# 2019 Water Quality Report

Water System 4910016

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

## Your Drinking Water Sources and Treatment

The City of Cotati's (Cotati) drinking water is supplied by the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) and three local groundwater wells owned by Cotati.

The SCWA water supply originates from

Reservoirs along the Russian River (Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma) and Eel

### Table of Contents



River (Lake Pillsbury) watersheds supply the water which is used to replenish the groundwater around the SCWA's radial collectors. This process, filtered by the sand and gravel beds beneath the river, is called "river-bank filtration". The natural filtration removes organic material and turbidity, leaving highly filtered drinking water for over 600,000 residents of Sonoma and Marin counties.

The only required treatment is for bacterial and pathogen disinfection and pH adjustment. To accomplish this, the SCWA treats the water with chlorine for disinfection, and sodium hydroxide to adjust the pH before it is delivered to the various water districts and cities, including Cotati.

The pH adjustment is necessary to comply with federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations on the copper content in drinking water. Raising the pH helps minimize the leaching of copper and other metals from interior home plumbing, which extends the life of piping and also prevents elevated levels of copper in the wastewater, which is expensive to treat.

Cotati receives SCWA water through two connections with a SCWA transmission pipeline as it passes through the city.

Cotati has three groundwater within the city limits. Water from Cotati's wells are used to supplement water received from the SCWA. In 2019, approximately 39% of the drinking water in Cotati came from the city's groundwater wells.

Wells 1A and 3 have elevated manganese and iron levels in the raw (untreated water). Both of these compounds are naturally occurring in the groundwater. However, they are of aesthetic concern because they can cause taste, odor and staining issues if left untreated. To address this, Cotati treats the raw water from Wells 1A and 3 by filtering the water. This process reduces the levels in the finished water so that they are no longer an aesthetic concern.


## Definitions

These terms are used in the table on the following page.

**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 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. Environmental Protection Agency.

**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.

**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 Environmental Protection Agency.

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

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

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter.

**mg/l:** Milligrams per liter or ppm.

**ug/l:** Micrograms per liter or ppb.

**TON:** Threshold Odor Number.

**uS/cm:** Microsiemens per centimeter.

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

**ND:** Not Detected.

# Water Conservation

Even though our region is no longer in a drought, long term conservation is important. Water is a precious and limited resource that will continue to come under increasing pressure to meet a variety of competing needs, including a growing population, recreation, agriculture, and preserving our aquatic ecosystems. In addition, it is unclear what effect climate change will have on the quantity and timing of rainfall in our watersheds.

The City recently upgraded its water meters and, to help its customers monitor their own water use, has made hourly water use data available. **To sign up for this service, please go to [cotaticity.org/water](cotaticity.org/water)**


**Conservation Programs!**

Want to save water and money? Sign-up for our **FREE** program to help switch your lawn to a drought-tolerant landscape. Use the Cash for Grass rebate program for the planting! Visit http://www.cotaticity.org/ to learn about Cotati's many great options for water conservation. Conservation rebates and water saving tips are located by selecting "Residential Services" then "Water and Sewer Services" then "Water Conservation." Please visit our website for more information on our residential clothes washer and toilet rebate programs.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONSTITUENTS [a,b]

