

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By



Introduction

To be environmentally and fiscally conscientious, Sutter Community Services District has moved to digital delivery of our annual report for 2025 via our website at sutterwater.com/ccr. If you would like to receive a paper copy, contact our office. 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.

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 (800-426-4791) or epa.gov/safewater.

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.



Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) has been completed. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants:

Wells 1 and 2C: Septic systems, agricultural drainage, unauthorized dumping.

Well 3: Gas stations, septic systems, pesticides/fertilizer/petroleum transfer and storage.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the SWRCB Valley District, 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101, Redding, CA 96002 (contact: James Reade, (530) 224-2485) or at Sutter Community Services District, 1880 Acacia Avenue, Sutter, CA 95982 (contact: Laura Jones, (530) 755-1733).

Where Does My Water Come From?

Our drinking water supply is provided entirely by groundwater. Groundwater is rain and snow that soaks through the ground and continues to move downward through pore space (small openings) in the soil until it reaches the aquifer under the city. The district operates three groundwater wells and a 750,000-gallon storage tank. We serve over 1,120 homes, schools, and businesses.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or any questions about your water quality, please call Laura Jones, General Manager, at (530) 755-1733.

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 geology 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.



— BY THE NUMBERS —



82

The average number of gallons of water an American uses per day.



27%

The percent of household water use attributable to toilets.



700

The average number of gallons that a household can save each year with water-efficient fixtures.



50-100

The typical design lifespan of underground drinking water pipes, in years.

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, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and Herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

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

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and 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 (1-800-426-4791).



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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

				Well 1		Well 3		Well 2C			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2023	10	0.004	8.4	NA	8.5	NA	8.3 ¹	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	2017	2.0	1	0.10	NA	0.12 ²	NA	0.16 ¹	NA	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)	8.1	NA	1.48	NA	4.21 ²	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2025	10	10	3.1	NA	0.64	NA	1.2	NA	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.33	ND-0.53	0/10	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	ND	NA	0/10	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES³

				Well 1		Well 3		Well 2C			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Hardness, Total [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2017	150	NA	282 ²	NA	150.0 ¹	NA	NA			
Sodium (ppm)	08/05/2024	19	NA	22 ⁴	NA	24.0 ⁵	NA	Erosion and leaching of natural deposits			

¹ Sampled in 2025.

² Sampled in 2019.

³ Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

⁴ Sampled on July 31, 2019.

⁵ Sampled on July 7, 2025.



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).

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. Sutter Community Services District 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 or galvanized requiring replacement service line, 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 Sutter Community Services District at (530) 755-1733. 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 at the Sutter Community Services District office. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.



Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns or questions about your drinking water. The board of directors meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 1880 Acacia Avenue.

Board of Directors:

- David Williams, President
- Joel Farias Jr., Vice President
- Robert Ripley, Director
- Gregg Burgess, Director
- Brandon Hunt, Director