



Central Water District

2025 Newsletter 2024 Water Quality Report

The Central Water District Team is full! This past year the Central Water District (CWD) had the difficult task of replacing two valuable employees. However, we are excited to introduce you to our new water experts.

Edward Flores, the new Operations Supervisor, came to the Central Water District with previous experience maintaining and upgrading water distribution lines and meters, and already has proven to be an invaluable asset to the District. In the nine months that he has worked for the District he has repaired water leaks, completed numerous improvement projects to ensure customers have continued access to high-quality drinking water, and has become a certified Cross-Connection Control Specialist to further support the District's compliance efforts. When Edward is not at work, he enjoys woodworking, sports, and spending time with family, friends, and his cat, Blue.

Eddie Ruiz, the new Water Distribution Operator, came to the District with previous experience in construction and road maintenance, and has a sincere thirst for water knowledge. In the short five months that he has worked for the District he successfully completed a Water Treatment Program and soon will be taking a certification exam to become a Grade 2 Distribution Operator. Eddie has been a great support to the Operations Supervisor, as he continues to learn the ins and outs of water distribution, sampling, and system maintenance. When Eddie is not at work, he enjoys hiking, gaming, and spending time with friends, family, and his cat, Sy.

While the District welcomes its new Operations Team members, it is with mixed emotions that the District announces the resignation of Director John Benich, after 13 years of service. The District and remaining Board members would like to thank Director Benich for his valuable contributions and dedication to the Central Water District, and would like to wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Director Benich, who is best known for his cheerful countenance, his cost-saving ideas, and his ability to spot water leaks just about anywhere in the District, will be greatly missed. A replacement will be sought out soon, and the CWD community will be updated on the transition process.

When you get a chance, please take the time to thank Director Benich for his many years of service as your representative on the Central Water District Board, and to welcome Edward and Eddie to the Central Water District Team! At the same time, don't forget to look out for the launch of the District's new Well #14 Project. You can find more information about this Capital Improvement Project and your Central Water District on our recently renovated website at www.centralwaterdistrict.us.com.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you,

Central Water District Board of Directors & Staff



2025 Central Water District Board of Directors

Marco Romanini, **President**
Robert Postle, **Vice-President**
Robert Marani, **Secretary**
Frances Basich Whitney
John Benich

Board Meetings

Regular Board Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office located at 400 Cox Road in Aptos. We hope to see you there!

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ATENCIÓN RESIDENTES! Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse Central Water District a (831)688-2767 para asistirlo en español.

Where Does My Water Come From? Central Water District (CWD) water is sourced from three groundwater wells that are located within the District's service area. The wells pull water from the Aromas Red Sands and Purisima aquifers.

Why Test Drinking Water? As water travels over the land's surface or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally-occurring substances. It can also pick up contaminants resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances or contaminants that can be present in source water, such as rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells includes:

Microbial contaminants, like 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 byproducts 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Health Concerns and Drinking Water. It is reasonable to expect drinking water, including bottled water, to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. **The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. However, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.** For example, immuno-compromised persons such as those 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 healthcare providers. More information about the potential health effects of contaminants, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants, can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What Local Facilities and Activities Affect My Drinking Water? Assessment of the Central Water District's drinking water sources was completed in 2009, and based on detected contaminants in the water supply the District is considered most vulnerable to the following facilities/activities: Septic Systems (low & high density) and Fertilizer Applications. Central Water District's water sources may also be most vulnerable to the following facilities/activities even though there were no associated contaminant detections: Office Building Complexes, Sewer Collection Systems, Housing (high density), Well Water Supply, Transportation Corridors (freeway and roads/streets), RV Ministorage Facilities, and Veterinary Offices/Clinics. A copy of the full assessment report is available at the District Office.

Frequently Asked Questions About CWD Water, etc. Does Central Water District add FLUORIDE to my drinking water? No, any fluoride present in your CWD water is naturally-occurring. **How hard is my Central Water District water?** CWD water is considered "hard water" with a most recent hardness result of 223 ppm or 13 grains per gallon (GPG). **Who do I contact if I have questions about my CWD water or this Water Quality Report?** You can contact the District Manager, Ralph Bracamonte, Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at (831) 688-2767. You can also email admin@centralwaterdistrict.us.com or mail your correspondence to P.O. Box 1869, Aptos, CA 95001.

Drinking Water Standards and My Water. In order to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board establish 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.

The Central Water District vigilantly safeguards its water supplies, and once again, we are proud to report that in 2024 our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other required water quality standard. In the following pages you will find the District's most recent water monitoring data, which includes test results from January 1 to December 31, 2024, as well as earlier monitoring data. Generally, only substances that are detected are reported.