| Constituent | Unit | PHG | MCL | SCWA Range Detected | SCWA Average [c] | City of Cotati Wells Range Detected | City of Cotati Wells Average [c] | Typical Source in Drinking Water |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Primary Health Standards (Regulated Constituents with Primary MCLs or MRDLs)** | | | | | | | | |
| **Disinfection Byproducts [d]** | | | | | | | | |
| Total Trihalomethanes | ug/l | - | 80 | 9.3 - 16.6 | 12.5 | 17-20 | 18.5 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Haloacetic Acids | ug/l | - | 60 | 6.9 - 10.2 | 8.4 | 8.5-8.7 | 8.6 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Inorganic** | | | | | | | | |
| Arsenic | ug/l | 0 | 10 | <2 | <2 | 3-3 | 3 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Barium | mg/l | 2 | 1 | <0.1 | <0.1 | 0.12-.23 | 0.19 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride | mg/l | 1 | 2 | <0.1 | <0.1 | 0.18-0.33 | 0.25 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Nitrate/Nitrite** | | | | | | | | |
| Nitrate (as N) | mg/l | 10 | 10 | <0.4 | <0.4 | 0.63-0.63 | 0.63 | Run-off/leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Methyl tert-Butyl Ether (MTBE) | ug/l | 13 | 13 | <3 | <3 | <3 | <3 | MTBE is a blending component in gasoline and is from leaky underground storage tanks |
| **Lead/Copper Rules** | | | | | | | | |
| *Collected at customers tap* | | | | | | | | |
| *Samples collected = 23* | | | | | | | | |
| *Samples exceeding AL = 0* | | | | 90th percentile level detected | | 90th percentile level detected | | |
| Copper | mg/l | 0.3 | 1.0 (AL) | <0.05 - | <0.05 | <0.05 | | Internal corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead | ug/l | 0.2 | 15 (AL) | <5.0 - | <5.0 | <0.50 | | Internal corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits |
| **Secondary Aesthetic Standards (Regulated Constituents with Secondary MCLs)** | | | | | | | | |
| Chloride | mg/l | | 500 | 4.70 - 5.6 | 5.0 | 40 | 40 | Run-off/leaching from natural deposits |
| Color | Units | - | 15 | <3.0 4.0 | 0.7 | 5 | 5 | Naturally occurring organic materials |
| Iron | ug/l | - | 300 | <100 | <100 | <100 - 1500 | 591 | Leaching from natural deposits |
| Manganese | ug/l | - | 50 | <20 - | <20 | 100 - 280 | 174 | Leaching from natural deposits |
| Odor - Threshold | TON | - | 3 | <1 - | <1 | 35 | 35.00 | Naturally occurring organic materials |
| Specific Conductance | uS/cm | - | 1600 | 210 - 250 | 227 | 330 | 330 | Substances that form ions when in water |
| Sulfate | mg/l | - | 500 | 12 - 14.0 | 12.5 | 17 | 17.0 | Run-off/leaching from natural deposits |
| Total Dissolved Solids | mg/l | - | 1000 | 140 - 160 | 145 | 240 - 320 | 280 | Run-off/leaching from natural deposits |
| Turbidity | NTU | - | 5 | 0.022 - 2.0 | 0.042 | 0.85 | 0.85 | Soil run-off |
| **Additional Unregulated Constituents** | | | | | | | | |
| Bicarbonate as $HCO_3$ | mg/l | - | - | 130 - 140 | 132 | 110 | 110 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Calcium | mg/l | - | - | 21 - 23 | 22 | 21 | 21 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Chromium (CrVI) | ug/l | - | 0.02 | <0.5 - 0.58 | 0.19 | <1 - <10 | <4 | Occurs naturally in rocks, animals, plants, and soils |
| Hardness (Total) as $CaCO_3$ | mg/l | - | - | 106 - 123 | 112 | 100 - 100 | 100 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Magnesium | mg/l | - | - | 13 - 16 | 14 | 12 - 12 | 12 | - |
| pH | Units | - | - | 7.35 - 7.61 | 7.43 | 6.9 - 7.90 | 7.4 | - |
| Potassium | mg/l | - | - | 1.0 - 1.3 | 1.1 | N/A | N/A | - |
| Gross Alpha | pCi/l | N/A | 15 | 0 - 1.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 - 1.34 | 0.64 | Found in the ground throughout the U.S. |
| Sodium | mg/l | - | - | 7.8 - 9.3 | 8.5 | 42 | 42 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Total Alkalinity | mg/l | - | - | 100 - 120 | 110 | 100 - 160 | 130 | Erosion of natural deposits |

**NOTES:**

[a] Tests for over 80 different water constituents were performed in 2019. This table only contains those tests that indicated a result above the detection limit.

[b] All test results are for 2019 or most recent year of testing.

[c] All Non-Detects are included in the average as zero.

[d] Site now Stage 2 D/DBPR

[e] Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation.

ND = Non Detectable

N/A = Not Applicable. Sampling not required for report year.

Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal for your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program (1-800-745-7236), the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or the National Safety Council Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-RADON).

# Source Water Assessment

All community drinking water systems are required to have source water assessments conducted to evaluate vulnerability to contamination. In March of 2003, the California Department of Health Services conducted a source water assessment of Cotati's groundwater wells. No contamination has ever been found, but the assessment identified the following vulnerabilities to potential sources of contamination:

- **Well 1A:** Considered most vulnerable to potential leakage from sewer collection systems and confirmed leaking underground storage tanks.
- **Well 2:** Considered most vulnerable to potential leakage from sewer collection systems.
- **Well 3:** Considered most vulnerable to confirmed leaking underground storage tanks.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at:

Drinking Water Field Operations Branch
50 D Street, Suite 200
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

You may also view a summary of the assessment at:

