2025 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: **Sierra Outdoor School-5500171** Report Date: February 12, 2026

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025 and may include earlier monitoring data.

Type of water source(s) in use: Groundwater

Name & general location of source(s): Well No. 1 (001 Standby) Well No. 2 (003Main)

Drinking Water Source Assessment information: Completed in September 2001 the source is considered most vulnerable To the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants in the water supply: Wells-Water Supply, Septic Systems-Low Density (<1 Acre) A copy of the complete assessment is available or you may request a summary by contacting Merced District SWRCB-Division of Drinking Water (559) 447-3300

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: N/A

For more information, contact: Jake Phone: 209-743-4933

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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 (U.S. EPA).

Public Health Goal (PHG): 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Variances and Exemptions: Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

ND: not detectable at testing limit
ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
ppq: parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L)
pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

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 byproducts 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 Board 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.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, ,7 and 8 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

TABLE 1 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants (complete if bacteria detected)	**Highest No. of Detections**	**No. of Months in Violation**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Typical Source of Bacteria**
E. coli (state Total Coliform Rule)	(In the year) 0	0	(a)	0	Human and animal fecal waste

(a) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for total coliform bacteria on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. Water systems send their drinking water samples to a laboratory for regulatory testing. In April 2025 we were unaware that the laboratory's accreditation for bacteria testing had expired on March 31, 2025. Bacteriological water samples were collected and analyzed by the laboratory after its accreditation had expired and therefore, the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water did not accept the results for regulatory compliance in April 2025. The potential health effects are unknown.

TABLE 2 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (complete if lead or copper detected in the last sample set)	**Sample Date**	**No. of Samples Collected**	**90th Percentile Level Detected**	**No. Sites Exceeding AL**	**AL**	**PHG**	**No. of Schools Requesting Lead Sampling**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Lead (ppb)	2025	5	ND	0	15	0.2		Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2025	5	.392	0	1.3	0.3	Not applicable	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

TABLE 3 – SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	**Sample Date**	**Level Detected**	**Range of Detections**	**MCL**	**PHG (MCLG)**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Sodium (ppm)	2011	5.85	4.8-6.9	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	2011	71	64-77	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

TABLE 4 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Free Chlorine Residual (ppm) as Cl_2	2025	1.4	.78-2.3	4	4	Disinfection additive for water treatment
Nitrate @ N (ppm)	2025	ND	NA	10	10	Runoff/leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethaness (ppb)	2023	2.9	NA	80	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2023	4.8	NA	60	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride (ppb)	2024	.128	NA	2	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

TABLE 5 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity	2011	1.5	0.12-2.9	5	NA	Soil runoff
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2011	110	102-118	1000	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	2011	176	166-185	1600	NA	Substances that form ions in water; seawater influence
Chloride (ppm)	2011	2	2-2	500	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Aluminum (ppm)	2020	17.5	NA	1	.6	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Silver (ppb)	2020	3.1	NA	100	NA	Industrial discharge
Sulfate (ppm)	2011	11	7-14	500	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Iron (ppb)	2025	644*	ND-2630	300	NA	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2025	8.5	ND-43.8	50	NA	Leaching from natural deposits
Zinc (ppb)	2025	20150*	1300-39000	5000	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

TABLE 6 – DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Notification Level	Health Effects Language
1,2,3-Trichloropropane	2018	ND	NA	.005	May be a carcinogenic to humans

Summary Information for Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

VIOLATION OF A MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, OR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT

- Iron & Zinc were found at levels that exceed the secondary MCL of 300µg/L and 5000µg/L respectively. The MCL was set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects (e.g., color, taste and odor) and staining of plumbing fixtures (e.g., tubs & sinks) and clothing while washing. The high level is due to leaching from natural deposits.

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791).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. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (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 (1-800-426-4791). 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. Sierra Outdoor School 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 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/lead.

For Water Systems Providing Groundwater as a Source of Drinking Water

TABLE 7 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING FECAL INDICATOR-POSITIVE GROUNDWATER SOURCE SAMPLES

Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct Violation	Health Effects Language
NONE				

TABLE 8 – SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING FECAL INDICATOR-POSITIVE GROUNDWATER SOURCE SAMPLES

Microbiological Contaminants (complete if fecal-indicator detected)	Total No. of Detections	Sample Dates	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
E. coli	(In the year) 0	2025	0	(0)	Human and animal fecal waste
Enterococci	(In the year) 0	2025	TT	N/A	Human and animal fecal waste
Coliphage	(In the year) 0	2025	TT	N/A	Human and animal fecal waste

Summary Information for Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule Level 1 and Level 2 Assessment Requirements

Level 1 or Level 2 Assessment Requirement not Due to an *E. coli* MCL Violation

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. In 2025 we were not required to conduct Level 1 or 2 assessments