



2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Estero Municipal Improvement District
100 Lincoln Centre
Foster City, California

Dear EMID Customer,

The City of Foster City/Estero Municipal Improvement District (EMID) is satisfied to provide you with the Annual Water Quality Report for 2024. On the following pages, you will find important information about the source of your water, the quality of your water, and the steps taken to protect the water supply.

EMID purchases all of its water from the San Francisco Regional Water System (SFRWS). The following pages include details on the origin of the water, treatment processes, and any water quality testing results or concerns related to that water source prepared by the SFRWS Water Quality Bureau. In addition to the monitoring and testing performed by SFRWS, EMID does its own monitoring and testing to ensure that the water quality in the distribution system meets or exceeds all drinking water standards.

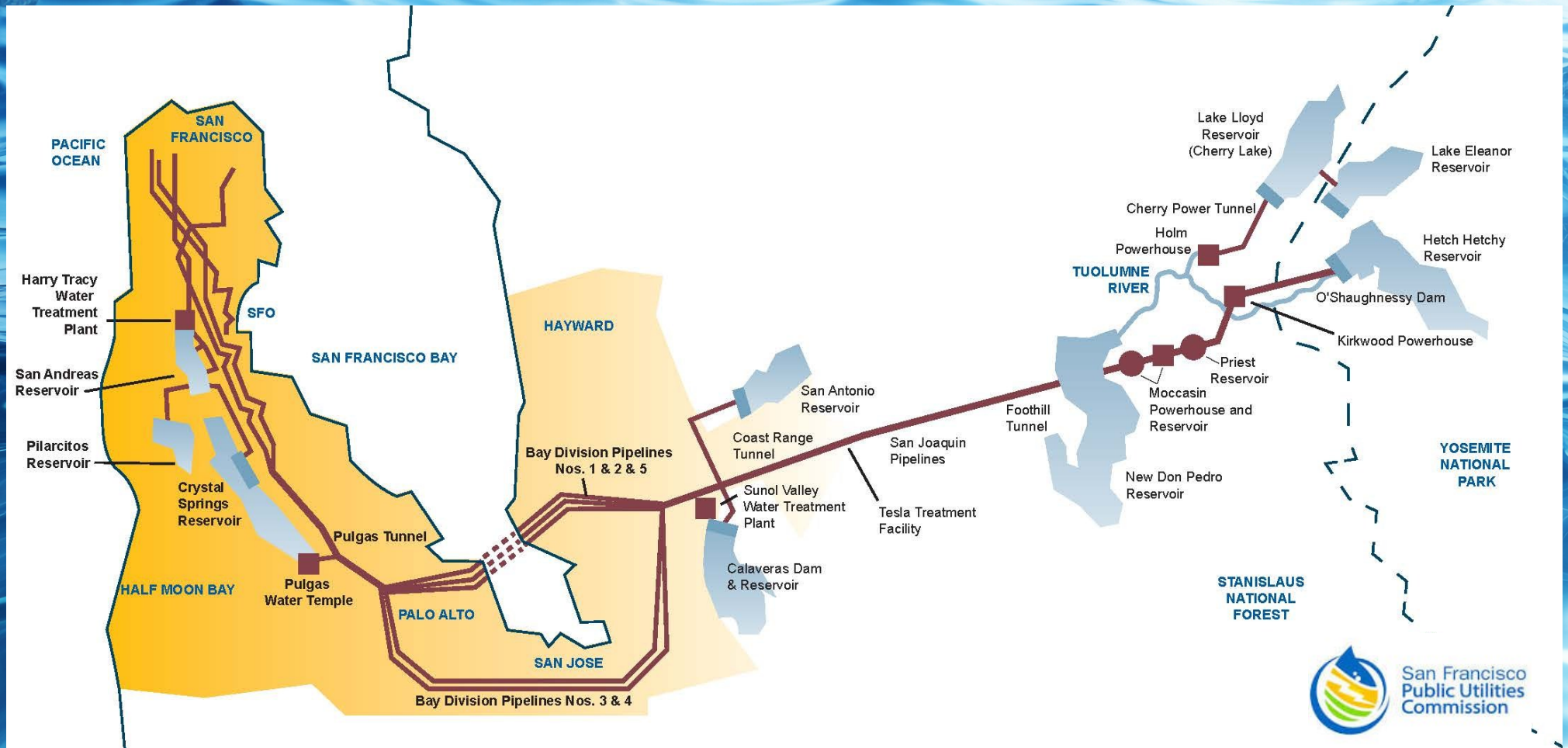
As the purveyor of your drinking water, we are proud to be able to state that the water we provide is of the highest quality, meeting or exceeding all primary drinking water standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW).

