

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



Presented By
**Sutter Community
Services District**



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, 2023. 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?

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. We have applied for grant funding for a new storage tank.

“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.”

—Benjamin Franklin

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 the district office, 1880 Acacia Avenue.

Board of Directors:

David Williams, *President*

Joel Farias Jr., *Vice President*

Jim Barringer, *Director*

Greg Burgess, *Director*

Brandon Hunt, *Director*



Additional Information

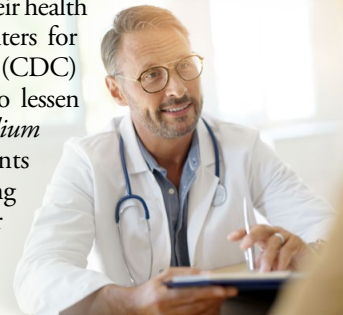
In May 2023, a sample from Well 1 tested positive for *E. coli* and coliform. All repeat samples for Well 1 were below the laboratory detection limit for both. In November 2023, one routine sample was positive for coliform but negative for *E. coli*. All repeat samples were below the detection limit for both contaminants.

Important Health Information

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. Environmental Protection Agency (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.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million (ppm) is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 ppm may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The 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 <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about this report or your water in general, contact Laura Jones, General Manager, at (530) 755-1733.

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (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. 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.

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 can 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

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

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.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

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.

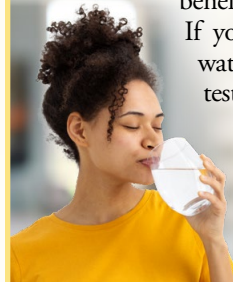
Well 3: Gas stations, septic systems, pesticides/fertilizer/petroleum transfer and storage.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the State Board, Valley District, 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101, Redding, or Sutter Community Services District, 1880 Acacia Avenue, Sutter. For more information, contact Reese Crenshaw, State Board, at (530) 224-4861, or Laura Jones, Sutter Community Services District, at (530) 755-1733.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



Think before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing of them responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit <https://bit.ly/3IeRyXy>.

BY THE NUMBERS



5.1 TRILLION

The dollar value needed to keep water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in good repair.



12 THOUSAND

The average amount in gallons of water used to produce one megawatt-hour of electricity.



2

How often in minutes a water main breaks.



47.5 TRILLION

The amount in gallons of water used to meet U.S. electric power needs in 2020.



1.7 TRILLION

The gallons of drinking water lost each year to faulty, aging, or leaky pipes.



33

The percentage of water sector employees who will be eligible to retire in 2033.

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).

Table Talk

Get the most out of the Testing Results data table with this simple suggestion. In less than a minute, you will know all there is to know about your water:

For each substance listed, compare the value in the Amount Detected column against the value in the MCL (or AL, SMCL) column. If the Amount Detected value is smaller, your water meets the health and safety standards set for the substance.

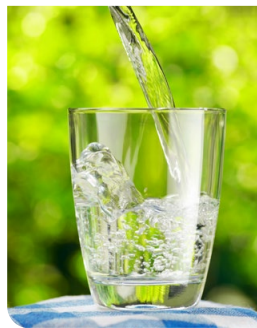
Other Table Information Worth Noting

Verify that there were no violations of the state and/or federal standards in the Violation column. If there was a violation, you will see a detailed description of the event in this report.

If there is an ND or a less-than symbol (<), that means that the substance was not detected (i.e., below the detectable limits of the testing equipment).

The Range column displays the lowest and highest sample readings. If there is an NA showing, that means only a single sample was taken to test for the substance (assuming there is a reported value in the Amount Detected column).

If there is sufficient evidence to indicate from where the substance originates, it will be listed under Typical Source.



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. Although *E. coli* was detected, the water system is not in violation of the *E. coli* maximum contaminant level (MCL).

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 are 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	10 ¹	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Carbofuran (ppb)	2022	18	0.7	NA	NA	ND	NA	ND ²	NA	No	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice, alfalfa, and vineyards
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	2.0	1	0.10 ³	NA	0.12	NA	0.12	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2016	15	(0)	6.1	NA	2.22	NA	4.21 ²	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2023	10	10	3.1	NA	0.74	NA	7.5	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)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.33	0/10	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0.2	ND	0/10	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES⁴

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ⁴									
			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	367 ¹	NA	NA
Sodium (ppm)	08/2015		24	NA	22 ⁵	NA	33 ⁶	NA	Erosion; leaching of natural deposits

¹ Sampled in 2022.

² Sampled in 2019.

³ Sampled in 2017.

⁴ Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the State Board determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

⁵ Sampled on July 31, 2019.

⁶ Sampled on July 13, 2022.

