

PUBLISHED IN 2022



CITY OF SANTA PAULA

# **WATER QUALITY REPORT 2021**



# MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM WATER OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Customer:

On behalf of the Santa Paula Water Division, I am pleased to present you with the 2021 annual water quality report. Historically, drinking water suppliers were required to mail their customers a paper copy of the supplier's annual water quality report. Changes in federal and state regulations have eliminated this requirement, allowing water supply agencies to deliver their reports via several alternative methods, including electronically. This marks the second year Santa Paula Water Division will make its water quality report available primarily in an electronic format, which will continue to save ratepayer money by avoiding the costs normally involved with printing and mailing out nearly 8,000 copies of the report. While the method we use to provide you with important information about your drinking water may be changing, much else will remain the same, including the commitment of our employees to provide Santa Paula residents with safe, reliable drinking water. Over the past year, our dedicated team of water quality experts performed hundreds of tests on over 100 drinking water contaminants to ensure that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water quality regulations. Our testing performed in 2021 determined that the City of Santa Paula's drinking water supply has once again complied with all state and federal drinking water standards. I hope you will take some time to read through this year's report. Should you have any additional questions about the report or any other water quality issues in the City of Santa Paula, please feel free to contact our water treatment/production staff at (805) 525-7870 Ext. 303.

Sincerely,

Rod Paniagua  
Interim Water Operations Superintendent



# OUR MISSION CONTINUES



We are once again pleased to present our annual Consumer Confidence Report which covers all water quality testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2021. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing potable (drinking) water that meets or exceeds all State and Federal drinking water quality standards. Our mission includes continually striving to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family. We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report.

## IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

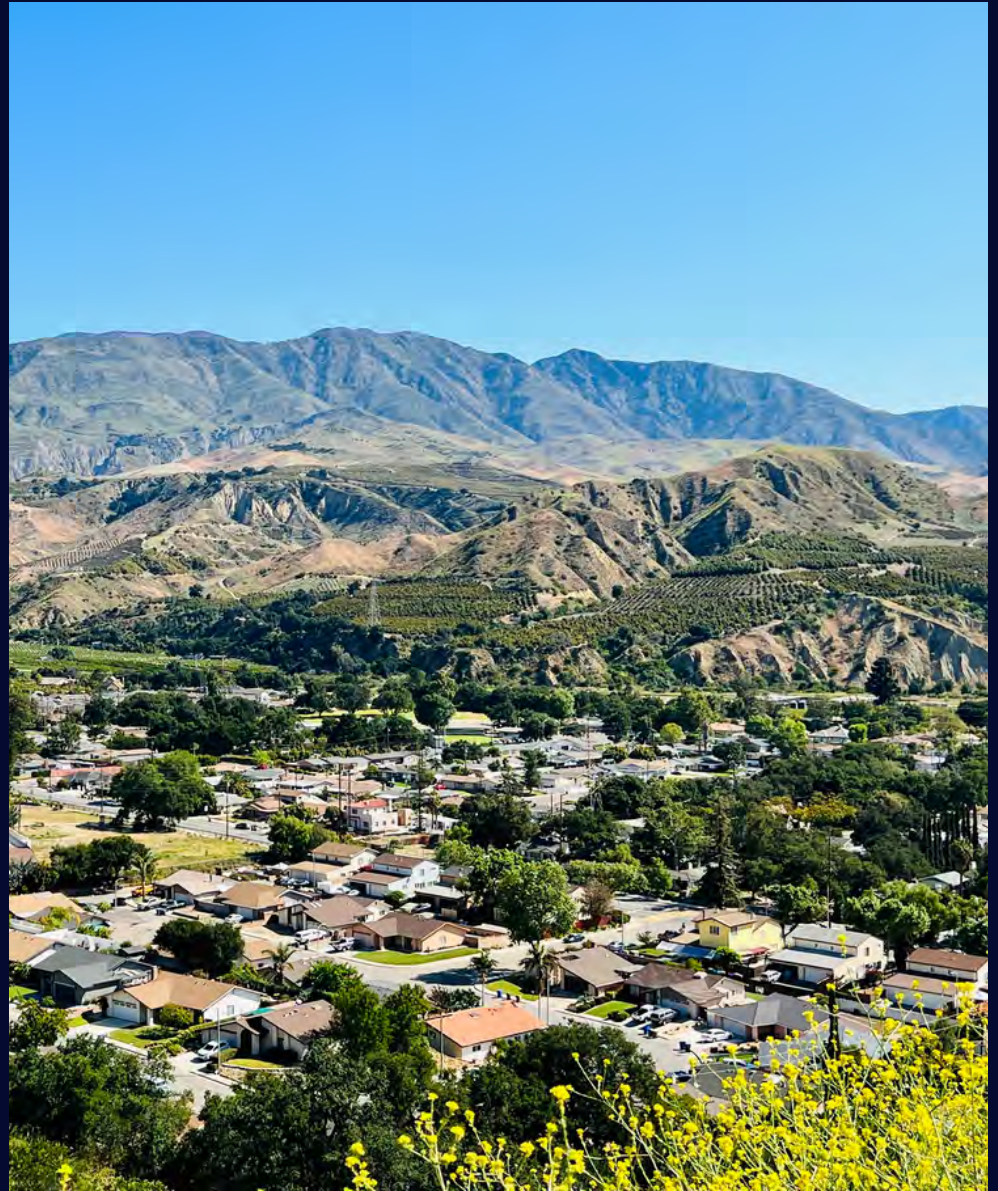
Drinking water quality standards exist to protect our general population. However, a portion of our population may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Individuals who are immunocompromised such as: those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from low-level contaminants. It is always recommended that such individuals seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

