



ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



Presented By
City of Rohnert Park

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



PWS ID#: CA4910014



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, 2023. 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.

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 epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Important Health Information

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The 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 water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.



Source Water Assessment

The SWRCB, Division of Drinking Water, completed a drinking water source assessment for the City of Rohnert Park in 2020, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Public Health. The purpose of the drinking water assessment is to determine if water sources in the community are vulnerable to contamination. It includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and provides a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the drinking water source assessment, our water sources are most vulnerable to the following identified activities: chemical/petroleum storage, fertilizer/pesticide applied at parks and golf courses (note: minimal pesticides and fertilizers are used in city parks), transportation corridors (railroad/freeways/highways/road rights-of-way), storm drain discharge points, stormwater retention, and high-density housing. If you would like to review the assessment, please contact our office during regular business hours at (707) 588-3300.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Rohnert Park delivers treated water to its customers produced by Sonoma Water (approximately 60 percent) and its local groundwater supply (approximately 40 percent). Water produced by Sonoma Water originates from six Ranney collectors (or caissons) along the Russian River and three production wells near the Cotati Aqueduct in the Santa Rosa plain. The water received from Sonoma Water is blended with groundwater from a series of wells located throughout the city. Prior to blending, the water distributed from city wells is treated with a chlorine disinfectant to protect the community against microbial contaminants. These combined sources provide roughly 1.4 billion gallons of clean drinking water to the community every year. Rohnert Park has eight water storage tanks with a total capacity of approximately five million gallons. Stored treated water is used to balance system pressure during peak demand and provide emergency storage for fire protection.

QUESTIONS?

If you are interested in learning more about water quality or our water utility, please direct your questions, concerns or comments to the Department of Public Works, (707) 588-3300.

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. 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.

Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit bit.ly/3leRyXy.

Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through them.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank. We will notify residents when performing flushing in your area. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.”
–Benjamin Franklin

Protecting Your Water

Bacteria are a natural and important part of our world. There are around 40 trillion bacteria living in each of us; without them, we would not be able to live healthy lives. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern, however, because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease.

In 2016 the U.S. EPA passed a regulation called the Revised Total Coliform Rule, which requires water systems to take additional steps to ensure the integrity of the drinking water distribution system by monitoring for the presence of bacteria like total coliform and E. coli. The rule requires more stringent standards than the previous regulation, and it requires water systems that may be vulnerable to contamination to have procedures in place that will minimize the incidence of contamination. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment and correct any problems quickly. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under this regulation due to its more preventive approach to identifying and fixing problems that may affect public health.

Though we are fortunate in having the highest-quality drinking water, our goal is to eliminate all potential pathways of contamination into our distribution system, and this requirement helps us accomplish that goal.

Q&A

What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or bisphenol A (BPA)-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, do not use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing 7PC (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, one gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for three days. Humans can survive without food for one month but can only survive one week without water.

How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of treated drinking water?

It can take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40 percent of total water use). Toilets use about 4 to 6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

What Are PFAS?

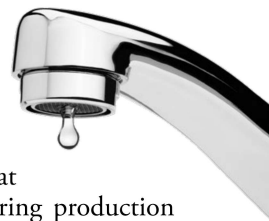
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit bit.ly/3Z5AMm8.



Community Participation

Citizens may address comments directly to the Rohnert Park City Council, which meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Meetings are held in City Council Chambers, located at City Hall, 130 Avram Avenue. City council meetings are open to the public; agendas are posted to rpcity.org prior to each meeting.

What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air-conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection. For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.



