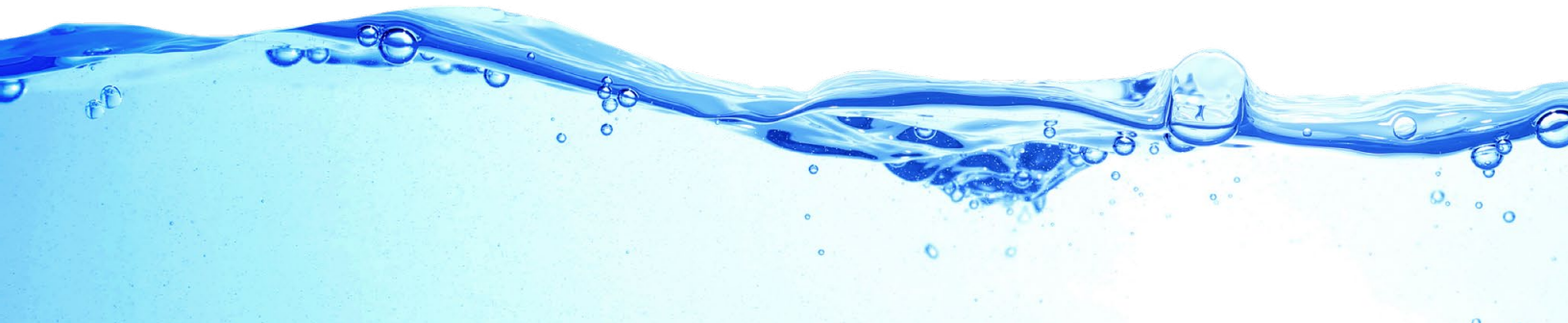
Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Paso Robles Water Division is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Chris Stanley at the Paso Robles Water Division at (805) 237-3866. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

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.



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 U.S. EPA 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

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	2024	6	10	0.03	ND–0.72	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Arsenic (ppb)	2024	10	0.004	1.44	ND–6.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2024	1	2	0.02661	ND–0.330	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	1.3	0.3–2.2	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	2.0	1	0.15	ND–0.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2024	15	(0)	0.98	ND–7.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2024	60	NA	10.49	2.1–35.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2024	10	10	1.05	ND–7	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite [as N] (ppm)	2024	10	10	0.27	ND–4.2	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2024	50	30	4.74	ND–20	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
Tetrachloroethylene [PCE] (ppb)	2024	5	0.06	0.0026	ND–0.17	No	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
Thallium (ppb)	2024	2	0.1	0.0341	ND–1.8	No	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2024	80	NA	30.85	9.3–72.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2024	TT	NA	0.092	0.017–0.092	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity [lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit]	2024	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

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)	2022	1.3	0.3	0.420	NA	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2024	500	NS	33.82	4.9–230	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	2024	15	NS	3.0	ND–3	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2024	300	NS	9.22	ND–230	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2024	50	NS	1.18	ND–4.7	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor, Threshold (TON)	2024	3	NS	1	1–3	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2024	1,600	NS	609.13	320–1,200	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2024	500	NS	77.71	19–140	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2024	1,000	NS	377.9	180–760	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2024	5	NS	0.23	0.1–0.6	No	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	2024	5.0	NS	0.00075	ND–0.11	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [1]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Boron (ppb)	2024	73.78	ND–790	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (grains/gal)	2024	14.48	8.2–28.7	Sum of polyvalent cations in water, generally naturally occurring magnesium and calcium
Sodium (ppm)	2024	31.53	12–140	Naturally occurring
Vanadium (ppb)	2024	7.37	ND–48	Naturally occurring
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2024	226.08	140–396.7	Naturally occurring
Calcium (ppm)	2024	63.11	26–110	Erosion of natural deposits
Lithium (ppb)	2024	7.50	ND–46.2	Erosion of natural deposits
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppb)	2024	0.000001	ND–0.006100	Industrial manufacturing; persistent in environment
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppb)	2024	0.000536	ND–0.0081	Industrial manufacturing; persistent in environment
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid [PFHpA] (ppb)	2024	0.000001	ND–0.0063	Industrial manufacturing; persistent in environment
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppb)	2024	0.000003	ND–0.02	Industrial manufacturing; persistent in environment
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] (ppb)	2024	0.000054	ND–0.0052	Industrial manufacturing; persistent in environment
Perfluoropentanoic Acid [PFPeA] (ppb)	2024	0.000003	ND–0.022000	Industrial manufacturing; persistent in environment
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppb)	2024	0.000001	ND–0.006300	Industrial manufacturing; persistent in environment
pH (units)	2024	7.7	7.2–8.0	Hydrogen ion activity
Potassium (ppm)	2024	1.45	1.1–2.8	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2024	186.65	120–323	Naturally occurring

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

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.

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.

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.

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 (µg/L) (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

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

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.