In addition, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provide guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants, via the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or by visiting the website at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

# SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The City of Santa Paula's (City) source water assessment was completed in September 2002 with the assistance of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water. This assessment indicated that the City's water source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: Sewer collection systems, wells-agricultural/irrigation, NPDES/WDR permitted discharges, automotive body shops, machine shops, metal plating/finishing/ fabricating, historic gas stations, and underground storage tanks-confirmed leaking tanks.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at either the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water office, 1180 Eugenia Place, Suite 200, Carpinteria, CA 93013, or at the City's, Public Works office, 866 E Main St, Santa Paula, CA 93060. You may request that a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting Jeff Densmore, SWRCB District Engineer, at (805) 566-1326.





## TEST RESULTS

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. The information in the data tables below indicate the concentration of substances that were detected between January 1 and December 31, 2021. It is important to note, the measured detection of any given substance does not make the drinking water unsafe to consume; our goal is not only to provide the data to the City's constituents but also to ensure the concentration of all substances are below their respective maximum allowed levels. Additionally, the State recommends monitoring for certain substances less often than once per year. This is because concentrations of such substances do not change on an annual basis. For such substances, the table below demonstrates the most recent sample data and the year in which the such sample was taken.

The City participated in the 4th stage of the USEPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the USEPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if the USEPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. The monitoring data found in the UCMR4 study are available to the public. Please contact the City's Public Works office if you are interested in obtaining the study information. If you would like more information on the USEPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule program, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Primary Drinking Water Standards

