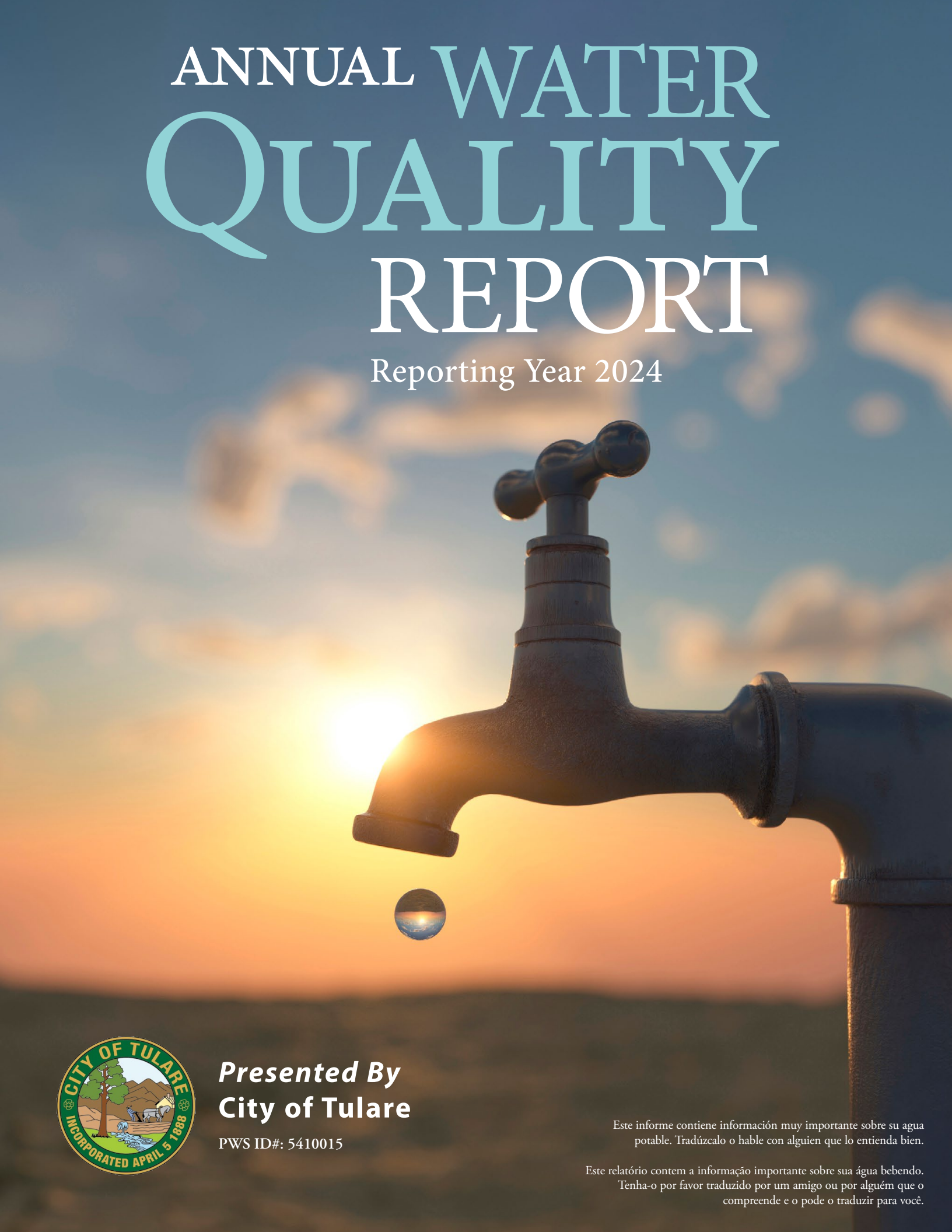
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



Presented By
City of Tulare
PWS ID#: 5410015

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

Este relatório contem a informação importante sobre sua água bebendo. Tenha-o por favor traduzido por um amigo ou por alguém que o compreende e o pode o traduzir para você.

Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of the City of Tulare's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your drinking 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 and commitment we make to continually supply drinking water that meets all state and federal standards and is always delivered to you and your family. We are duty-bound to provide you with this information because informed customers are our best allies for safeguarding the quality of your water.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Tulare water customers enjoy a groundwater supply from 21 wells owned and operated by the city. The source water wells are identified by number: 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 26, 27, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48. Water supply is pumped from these wells into a looped distribution system from an area deep beneath the city called the confined groundwater system that consists of alluvial sediments below a Corcoran clay layer of the Tulare Lake basin. To learn more about our watershed online, visit U.S. EPA's How's My Waterway at epa.gov/waterdata/hows-my-waterway/.

