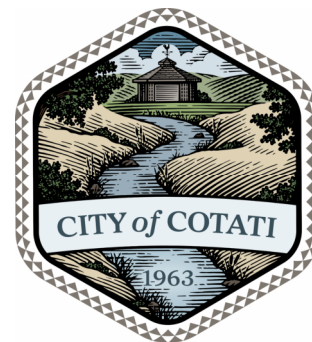


# 2023 Water Quality Report

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 Sonoma Water and three local groundwater wells owned by Cotati.

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Sonoma Water owns and operates two Reservoirs: Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma. The Russian River and Eel River watersheds supply the water to fill these reservoirs. The water is released from the reservoirs for environmental, agricultural and urban uses using the Russian River for conveyance. The water is filtered by the sand and gravel beds beneath the river, and 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, Sonoma Wa-

ter treats the water with chlorine for disinfection, and sodium hydroxide to adjust the pH before it is delivered to the 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 water from Sonoma Water through two connections to its transmission pipeline, commonly referred to as the aqueduct, which extends through the city.

In addition to Sonoma Water, Cotati has three groundwater wells within the city limits that it owns and operates. In 2023, approximately 35 percent of the drinking water in Cotati came from the city's groundwater wells. This is consistent with the 10 year average which is nearly 37 percent. 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. They are of aesthetic concern because they can cause taste, odor and staining issues if left untreated; therefore, Cotati treats the raw water from Wells 1A and 3 by filtering the water. This process reduces the levels in the finished water

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to potential 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).

## Per/Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The City has not tested its wells for PFAS, but under the April 10, 2024, EPA PFAS Regulations, will be subject to initial monitoring by 2027. When complete, the City will report these results in our annual Consumer Confidence Report. The City also receives water from Sonoma Water, which has been required to monitor PFAS levels over the past 5 years. Sonoma Water has not found concentrations in the water above the current state response and notification levels, nor have they found concentrations above the maximum contaminant levels set by the EPA on April 10, 2024. For more information visit <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

**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.

**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 drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known/expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not show the benefits 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 and their monitoring.

**PFAS:** Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are complex synthetic chemicals used in every day consumer products that do not degrade easily.