| Chemical or Constituents      | Years Sampled | Average Level Detected | Range of Detections | MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG] | Violation | Typical Source                                                                                                                                                                  | Health Effects Language                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Arsenic                       | 2021          | 2                      | n/a                 | 10         | 0.004              | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes                                                                                      | Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Fluoride (mg/L)               | 2020          | 0.4                    | 0.4 - 0.5           | 2          | 1                  | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories                                                       | Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the federal MCL of 4 mg/L over many years may get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the state MCL of 2 mg/L may get mottled teeth.                                                                                                                                         |
| Nitrate as N (mg/L)           | 2021          | 3.5                    | 1.5 - 5.1           | 10         | 10                 | No        | Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits                                                                     | Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL may quickly become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die because high nitrate levels can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. High nitrate levels may also affect the oxygen-carrying ability of the blood of pregnant women. |
| Nitrate + Nitrite as N (mg/L) | 2020          | 2.5                    | ND - 5.2            | 10         | 10                 | No        | Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits                                                                     | Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrite in excess of the MCL may quickly become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Selenium (ug/L)               | 2020          | 10                     | ND - 32             | 50         | 30                 | No        | Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive) | Selenium is an essential nutrient. However, some people who drink water containing selenium in excess of the MCL over many years may experience hair or fingernail losses, numbness in fingers or toes, or circulation system problems.                                                                                                                                                                                   |

# Secondary Drinking Water Standards

| Chemical or Constituents        | Years Sampled | Average Level Detected | Range of Detections | MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG] | Violation | Typical Source                                              | Health Effects Language                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chloride (mg/L)                 | 2020          | 48                     | 42 - 58             | 500        | n/a                | No        | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence   | Note: There are no PHGs, MCLGs, or mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents because secondary MCLs are set on the basis of aesthetic concerns. *MCL violation is based on the average of four quarterly samples exceeding an MCL.                                                                                                   |
| Color (Units)                   | 2020          | 1                      | ND - 10             | 15         | n/a                | No        | Naturally-occurring organic materials                       | Note: There are no PHGs, MCLGs, or mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents because secondary MCLs are set on the basis of aesthetic concerns. *MCL violation is based on the average of four quarterly samples exceeding an MCL.                                                                                                   |
| Specific Conductance (umhos/cm) | 2020          | 1423                   | 1250 - 1560         | 1600       | n/a                | No        | Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence | Note: There are no PHGs, MCLGs, or mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents because secondary MCLs are set on the basis of aesthetic concerns. *MCL violation is based on the average of four quarterly samples exceeding an MCL.                                                                                                   |
| Sulfate (mg)                    | 2020          | 407                    | 311 - 470           | 500        | n/a                | No        | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes    | Note: There are no PHGs, MCLGs, or mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents because secondary MCLs are set on the basis of aesthetic concerns. *MCL violation is based on the average of four quarterly samples exceeding an MCL.                                                                                                   |
| Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)   | 2020          | 989                    | 620 - 1140          | 1000       | n/a                | No        | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits                       | Note: There are no PHGs, MCLGs, or mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents because secondary MCLs are set on the basis of aesthetic concerns. *MCL violation is based on the average of four quarterly samples exceeding an MCL.                                                                                                   |
| Turbidity (NTU)                 | 2020          | 0.2                    | ND - 1.1            | 5          | n/a                | No        | Soil runoff                                                 | Turbidity has no health effects. However, high levels of turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. |

## Radioactive Contaminants

| Chemical or Constituents | Years Sampled | Average Level Detected | Range of Detections | MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG] | Violation | Typical Source              | Health Effects Language                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gross Alpha (pCi/L)      | 2020          | 5.68                   | 3.75 - 8.96         | 15         | (0)                | No        | Erosion of natural deposits | Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. |
| Uranium (pCi/L)          | 2020          | 3.99                   | 3.55 -4.61          | 20         | 0.43               | No        | Erosion of natural deposits | Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have kidney problems or an increased risk of getting cancer.                                                                                 |