If there are any questions about the water, please call the SFRWS Water Quality Bureau at 1-877-737-8297 or visit the website at www.sfwater.org. Any other questions about the water system should be directed to EMID/City of Foster City Public Works Maintenance Manager, Zaheed Danish, at 650-286-3544.

WATER QUALITY REPORT



SFPUC WATER SYSTEM



CONSERVATION REMINDER:

EMID continues to encourage customers to conserve our valuable resource. EMID supports the message that urges: *"Make water conservation a California way of life."*



SFRWS DRINKING WATER SOURCES AND TREATMENT

Our drinking water comes from a mix of surface water and groundwater, both of which are well-protected and carefully managed. Surface water is stored in reservoirs in the **Sierra Nevada, Alameda County, and San Mateo County**, while groundwater comes from a deep aquifer in northern San Mateo County. This diverse mix of water sources helps ensure a reliable and resilient water supply, especially during droughts, emergencies, and population growth.

Treatment Process

Hetch Hetchy Water: This high-quality water is exempt from filtration requirements and is treated with **ultraviolet (UV) light, chlorine, fluoride, pH adjustment** for corrosion control, and **chloramination** to maintain disinfectant levels

Local Bay Area Water: Water from **Alameda County** and **San Mateo County** reservoirs is treated at the **Sunol Valley** or **Harry Tracy** water treatment plants, where it undergoes **filtration, disinfection, fluoridation, and taste/odor removal**

In 2024, no groundwater or non-Hetch Hetchy surface water was used.

Resilient Supply Strategy

The **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)** manages a diverse water supply to ensure long-term sustainability and protect against challenges like climate change, regulatory shifts, and natural disasters.



WATER QUALITY

We routinely test water from reservoirs and key locations to ensure it meets all federal and state drinking water standards. In 2024, the San Francisco Regional Water System (SFRWS) conducted over 45,650 tests, in addition to continuous monitoring by certified operators and automated systems.

As water travels through the environment, it can pick up naturally occurring minerals and other substances. These are known as contaminants. While all drinking water, including bottled water, may contain small amounts of some contaminants, this does not necessarily pose a health risk.

CONTAMINANTS AND REGULATIONS

Drinking water sources—including rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and wells—can contain a variety of contaminants. These may include:

Microbial contaminants (e.g., viruses and bacteria) from sewage, septic systems, farms, and wildlife

Inorganic contaminants (e.g., salts and metals) from natural sources or runoff from cities, industry, or agriculture

Pesticides and herbicides from farms, urban runoff, and household use

Organic chemical contaminants from industrial processes, gas stations, agriculture, and septic systems

Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring or result from energy and mining operations

To learn more about contaminants and their potential health effects, contact:

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791
or
www.epa.gov/safewater

BORON DETECTION

In 2024, boron was detected at 2.3 ppm in raw water from Pond F3 East, an approved source in the Alameda Watershed. Similar levels were found in past years. While this exceeds California's Notification Level of 1 ppm, the water was typically diluted in San Antonio Reservoir to below that level before treatment at the Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant.

Boron is a naturally occurring element released into water through the natural weathering of soil and rock.

PROTECTION OF WATERSHEDS

The SFRWS conducts annual watershed sanitary surveys for the Hetch Hetchy source and every five years for other surface water sources. The most recent non-Hetch Hetchy survey, covering 2016–2020, was completed in 2021.

These surveys, carried out in partnership with agencies like the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service, assess watershed conditions and document water quality protection efforts. Potential contamination sources include wildfire, wildlife, livestock, and human activities.



FLUORIDATION AND DENTAL FLUOROSIS

State law requires water fluoridation, a safe and effective way to prevent tooth decay. Since 2015, the SFPUC has maintained an optimal fluoride level of 0.7 mg/L, based on CDC and SWRCB guidance. This level helps protect teeth while minimizing the risk of dental fluorosis in children.

Infants fed formula mixed with fluoridated water may still develop mild fluorosis—tiny white marks on teeth that are usually only visible under a microscope and pose no health risk. To reduce this chance, you may choose low-fluoride bottled water for formula preparation. Fluoride from other sources (like toothpaste or food) can also contribute.

If you have concerns, talk to your healthcare provider or contact the SWRCB. For more information, visit:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html
www.cdc.gov/fluoridation
www.sfpuc.gov/TapWater

SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS

Some people may be more sensitive to contaminants in drinking water, including those with weakened immune systems—such as cancer patients, organ transplant recipients, people with HIV/AIDS, some elderly individuals, and infants. These individuals should consult their healthcare providers for guidance on drinking water safety.