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

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

**TON:** Threshold Odor Number.

**ND:** Not detectable at testing limit.

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

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

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

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

## 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

## Sonoma County Water Agency Water Supply and Transmission System

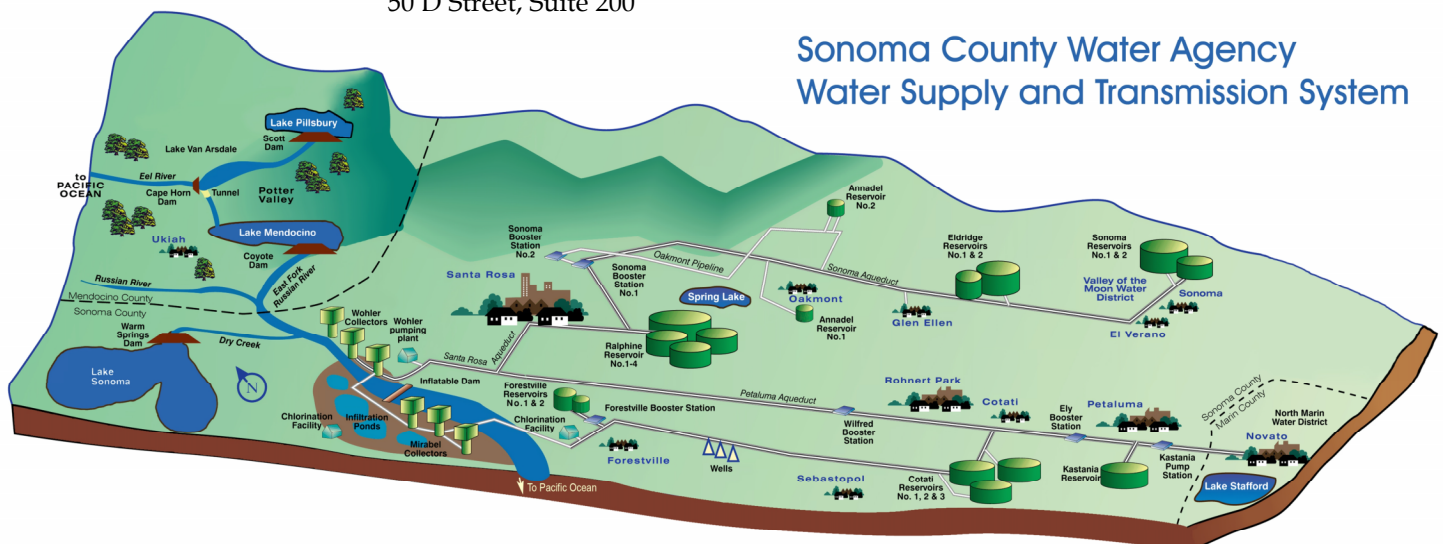


TABLE OF DETECTED CONSTITUENTS <sup>a</sup>				SCWA		City of Cotati Wells	
Constituent	Unit	PHG	MCL	Range Detected	Average <sup>b</sup>	Range Detected	Average <sup>b</sup>
<b>Primary Health Standards (Regulated Constituents with Primary MCLs or MRDLs)</b>							
<b>Disinfection Byproducts <sup>c</sup></b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	mg/l	-	80	0.00 - 0.02	0.01	18 - 30	24
Haloacetic Acids	µg/l	-	60	0.00 - 20.02	6.64	6.5 - 11	8.75
<b>Inorganic</b>							
Arsenic	µg/l	0.004	10	<2.0 - <2.0	<2.0	<2.0 - 3.1	2.6
Barium	µg/l	2000	1000	<100 - 100	<100	170 - 200	185.00
Fluoride	mg/l	1	2.0	<0.10 - 0.14	0.11	<.10 - <.10	<0.10
<b>Nitrate/Nitrite</b>							
Nitrate (as N)	mg/l	10	10	<0.40 - <0.40	<0.40	<0.40 - <0.40	<0.40
<b>Lead/Copper Rules</b>							
<i>Collected at customers tap</i>							
<i>Samples collected = 23</i>							
<i>Samples exceeding AL = 0</i>							
				<u>90th percentile level detected</u>		<u>90th percentile level detected</u>	
Copper	µg/l	300	1300 (AL)	<50 -	<50	240 -	240
Lead	µg/l	0.2	15 (AL)	<0.5 -	<0.5	<5.0 -	<5.0
Trichloropropane	µg/l	0.0007	0.005	ND -	ND	ND -	ND
<b>Secondary Aesthetic Standards (Regulated Constituents with Secondary MCLs)</b>							
Chloride	mg/l		250-500	5.7 - 23.0	9.3	50 - 68	59
Color	Units	-	15	<5.0 - 20.0	9.7	<5 - <5	<5
Iron	µg/l	-	300	<100 - 590	164	<100 - <100	<100
Manganese	µg/l	-	50	<20 - 93	42	<20 - 35	27.5
Odor - Threshold	TON	-	3	<1.0 - 20	3	<1 - <1	<1
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	-	900-1600	240 - 280	260	460 - 490	475
Sulfate	mg/l	-	250-500	0.72 - 18	12.5	9 - 34.0	21.5
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	-	500-1000	110 - 180	146	310 - 350	330
Turbidity	NTU	-	5	0.014 - 1.7	0.321	0.2 - 0.30	0.25
<b>Additional Unregulated Constituents</b>							
Bicarbonate as HCO <sub>3</sub>	mg/l	-	-	91 - 130	115.9	150 - 200	147
Calcium	mg/l	-	-	9 - 26	21.3	23 - 46	34.5
Chromium (CrVI)	µg/l	100	50	<10 - <10	<10	<1 - <1	<1
Hardness (Total) as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	mg/l	-	-	29 - 135	102.9	110 - 220	165
Magnesium	mg/l	-	-	1.7 - 17	12.2	12 - 25	19
pH	pH	-	-	7.27 - 8.63	7.57	7.0 - 7.8	7.4
Potassium	mg/l	-	-	1.1 - 1.9	1.3	N/A - N/A	N/A
Gross Alpha <sup>d</sup>	pCi/l	0	15	-0.364 - 1.52	0.446	0.70 - 1.70	1.2
Sodium	mg/l	-	-	8.7 - 53.0	19.1	30 - 35	33
Total Alkalinity	mg/l	-	-	91 - 130	115.9	120 - 140	130