## Regulated Contaminants with no MCL's

| Chemical or Constituents | Years Sampled | Average Level Detected | Range Low-High | Notification Level | Typical Source                                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aggressive Index         | 2020          | 12.2                   | 12 - 12.3      | n/a                | n/a                                                                  |
| Alkalinity (mg/L)        | 2020          | 248                    | 230 - 280      | n/a                | n/a                                                                  |
| Boron (mg/L)             | 2020          | 0.6                    | 0.5 - 0.6      | 1                  | Naturally occurring element found in rocks, soil, water and seawater |
| Calcium (mg/L)           | 2020          | 149                    | 144 - 146      | n/a                | n/a                                                                  |
| Hardness (mg/L)          | 2020          | 539                    | 525 - 553      | n/a                | n/a                                                                  |
| Langelier Index          | 2020          | 0.5                    | 0.4 - 0.6      | n/a                | n/a                                                                  |
| Magnesium (mg/L)         | 2020          | 43                     | 39 - 47        | n/a                | n/a                                                                  |
| pH (units)               | 2020          | 7.5                    | 7.4 - 7.6      | n/a                | n/a                                                                  |
| Sodium (mg/L)            | 2020          | 92                     | 89 - 94        | n/a                | Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring       |



## Microbial Contaminants

| Chemical or Constituents | Number of Samples Collected | Average Level Detected | Range of Detections | MCL | PHG (MCLG) | Violation | Typical Source                       | Health Effects Language                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----|------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Total Coliform Bacteria  | 520                         | 0                      | 0                   | -   | (0)        | No        | Naturally present in the environment | Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms that are found in more samples than allowed would be a warning of potential problems. |

(State Total Coliform Rule) MCL: Systems that collect 40 or more samples/month: 5.0% of monthly samples are positive:  
Systems that collect less than 40 samples/month: 1 positive monthly sample

|                           |     |   |   |   |     |    |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------|-----|---|---|---|-----|----|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fecal Coliform and E.coli | 520 | 0 | 0 | - | (0) | No | Human and animal fecal waste | Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. |
|---------------------------|-----|---|---|---|-----|----|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

(State Total Coliform Rule) MCL: A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive and one of these is also fecal coliform or E.coli positive

## Lead and Copper Monitoring 2019

| Chemical or Constituents | Number of Samples | Level Detected 90th %ile | Number of Sites Exceeding AL | AL  | PHG (MCLG) | Violation | Major Sources in Drinking Water                                                                                               | Health Effects Language                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----|------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Copper                   | 42                | 0.32                     | 0                            | 1.3 | 0.3        | No        | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives               | Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time may experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years may suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. |
| Lead                     | 42                | 1.4                      | 0                            | 15  | 0.2        | No        | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers, erosion of natural deposits | Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level may experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children may show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years may develop kidney problems or high blood pressure                                                                        |

# Disinfection/Disinfectant Byproduct Rule

| Chemical or Constituents             | Years Sampled | Average Level Detected | Range Low-High | MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) | Violation | Major Sources in Drinking Water           | Health Effects Language                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ug/L) | 2021          | 16                     | 8.0 - 16       | 80         | n/a        | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection | Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. |
| Haloacetic Acids (five) (ug/L)       | 2021          | 3                      | 2 - 3          | 60         | n/a        | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection | Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.                                                                      |

## DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The preceding tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

### 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 that, 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

### NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):

Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

### 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.

### ug/l:

Micrograms per liter or one part per billion

### mg/l:

Milligrams per liter or one part per million

### TT (Treatment Technique):

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter):

A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Santa Paula's source of water is 100% groundwater, pumped from the Santa Paula Basin. The basin is made up of hundreds of feet of sands and gravels deposited in the Santa Clara Valley and the mouth of the Santa Paula Canyon, which contain millions of gallons of water between the sand and gravel particles. The Santa Paula Basin extends from the Hallock Drive area on the east to the Wells Road area on the west. The City of Santa Paula owns and operates five deep wells: Well 1-B, Well 11, Well 12, Well 13, and Well 14. With these five wells, the water system can produce up to 5.1 million gallons of potable water per day.

