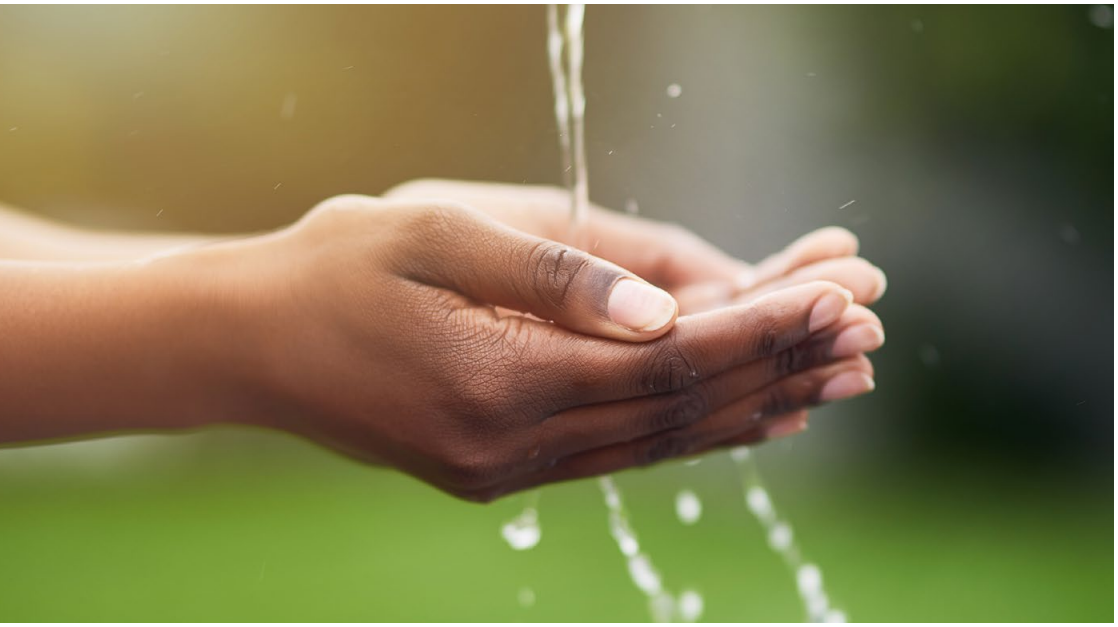
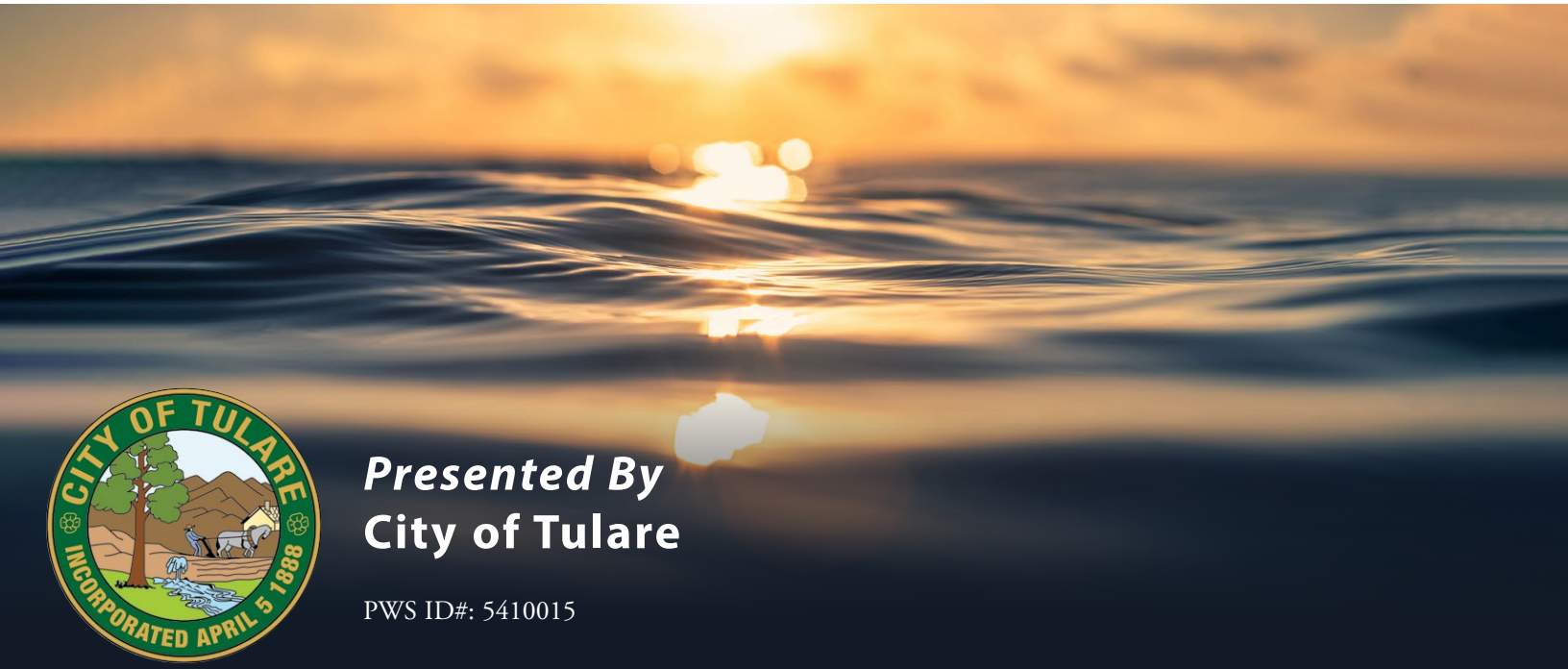
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025









Presented By
City of Tulare

PWS ID#: 5410015



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, 2025. Included are details about your source 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.

