ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By

South Tahoe Public Utility District

PWS ID#: CA0910002

Our Commitment

The South Tahoe Public Utility District is 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 from January 1 through December 31, 2025. Included are details about your sources 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 and protect our water resources.

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.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The District's network of 11 active wells supplies water to more than 14,000 homes and businesses. All your drinking water is pumped from the aquifer beneath our feet – the Tahoe Valley South Subbasin. More information about our aquifer and groundwater management can be found at stpud.us/drinking-water.

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. The District's water supply is sourced solely from groundwater 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 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Dan Arce, Laboratory Director, at (530) 544-6474, ext. 6231.

Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through them.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use, and avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

> **"Water is the driving force of all nature."**
>
> *–Leonardo da Vinci*

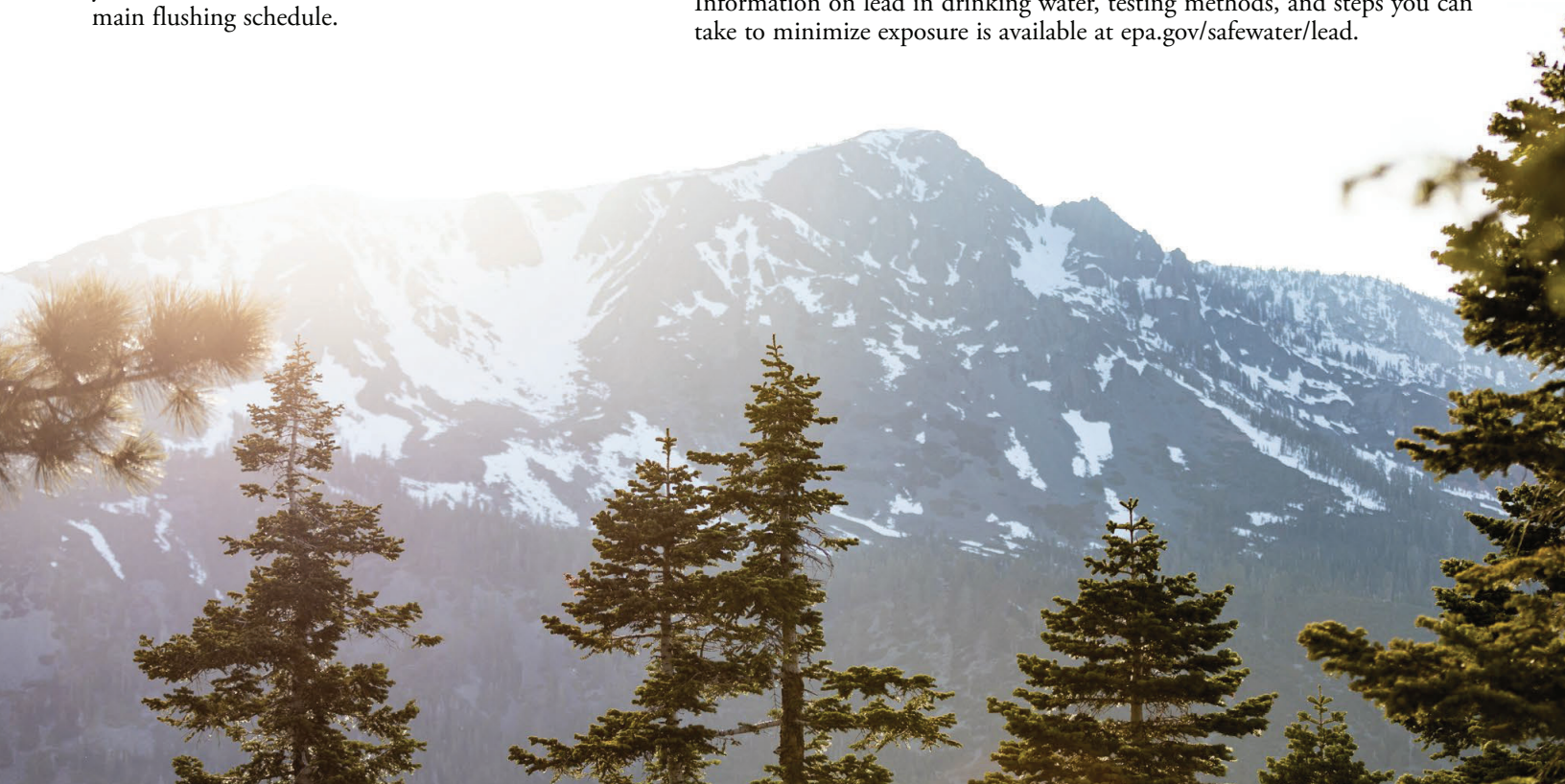
Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