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic parasite sometimes found in surface water. In 2024, we detected it at very low levels in both source and treated water. While it can cause illness (cryptosporidiosis), including nausea, cramps, and diarrhea, not all detected organisms are capable of causing disease. It is spread through ingestion and can also be transmitted in ways other than drinking water.

For more information on reducing the risk of infection, contact:

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791
or
www.epa.gov/safewater



LEAD AND YOUR DRINKING WATER

Lead exposure can pose serious health risks—especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. In children, it may affect brain development and behavior. Adults exposed to lead may face higher risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney issues, or nervous system problems.

Lead in drinking water typically comes from plumbing materials, not from the water supply itself. While we work to provide high-quality water and remove lead service lines, homeowners also play a key role in reducing exposure.

To help protect your household:

- Identify and remove lead plumbing materials if possible
- Use a certified water filter for lead and maintain it properly
- Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula
- Flush pipes by running water for a few minutes before use
- Flush longer if you have older plumbing made of lead or galvanized steel

For tips on checking your home plumbing, visit www.sfpuc.gov/lead

To learn more about lead in drinking water or testing options, visit www.epa.gov/water/lead

WATER QUALITY AND TREATMENT SPOTLIGHTS

Making Upgrades: Ozonation at Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant

Warmer temperatures and climate-driven changes have led to more frequent algal blooms in local reservoirs, sometimes causing an “earthy” taste or odor in drinking water. To address this, the SFPUC is installing ozone treatment at the Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant. Once completed in 2028, the new system will treat water from San Antonio, Calaveras, and, if needed, Hetch Hetchy Reservoirs. Ozone effectively removes taste- and odor-causing compounds and has been used at the Harry Tracy Plant since the 1990s.

SFPUC Treatment Plants Earn National Recognition

In 2024, the American Water Works Association honored both the Sunol Valley and Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plants for outstanding water quality, recognizing 25 and 20 years of performance beyond regulatory standards, respectively.

Water Quality Strategic Plan Update

The SFPUC’s Water Quality Division continues to proactively plan for future challenges. In 2024, the division updated its Water Quality Strategic Plan, first adopted in 2008, to guide future investments and actions that protect water quality. The updated plan outlines current efforts and new recommendations, and is available at www.sfpuc.org under Water Quality Planning.



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 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 USEPA.

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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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.

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.

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

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

Secondary Drinking Water Standard (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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

Turbidity: A water clarity indicator that measures cloudiness of the water and is also used to indicate the effectiveness of the filtration system. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

KEY WATER QUALITY TERMS



CITY OF FOSTER CITY - Water Quality Data for Year 2024 ⁽¹⁾

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS	Unit	MCL/TT	PHG or (MCLG)	Range or Level Found	Average or [Max]	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
TURBIDITY						
Unfiltered Hetch Hetchy Water	NTU	5	N/A	0.3 - 0.5 ⁽²⁾	[2.1]	Soil runoff
Filtered Water from Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP)	NTU	TT = Max 1 TT = Min 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	N/A	-	[0.4]	Soil runoff
Filtered Water from Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant (HTWTP)	NTU	TT = Max 1 TT = Min 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	N/A	-	[0.1]	Soil runoff
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRECURSOR						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	23.0 - 62.3	[42.5] ⁽³⁾	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Five Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	24.0 - 34.1	[28.3] ⁽³⁾	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Bromate	ppb	10	0.1	ND - 5.9	[3] ⁽⁴⁾	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection using ozone
MICROBIOLOGICAL						
<i>E. coli</i>	-	0 PS	(0)	-	0	Human or animal fecal waste
INORGANICS						
Chromium (VI)	ppb	10	0.02	ND - 0.2	0.1	Leaching from natural deposits
Fluoride ⁽⁵⁾ (raw water)	ppm	2.0	1	ND - 0.8	0.3	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth
Nitrate (as N)	ppm	10	10	ND - 0.4	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (including free chlorine and chloramine)	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4	.82 - 3.82	[2.65] ⁽⁴⁾	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
CONSTITUENTS WITH SECONDARY STANDARDS						
Aluminum	ppb	200 (MCL=1000)	600	ND - 59	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; some surface water treatment residue
Chloride	ppm	500	N/A	<3 - 18	9.3	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Iron	ppb	300	N/A	<6 - 41	14	Leaching from natural deposits
Manganese	ppb	50	N/A	<2 - 2.7	<2	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	N/A	31 - 317	193	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate	ppm	500	N/A	1 - 41	18	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	N/A	24 - 169	102	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	NTU	5	N/A	0.1 - 0.4	0.2	Soil runoff
LEAD AND COPPER						
	Unit	AL	PHG	Range	90th Percentile	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Copper	ppb	1300	300	3.9 - 200 ⁽⁶⁾	61	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems
Lead	ppb	15	0.2	<1 - 8.4 ⁽⁷⁾	5.4	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems

Footnotes:

(1) All results met State and Federal drinking water health standards.

