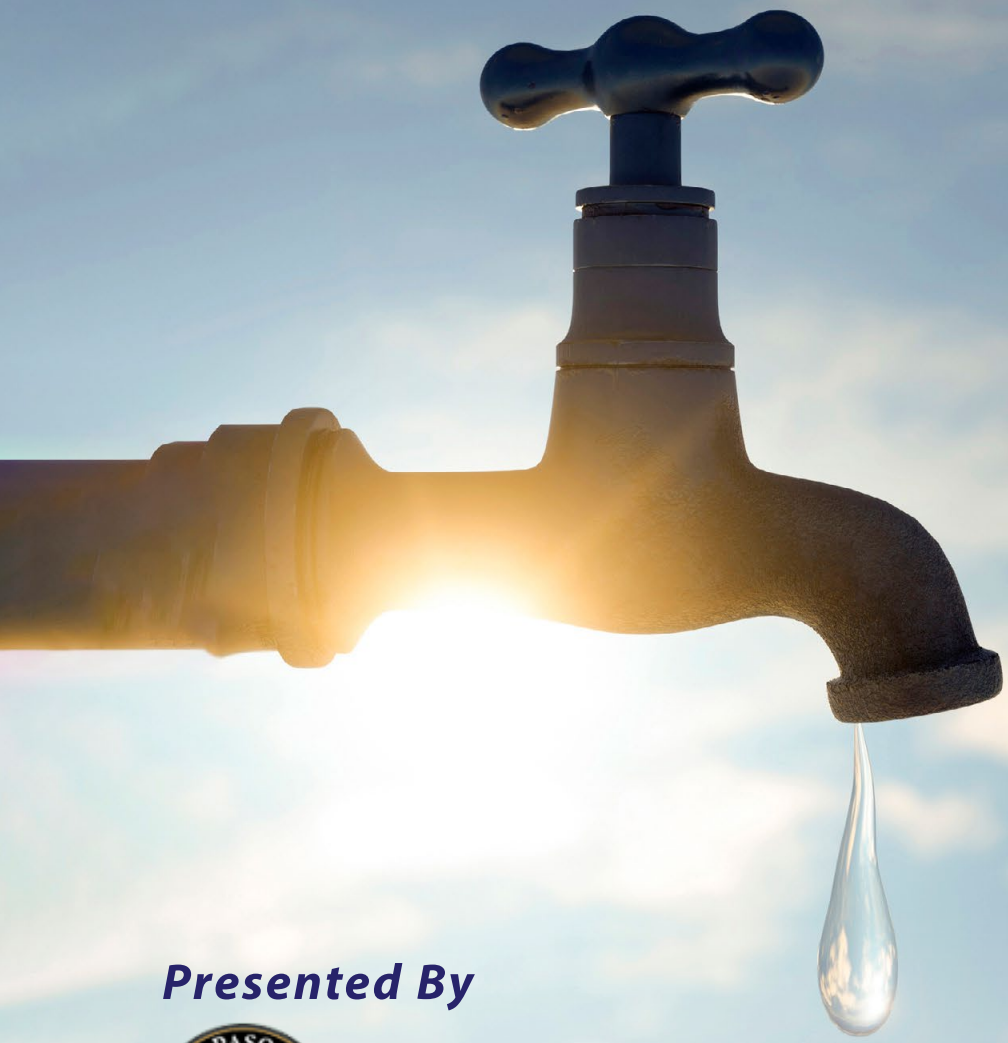
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By

PASO ROBLES
CALIFORNIA

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, 2025. 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.

Source Water Assessment

The City of Paso Robles has completed an assessment of our drinking water sources. The assessment found our sources are 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, Paso Robles Water Division, at (805) 237-3866.

Additional Monitoring

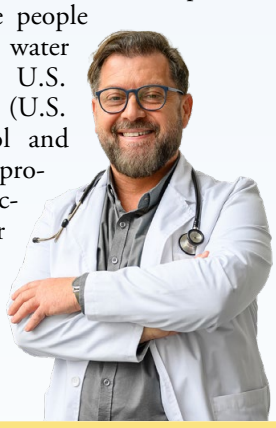
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of human-made chemicals that come from many sources, including industrial sites, landfills, fire training sites, and wastewater treatment plants. Seven of these chemicals have been detected in some of the City of Paso Robles water supply wells: perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA), perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS), perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluoropolyethers (PFPeS), and perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA). Eight wells had levels below the response level but above the notification level established by the SWRCB. Two of these wells had detections in one of the four quarterly sampling events.

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.

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 at epa.gov/safewater.



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, 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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).

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

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.

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

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	2025	6	10	0.02	ND–0.275	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Aluminum (ppm)	2025	1	0.6	0.01572	ND–0.093	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ppb)	2025	10	0.004	1.95	ND–4.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2025	1	2	0.065	ND–0.330	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	1.2	0.2–2.2	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	2.0	1	0.19	ND–0.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2025	15	(0)	1.61	ND–7.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5s] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	7.08	2.1–18.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2025	10	10	1.35	ND–3.4	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks and sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.73	ND–4.2	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2025	50	30	6.26	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)	2025	5	0.06	0.07	ND–1.1	No	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
Thallium (ppb)	2025	2	0.1	0.1312	ND–1.8	No	Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	18.71	5.7–57.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	0.085	0.013–0.085	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity [lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit]	2025	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)	2025	1.3	0.3	0.410	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)	2025	500	NS	48.16	7.1–230	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Seawater influence
Color (units)	2025	15	NS	3.0	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2025	300	NS	30.41	ND–230	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2025	50	NS	0.79	ND–4.7	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor, Threshold (TON)	2025	3	NS	1.14	1–3	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2025	1,600	NS	685.06	320–1,200	No	Substances that form ions when in water; Seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	500	NS	72.28	19–140	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2025	1,000	NS	423.7	180–760	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	5	NS	0.31	0.1–1.2	No	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	2025	5.0	NS	0.00082	ND–0.055	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [1]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2025	251.01	140–396.7	Naturally occurring
Boron (ppb)	2025	107.64	ND–790	Erosion of natural deposits
Calcium (ppm)	2025	63.93	26–110	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium-6 (ppb)	2025	0.49	ND–2	NA
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (grains/gal)	2025	15.63	8.2–28.7	Sum of polyvalent cations in water, generally naturally occurring magnesium and calcium
Lithium (ppb)	2025	14.25	ND–46.2	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	2025	25.74	11–53	NA
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppt)	2025	0.388533	ND–4.325	Industrial manufacturing; Persistent in environment
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppt)	2025	0.129916	ND–1.2	Industrial manufacturing; Persistent in environment
Perfluoroheptanesulfonic Acid [PFHpS] (ppt)	2025	0.035259	ND–0.575	Industrial manufacturing; Persistent in environment
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	2025	0.244147	ND–4.025	Industrial manufacturing; Persistent in environment
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	2025	0.100891	ND–1.55	Industrial manufacturing; Persistent in environment
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) (ppt)	2025	0.164215	ND–1.4	Industrial manufacturing; Persistent in environment
Perfluoropentanoic Acid [PFPeA] (ppt)	2025	0.095290	ND–1.6	Industrial manufacturing; Persistent in environment
pH (units)	2025	7.58	7.2–7.9	Hydrogen ion activity
Potassium (ppm)	2025	1.60	1.2–2.7	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2025	42.39	12–140	Naturally occurring
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2025	207.39	120–323	Naturally occurring
Vanadium (ppb)	2025	8.59	ND–22	Naturally occurring

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

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. City of Paso Robles 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 City of Paso Robles at (805) 237-3866. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at 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.