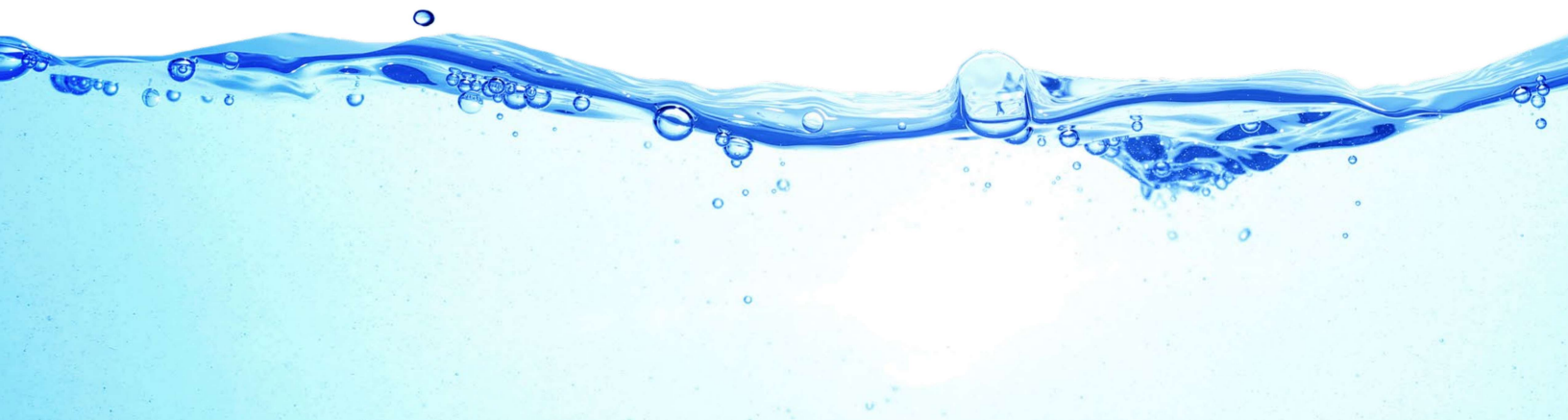
Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

NEVER:

- Pour FOG down the house or storm drains.
- Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.
- Use the toilet as a wastebasket.

ALWAYS:

- Scrape and collect FOG into a waste container such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.
- Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products, including nonbiodegradable wipes.



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 city collected and analyzed 600 coliform samples in 2023 with zero positive samples, verifying that there are no harmful bacteria in the water system.

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.

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									
				City of Rohnert Park		Sonoma Water			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2023	10	0.004	5.1 ¹	2.4–13.0	<2 ²	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	2.0	1	0.1	0.1–0.2	<1.0 ²	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2019, 2023	15	(0)	1.905	1.05–2.43	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	3.0	ND–12.2	8.44 ³	ND–23.64 ³	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2023	10	10	1.7	ND–7.8	<0.40 ²	NA	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	80	NA	9.6	9.1–10.1	0.01722	0.01362–0.02203	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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.

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.

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).

TON (Threshold Odor Number): A measure of odor in water.

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

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community⁴

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.054	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0.2	0.00067	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

				City of Rohnert Park		Sonoma Water			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2023	500	NS	13.3	8.0–20.0	6.2 ²	5.8–6.8 ²	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	2023	15	NS	ND	NA	6.17 ²	4.0–10.0 ²	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.0	NS	ND	NA	<50 ³	NA	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Corrosivity (units)	2023	Noncorrosive	NS	11.7	11.2–12.1	11.22 ²	11.07–11.49 ²	No	Natural or industrially influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon, and oxygen affected by temperature and other factors
Iron (ppb)	2023	300	NS	61.7	ND–200	<100 ²	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2023	50	NS	ND	NA	<20 ³	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor, Threshold (TON)	2023	3	NS	ND	NA	<1.0 ³	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	2023	1,600	NS	365	300–490	253 ³	240–270 ³	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2023	500	NS	6.2	3.1–17	14.5 ²	13–16 ²	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2023	1,000	NS	245	210–320	148 ²	140–160 ²	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2023	5	NS	0.3	ND–1.2	0.03 ³	0.016–2.0 ³	No	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	2023	5.0	NS	120	ND–120	<50	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES⁵

		City of Rohnert Park		Sonoma Water		
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2023	170	150–210	143	130–150	Naturally occurring
Calcium (ppm)	2023	26.7	20–46	22	23–27	Naturally occurring
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2023	132.3	103–221	124.5	113–126	Sum of polyvalent cations present in water
Magnesium (ppm)	2023	16	13–16	15 ²	14–18 ²	Naturally occurring
pH (units)	2023	7.7	7.3–8.1	7.41	7.30–7.58	Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	2023	28.2	19–47	9.55	9.3–10.0	Naturally occurring
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2022	170	150–210	115 ³	110–120 ³	Naturally occurring

¹Running annual average.

²Sampled in 2022.

³Sampled in 2021.

⁴The City of Rohnert Park is on a reduced monitoring schedule for copper and lead and is required to sample on a triennial basis.

⁵Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.