(2) These are monthly average turbidity values measured every 4 hours daily at Tesla Treatment Facilities.

(3) This is the highest locational running annual average value.

(4) This is the highest running annual average value.

(5) Natural fluoride in the Hetch Hetchy source was ND. Elevated fluoride levels in raw water at both SVWTP and HTWTP were attributed to transfers of fluoridated Hetch Hetchy water into the local reservoirs. The fluoride level in our treated water ranged from 0.5 ppm to 0.8 ppm with an average of 0.7 ppm.

(6) The most recent Lead and Copper Rule monitoring was 2023. 0 of 40 site samples collected at consumer taps had copper concentrations above the regulatory Action Level.

(7) The most recent Lead and Copper Rule monitoring was in 2023. 0 of 40 site samples collected at consumer taps had lead concentrations above the regulatory Action Level.

(8) The detected chlorate in the treated water is a degradation product of sodium hypochlorite used by the SFRWS for water disinfection.

(9) The range and average values of the total organic carbon were from operational monitoring results at Tesla Treatment Facilities.

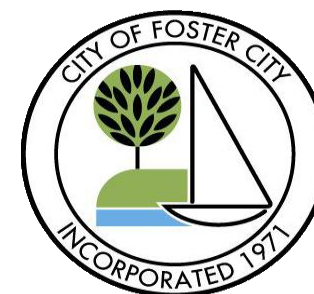
CITY OF FOSTER CITY - Water Quality Data for Year 2024 ⁽¹⁾

KEY	
< / ≤	less than / less than or equal to
AL	Action Level
Max	Maximum
Min	Minimum
N/A	Not Available
ND	Non-detect
NL	Notification Level
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
ORL	Other Regulatory Level
pCi/L	picocurie per liter
ppb	part per billion
ppm	part per million
PS	Number of Positive Sample
µS/cm	microSiemens/centimeter

WATER HARDNESS SCALE TABLE		
Classification	Hardness in mg/L	Hardness in ppm
Soft	0 - 60	less than 60
Moderately Hard	61 - 120	60 - 120
Hard	121 - 180	121 - 180

UCMR5 SAMPLING RESULTS							
Detected Contaminants	Year Tested	Unit	NL	PHG or (MCLG)	In Compliance	SFPUC Range	SFPUC Average
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	2023	ppt	500	N/A	Yes	ND-3.0	3.0
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2023	ppt	3	N/A	Yes	ND-3.0	3.0
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	2023	ppt	6.5	N/A	Yes	ND-3.0	3.0

NON-REGULATED WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS	Unit	ORL	Range	Average
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	ppm	N/A	7.4 - 120	60
Bromide	ppb	N/A	<10 - 29	<10
Boron	ppb	1000 (NL)	23 - 65	41
Calcium (as Ca)	ppm	N/A	3.2 - 28	15
Chlorate ⁽⁸⁾	ppb	800 (NL)	24 - 597	144
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	cyst/L	N/A	0 - 0.06	0.02
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	ppm	N/A	8.4 - 106	60
Lithium	ppb	N/A	<2 - 4	<2
Magnesium	ppm	N/A	0.2 - 9.5	5.7
pH	-	N/A	8.7 - 9.6	9.2
Silica	ppm	N/A	4.9 - 9.9	7.5
Sodium	ppm	N/A	3.1 - 24	16
Total Organic Carbon ⁽⁹⁾	ppm	N/A	1.1 - 1.18	1.5



NOTE : Additional water quality data may be obtained by calling the City of Foster City Public Works Maintenance phone number at 650-286-8140.

CONTACT INFO

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please contact EMID at 1-650-286-8140 or publicworks@fostercity.org for assistance.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse EMID a 1-650-286-8140 o publicworks@fostercity.org para asistirlo en español con alguien que lo entienda bien.

此份水質報告，內有重要資訊。請找他人為你翻譯和解說清楚。

EMID GOVERNANCE

The EMID President and Board of Directors serve as the governing authority for the EMID water system. They hold public meetings on the **first and third Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m.** at the **Foster City Council/Board Chambers**, located at **620 Foster City Blvd., Foster City, California.**

An agenda for each EMID meeting is posted on the City of Foster City website at:

<https://www.fostercity.org/agendasandminutes>



100 Lincoln Centre Drive
Foster City, CA 94404