Source Water Assessment

Source water assessments were conducted for the City of Tulare in November 2002. At that time, no contaminants were detected in the water supply. However, the water source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities: chemical and petroleum processing, storage, and use; historic gas stations; and high-density septic systems. A copy of the assessment may be viewed at the water division office, 3981 South K Street.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use three to six gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Tulare is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time.

You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling does not remove lead from water.

Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line (LSL) or galvanized service line requiring replacement, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact the City of Tulare Water Division at (559) 684-4324. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of LSLs is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory may be viewed at tulare.ca.gov/. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done at (559) 684-4324.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Mr. Tim Doyle, Assistant Public Works Director, at (559) 684-4286.

Important Health Information

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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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 (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.

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. The City of Tulare is scheduled to start testing for these substances in its drinking water starting in April of 2025.

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.

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which 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, which 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 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. 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. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Test Results

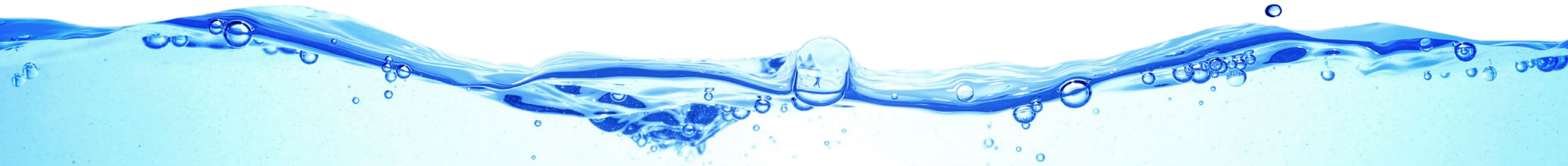
Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). 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 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 is 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

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
1, 2, 3-Trichloropropane [1, 2, 3-TCP] (ppt)	2024	5	0.7	0.001	ND–0.015	No	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; leaching from hazardous waste sites; cleaning and maintenance solvent, paint and varnish remover and degreasing agent; by-product from production of other compounds and pesticides
Aluminum (ppm)	2024	1	0.6	0.27	ND–1.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ppb)	2024	10	0.004	4.4	ND–11	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	0.88	0.10–1.82	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Dibromochloropropane [DBCP] (ppt)	2024	200	3	1	ND–12	No	Banned nematocide that may still be present in soils due to runoff/leaching from former use on soybeans, cotton, vineyards, tomatoes, and tree fruit
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	2.0	1	0.2	ND–1.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2024	15	(0)	1.5	ND–5.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids] (ppb)	2024	60	NA	0.1	ND–3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2024	10	20	1.9	0.05–2.8	No	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
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2024	10	10	3.8	ND–7.9	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2024	5	0.019	0.11	ND–0.698	No	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2024	80	NA	1.6	ND–20	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection



SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2024	200	NS	272.6	ND–1,100	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2024	500	NS	10.4	3.3–66	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	2024	15	NS	0.8	ND–5	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2024	300	NS	96.5	ND–530	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2024	1,600	NS	201.3	140–480	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2024	1,000	NS	140.8	86–340	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2024	5	NS	0.9	0.14–3.1	No	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [1]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aggressiveness Index (units)	2022-2024	11.7	10.7–12.1	NA
Alkalinity (ppm)	2022-2024	73.8	53–140	NA
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2022-2024	59.4	27–120	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2022-2024	8.1	ND–24	NA
Carbonate (ppm)	2022-2024	14.3	ND–58	NA
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2024	21.8	4.4–68	NA
Langelier Index (units)	2022-2024	-0.346	-0.04–0.18	NA
Magnesium (ppm)	2022-2024	0.3	ND–1.8	NA
pH (units)	2022-2024	8.6	7.1–9.3	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2022-2024	34.6	19–110	NA
Sulfate (ppm)	2022-2024	7.2	3.5–17	NA

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

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our Board of Public Utilities meetings and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the first and third Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at the Tulare Library Building in the City Council Chambers, 475 North M Street.

Two-Day Outdoor Watering Schedule

- Watering days: Even addresses, Wednesday and Sunday; odd addresses, Tuesday and Saturday.
- No outdoor watering on Monday, Thursday, or Friday. No watering until 48 hours after it rains.
- Outdoor watering hours: midnight to 4:00 a.m., 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., 10:00 p.m. to midnight.
- No outdoor watering in November, December, January, or February.
- No runoff into gutter or street.

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.

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).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

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

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