a. All test results are for 2023 or most recent year of testing.

b All Non-Detects are included in the average as zero.

c Site now Stage 2 D/DBPR

d Gross Alpha particle activity is a measurement of radioactivity. Many of the contaminants found in public drinking water occur naturally. For example, radioactive radium and uranium are found in small amounts in almost all rock and soil, and can dissolve in water.



## Water Supply Update

Due to a second year of above average rainfall, storage reservoirs are at all time highs going into the summer. Urban customers continue to lock in long term water saving measures with a 38 percent reduction in per capita water use, from 160 gallons per person in 1997, to 100 gallons per person per day in 2024. This represents a significant permanent **reduction in water use** that our customers continue to improve upon.

The trend for increased water use efficiency will continue with new development standards, exploring ways to utilize alternative water sources, such as rainwater, greywater, and reclaimed water, and the conjunctive use of water which means the use of surface water in the winter when it's available and use of groundwater in the summer when surface water needs to be preserved. The Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) had its 20 year Groundwater Sustainability Plan approved by the California Department of Water Resources in January 2023. The GSA has imposed a groundwater regulatory fee on groundwater users collected via property tax which allows the GSA to monitor and proactively prevent declines in groundwater levels. The GSA published a 2023 Groundwater Annual Report for the Santa Rosa Plain, which reports on the five sustainability indicators (Groundwater levels, Groundwater storage, Depletion from creeks, streams and other surface water, Groundwater quality, and land subsidence). All indicators were positive and the groundwater storage was reported to be near the highest levels since the late 1970s. For more information on the GSA, including the makeup of the Board and Advisory Committee, please visit [santarosaplaingroundwater.org](http://santarosaplaingroundwater.org).

The City is here to help our customers have confidence in our water supply, and reduce water waste. The Russian River watershed is largely independent from the rest of the State and will have a specific water supply situation that may be different than other areas. Please stay tuned for information and water saving tips. If you have any questions or comments about Cotati's water supply, please call the City at (707) 665-3638.



## Climate Ready Landscapes

Climate-ready landscapes are designed with climate change in mind. By selecting low-water use plants, implementing rainwater harvesting, and following fire-wise principles, your yard will be better equipped to withstand drought, floods, and fires. We have developed resources to help you create a landscape that can thrive into the future. For more information on Climate-Ready Landscape and water conservation programs and rebates, please visit [www.savingwaterpartnership.org](http://www.savingwaterpartnership.org)

## Water Conservation

The City has advanced metering instruments (AMI) and, to help its customers monitor their own water use, hourly water use data and leak alerts. To sign up for this service, please go to <https://www.cotaticity.org/454/Water-Sewer-Services>

Although our region is not in a drought, long term conservation is important in order to remain prepared as climate change results in fewer but more intense rainfall events, having a very disruptive impact on our water supply. 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.

**Sign up for water alerts**

**LEARN MORE**

Want to save water and money? 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."

## 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>.

**Mayor**

Laura Sparks

**Vice-Mayor**

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**Council Members**

Susan Harvey

Sylvia Lemus

Kathleen Rivers

**City Manager**

Damien O'Bid



## 2023 Water Quality Report

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## How to Participate

To participate in decisions about your water system, you can attend the City Council meetings, which occur on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 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.