Where Does My Water Come From?

City of Tulare water customers enjoy a groundwater supply from 22 city-owned and -operated wells. The source water wells are identified by numbers 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 26, 27, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49. Water supply is pumped from these wells into a looped distribution system from an area deep beneath the city called a confined groundwater system, which 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.

Tap vs. Bottled



Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 40 percent of bottled water is actually just tap water, according to government estimates.

The FDA is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to $1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, visit goo.gl/Jxb6xG.

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 Treatment Process

Chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) Granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration systems use the physical properties of natural carbon to remove a wide range of contaminants from drinking water, including 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP) by passing water through vessels containing GAC, which traps or absorbs the chemicals.

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 (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 epa.gov/safewater.



Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Mr. Michael Richardson, Water Utility Manager, at (559) 684-4318.

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; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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.

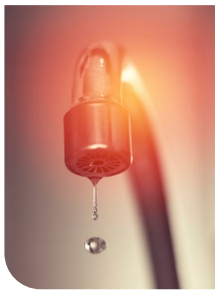
Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Why We Test So Often

Drinking water is one of the most closely monitored resources in the United States. Water systems regularly test for bacteria, disinfectants, metals, organic chemicals, radioactive substances, and many other contaminants. Some tests are performed daily, while others are conducted weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, depending on regulatory requirements and system size. Microbiological testing for bacteria, such as coliforms, ensures that disinfection is working properly. Turbidity monitoring confirms effective filtration. Chemical testing verifies that treatment processes remain optimized. All certified laboratories must meet strict quality assurance requirements to ensure accurate results. When results approach regulatory limits, corrective actions are taken immediately.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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 of Tulare is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have it 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 lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory may be viewed online 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.

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.

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)	2025	5	0.7	1	ND–6.3	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)	2025	1	0.6	0.19	ND–1.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ppb)	2025	10	0.004	3.8	ND–11	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Glass and electronics production wastes
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	0.87	0.03–1.82	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2025	5	(0)	0.23	ND–1.18	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Dibromochloropropane [DBCP] (ppt)	2025	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)	2025	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)	2025	15	(0)	2.0	ND–5.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	0.1	ND–3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2025	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)	2025	10	10	3.9	ND–7.9	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks and sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	2025	5	0.05	0.05	-0.0755–0.275	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2025	5	0.019	0.15	ND–0.982	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	1.7	ND–20	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Uranium (pCi/L)	2025	20	0.43	1.73	ND–3.20	No	Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2025	200	600	191.1	ND–1,100	Yes[1]	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2025	500	NS	10.3	3.3–66	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Seawater influence
Color (units)	2025	15	NS	0.7	ND–5	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2025	300	NS	57.5	ND–390	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2025	1,600	NS	218.1	140–480	No	Substances that form ions when in water; Seawater influence
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2025	1,000	NS	151.5	86–340	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	5	NS	0.7	ND–2.3	No	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES[2]

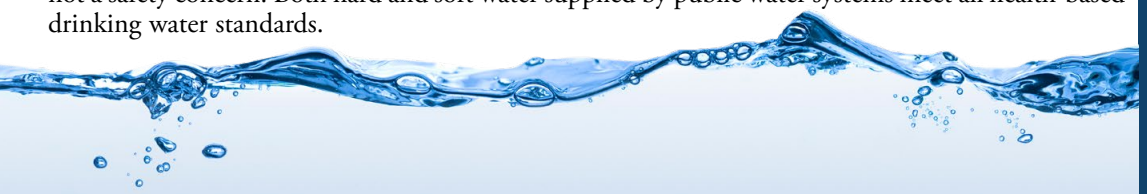
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aggressiveness Index (units)	2023–2025	11.6	10.7–12.1	NA
Alkalinity (ppm)	2023–2025	77.0	53–140	NA
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2023–2025	63.0	27–120	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2023–2025	9.2	ND–25	NA
Carbonate (ppm)	2023–2025	14.0	ND–58	NA
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2025	24.7	4.4–63	NA
Langelier Index (units)	2023–2025	-0.362	-0.362–0.18	NA
Magnesium (ppm)	2023–2025	0.4	ND–1.8	NA
pH (units)	2023–2025	8.5	7.1–9.2	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2023–2025	37.2	21–110	NA
Sulfate (ppm)	2023–2025	7.8	3.5–17	NA

[1] This was a secondary MCL violation. Secondary MCL violations do not pose a health risk, but can cause aesthetic challenges if exceeded.

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

Hard vs. Soft Water

Hard water contains higher levels of naturally occurring minerals, primarily calcium and magnesium. These minerals are not harmful to human health and can even contribute beneficial nutrients. However, hard water can cause scale buildup in pipes, appliances, and fixtures. Soft water has lower mineral content and allows soap to lather more easily. It also helps extend the life of water heaters, washing machines, and plumbing fixtures. Hardness levels vary widely depending on local geological and groundwater conditions. Some households choose to install water softeners to reduce scaling and improve appliance efficiency. It is important to note that water hardness is a quality issue, not a safety concern. Both hard and soft water supplied by public water systems meet all health-based drinking water standards.



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.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

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.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

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).

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