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Primary Drinking Water Standards						
Microbiological Contaminants	Number Collected in 2024	Highest Number of Detections	Number of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
<i>E. coli</i> (State Revised Total Coliform Rule)	36	0 (in the year)	0	Footnote 1	0	Human and animal fecal waste
Total Coliform Bacteria	36	4 (in a month) Footnote 2	0	TT	NA	Naturally present in the environment

¹ Routine & repeat samples are total coliform-positive & either is *E. coli*-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*. ² One routine sample and three repeat samples. Additional samples required per TT. See below for more information.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. The Central Water District found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, water agencies are required to conduct an assessment to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during the assessment. **During the past year CWD was required to conduct one Level 1 assessment, and one Level 1 assessment was completed. In addition, CWD identified three corrective actions, and all three of these actions were successfully completed.**

Chemical or Constituent (reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG, (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	2/20/19	0.007 (Average)	0 - 0.021	NA	0.05	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2/20/19	0.000 (Average)	0.000	NA	0.019	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L)	2/20/19	0.007 (Average)	0 - 0.021	5	NA ³	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	6/7/23	0.639 (Average)	0.450-0.965	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (µg/L)	8/20/24	20 (Highest)	5.6 - 20	80	NA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine Residual (mg/L)	2024	0.22 (Highest RAA)	0.10 - 0.37	[4.0] as Cl ₂	[4] as Cl ₂	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fluoride (mg/L)	6/6/23	0.11 (Average)	0.10 - 0.12	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate—as Nitrogen [N] (mg/L)	2024	3.5 (Average)	1.0 - 5.6	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Chromium (µg/L)	6/6/23	8.3 (Average)	5.4 - 10	50	(100)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Hexavalent Chromium (µg/L)	2024	8.8 (Average)	4.9 - 11	10	0.02	Erosion of natural deposits; transformation of naturally occurring trivalent chromium to hexavalent chromium by natural processes and human activities such as discharges from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities.

³ See individual Radium 226 & Radium 228 constituent PHGs

Hexavalent Chromium was detected at a maximum level of **11 µg/L**, which exceeds the Hexavalent Chromium MCL. While the Hexavalent Chromium in the CWD water supply is naturally occurring and a water system of our size is not considered in violation of the Hexavalent Chromium MCL until after October 1, 2028, the District is working to address this exceedance in order to comply with the newly established MCL.

The District detected **NITRATE**, as Nitrogen (N), at a maximum level of **5.6 mg/L**, which is less than the MCL of 10 mg/L. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. Such Nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of an infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should seek advice from your health care provider. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity.

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Other Monitoring Results

Chemical or Constituent (reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG or (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	6/6/23	26	24 - 28	None	None	Salt present in the water; generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	6/6/23	223	220 - 230	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium; usually naturally occurring

Residential Tap Monitoring — Sampled in July 2022

Lead and Copper (reporting units)	Number of Samples Collected	90 th Percentile Level Detected	Number of Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (µg/L)	10	6	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (mg/L)	10	0.413	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

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. The Central Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>. **In addition, a lead service line inventory was recently compiled, and “no lead” was confirmed in the District-owned portion of the service lines, or found in the statistically chosen 121 service lines that were inspected. A complete inventory is available for your review at the District Office.**

Secondary Drinking Water Standards

Chemical or Constituent (reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL or [Notification Level]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (mg/L)	6/6/23	29	24 - 35	500	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Odor-Threshold (Units)	2024	0.1	ND - 1	3	Naturally-occurring organic materials
pH (pH Units)	2024	7.4	6.6 - 7.6	6.5-8.5 (U.S. EPA)	Measure of the acidity or basicity
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	6/6/23	513	490 - 540	1,600	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	6/6/23	43	41 - 45	500	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Turbidity (NTU)	2024	0.2	ND - 0.3	5	Soil runoff; flushing of water mains
Zinc (mg/L)	6/6/23	0.02	ND - 0.05	5.0	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (mg/L)	6/6/23	337	310 - 350	1,000	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits

Unregulated Monitoring Results

Boron (µg/L)	6/16/20	40	33 - 48	[1,000]	Boron exposures resulted in decreased fetal weight (developmental effects) in newborn rats.
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DEFINITIONS: Level 1 Assessment 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. **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 are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water. **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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). **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. **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. **Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS)** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements. **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. **Regulatory Action Level (AL)** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. **Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS)** MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels. **Treatment Technique (TT)** A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water. **ACRONYMS:** **AL** - Regulatory Action Level **MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level **MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal **mg/L** - Milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm). Equivalent to 1 drop in 14 gallons or 1 second in 11.5 days. **MRDL** - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level **MRDLG** - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal **NA** - Not Applicable **ND** - Not Detectable at testing limit **ng/L** - Nanograms per liter or parts per trillion (ppt). Equivalent to 1 drop in 14,000,000 gallons or 1 second in nearly 32,000 years. **NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit **pCi/L** - Picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation) **PHG** - Public Health Goal **ppb** - Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L) **ppm** - Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L) **RAA** - Running Annual Average **TT** - Treatment Technique **µg/L** - Micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb). Equivalent to 1 drop in 14,000 gallons or 1 second in nearly 32 years.