The City operates two water conditioning facilities: the Well 12 Water Conditioning Facility and the Steckel Water Conditioning Facility. Both facilities remove iron and manganese from the water. Although neither iron nor manganese is itself a health concern, water containing high levels of iron will look rusty and stain fixtures and laundry. Similarly, water with high levels of manganese will contain black particles that may stain laundry and fixtures and plug appliance screens. The Well 12 Water Conditioning Facility treats water produced by Well 12. The Steckel Water Conditioning Facility treats water produced from Wells 11, 13, and 14.



## Community Participation

The City of Santa Paula Water System is managed as an enterprise function by the City of Santa Paula. The Water Division of the Public Works Department operates and maintains the water system. Comments about the water system can be forwarded to the City Council, which meets on the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month at 6:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, 970 Ventura Street, Santa Paula, California.

## Questions?

Questions? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call the acting Chief Water Operator, at (805) 933-4282.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

## Projects in the Pipeline

### Well 12 Rehabilitation

In early 2021, Public Works Department assessed the condition of the water treatment facility and concluded improvements to this facility are necessary. We are currently working with a professional design engineering company to design the much needed improvements. These improvements include designing and specifying a new onsite generator, installation of a new overhead cover for critical equipment, and potentially replacing/condensing the existing chemical treatment storage tanks into a single unit. The Well 12 treatment facility improvements are necessary to ensure the City's continued uninterrupted production and delivery of quality water.

### SCADA System Update

SCADA stands for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition, and it is a programming and maintenance technology system that provides the City of Santa Paula's Water Department with a comprehensive and reliable window through which they can control and monitor the water system. With the City's two water treatment plants, ten booster pump stations, ten storage facilities, and five groundwater wells, an updated and reliable SCADA system is a necessity. The City consulted with a professional engineering and programming firm to update the existing decade old system. The project is approaching completion, and the new system is already being implemented in some capacity. With improved reliability and security, the upgraded SCADA system will improve the City's ability to monitor and maintain the water system.

## Projects in the Pipeline

### Mesa Tank Replacement Project

In mid-2020, the Public Works Department laid out plans for replacing Mesa Tank #1 and Mesa Tank #2, two 230,000-gallon water storage tanks near the Santa Paula Hospital. In 2018, a study revealed that both tanks, built in 1960 and 1994, were in poor condition and did not meet emergency storage requirements. These tanks are being replaced by two modern water storage tanks with greater capacity that will meet or even exceed the requirements of State and City drinking water storage guidelines, once again illustrating the Public Works Department's commitment to providing residents with the highest quality water services.

### Canyon Booster Pump Upgrades

In the continued vein of modernization and revitalization, the Public Works Department is working with an engineering firm to help design the Canyon Booster Pump upgrades. Located near Ojai Road on the northern edge of town, the current Canyon Booster Pump Station is over 20 years old. The new designed station will include a backup booster pump, and an onsite emergency generator, updated instrumentation, and an enclosure to protect the operational instrumentation. Like the Well 12 Rehabilitation project, the Canyon Booster Pump upgrades will ensure the City's continued uninterrupted delivery of quality water.

### Harvard Boulevard Water and Sewer Main Replacement and Street Improvement Project

In December 2021, City Council approved the Harvard Boulevard Project, a long-awaited, comprehensive revitalization project that is set to start in the summer of 2022. The Project can be divided into three areas of focus: water, sewer, and streets. Like many pipelines throughout the City, the water and sewer infrastructure beneath Harvard is over 100 years old. This explains why Harvard must undergo a complete infrastructure upgrade, rather than a simple re-paving of the asphalt. Ultimately, Harvard Boulevard will soon have over 16,000 feet of new water and sewer lines, 48 curb ramps reconstructed for disabled access, a lighted crosswalk replacement at Laurie Street and 5th Street, and over 720,000 square feet of pavement rehabilitation from Peck Road to 10th Street.

## Educational Information

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 (1-800-426-4791)

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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, agriculture and livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals that may be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides 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 applications, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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. Ventura Water 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 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/lead>

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Drinking Water (DDW) prescribe regulations that limit the number of 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. 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. USEPA/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.