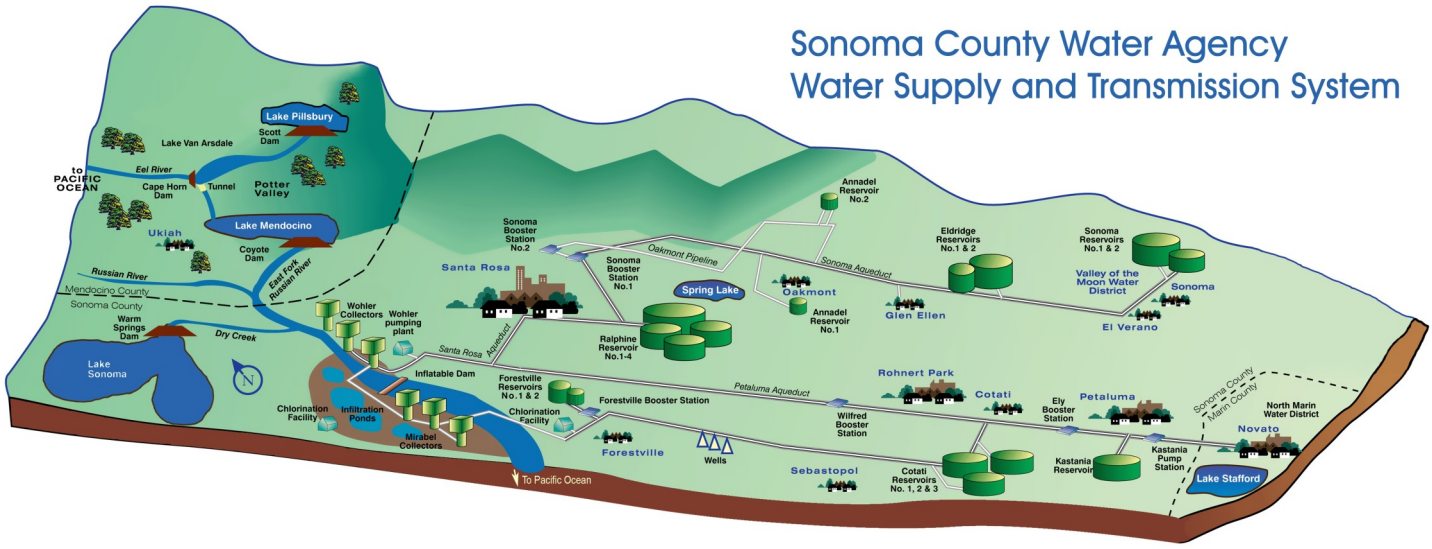
http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/DWSAP.aspx

# Water Supply Update

Cotati normally obtains about 1/3 of its water supply from local wells, with the remaining supply coming from the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA). Locally, the City operates our wells to preserve the local groundwater resource by not exceeding a sustainable rate of use. The SCWA supply is confronting a variety of challenges, including potential changes in rainfall patterns due to climate change, competing uses for summer water (when demand is highest due to irrigation), by threatened and endangered fish, agricultural uses, and recreational uses. This all underscores the fact water will be an increasingly valuable resource requiring more efficient and responsible use. In practical terms, this means there will be a much greater emphasis on indoor fixtures and appliances that use water more efficiently, and an accelerating shift to greatly reduce the use of drinking water for outdoor uses such as landscape irrigation. For example, in Cotati, approximately 18% of our annual drinking water use is for outdoor irrigation.

In the longer term, the City will continue to move forward on a variety of fronts to ensure a reliable water supply. These efforts include continuing long-term water conservation efforts, further refining new development standards, and exploring ways to utilize alternative water sources, such as rainwater, greywater, and reclaimed water. In addition, the City is a partner in the 2013 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study of our groundwater basin. In conjunction with an ongoing regional groundwater management planning process, the USGS study provides the best available data on how our groundwater basin functions and how it can be sustainably managed. This work is especially important in light of the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which became law in fall 2014, with the goal of providing local agencies with tools and resources to ensure long-term sustainable groundwater management. To comply with SGMA, and retain local control of our groundwater resource, the City joined other eligible entities and, in June 2017, together created the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Santa Rosa Groundwater Plain. The GSA is to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by 2022 and achieve sustainability by 2042. Although initially funded by primarily municipalities, the GSA hopes to achieve long-term financial sustainability by receiving funding within 2-3 years, from all users that benefit from ground water in the Santa Rosa Plain. For more information on the GSA, including the makeup of the Board and Advisory Committee, please visit **santarosaplaingroundwater.org.**

The City is here to help our customers better understand and have confidence in our water supply, and reduce water waste. If you have any questions or comments about the City's water supply, please call the City at 665.3638.



# Description and Origin of Drinking Water Contaminants

*This Information Applies to All Sources of Drinking 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Department of Health Services (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800.426.4791) or find it on EPA's website at https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-information.

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 City 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 drinking 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 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

# Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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. Guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants, prepared by USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC), are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800.426.4791).

**Mayor**
Wendy Skillman
**Vice-Mayor**
John C. Moore
**Council Members**
Susan Harvey
Mark Landman
John A. Dell'Osso
**City Manager**
Damien O'Bid

# 2019 Water Quality Report

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## How to Participate

Your water system functions best when you participate in the decisions. To participate, you can attend the City Council meetings, which occur on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers at 201 West Sierra Avenue, Cotati.

For more information about this report or for other questions about your water, please contact Craig Scott, Director of Public Works/City Engineer at 665.3620.