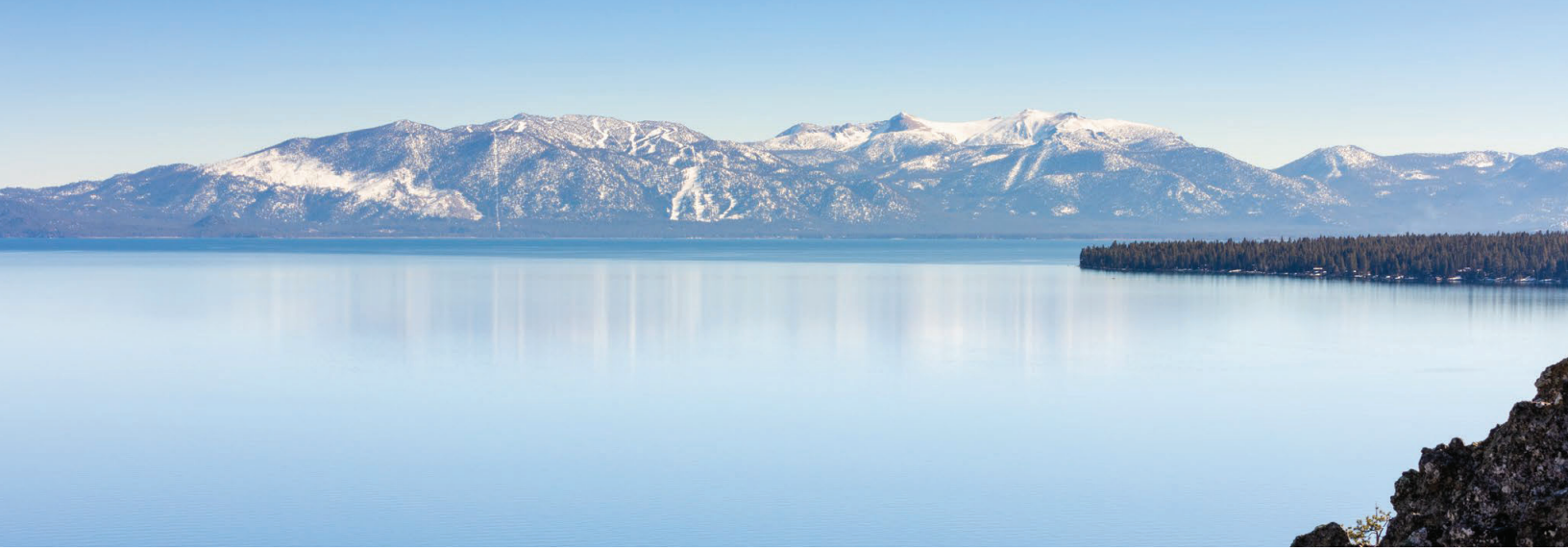
Lead in Home Plumbing

To comply with the U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, the District assessed the material of water service lines in our system to ensure there was no lead. The Division of Drinking Water approved our plan to use historical records and stratified random sampling based on the date of installation and the number of verifications per tier to verify water service line material. We field-verified 370 random water service lines between August and November 2025. These efforts confirmed there are no lead service lines within South Tahoe Public Utility District's water system. More information about the District's lead service inventory may be found at stpud.us/water-service-line-inventory. Please contact us at (530) 544-6474 if you would like more information about the inventory or lead sampling that has been done.

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. The 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 the district's laboratory at (530) 544-6474, ext. 6231. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.





Arsenic Regulation

Arsenic contamination of drinking water sources may result from either natural or human activities. Volcanic activity, erosion of rocks and minerals, and forest fires are natural sources that can release arsenic into the environment. Although about 90 percent of the arsenic used by industry is for wood preservative purposes, it is also used in paints, drugs, dyes, soaps, metals, and semiconductors. Agricultural applications, mining, and smelting also contribute to arsenic releases. Arsenic is usually found in the environment combined with other elements such as oxygen, chlorine, and sulfur (inorganic arsenic) or carbon and hydrogen (organic arsenic). Organic forms are usually less harmful than inorganic forms.

Low levels of arsenic are naturally present in water at about 2 ppb. You normally take in small amounts of arsenic in the water you drink. Some areas of the country have unusually high natural levels of arsenic in rock, which can lead to unusually high levels of arsenic in water.

The District's wells were monitored for arsenic in 2025 and were all below the maximum contaminant level.

Community Participation

The District is governed by an elected five-member board of directors. Board meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the District's boardroom at 1275 Meadow Crest Dr, South Lake Tahoe. All meetings are open to the public, and the District encourages our customers to attend, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Testing for Radon

Our wells were monitored for radon in 2025, and the results of that testing are provided later in this report. There is currently no federal regulation for radon levels in drinking water. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be a small source in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem. For additional information, call California's Radon Program at (800) 745-7236, the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791, or the National Safety Council Radon Hotline at (800) 767-7236.

What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/ wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit bit.ly/3Z5AMm8.

Table Talk

Get the most out of the Testing Results data table with these simple suggestions. 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 (Maximum Contaminant Level) (or AL or SMCL) column. If the Amount Detected value is smaller, your water meets the health and safety standards set for the substance.
- Verify that there were no violations of the state or federal standards in the Violation column. The District has not had a violation for over 20 years.
- 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. NA 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.

Source Water Assessment and Protection

The District continues to work diligently to protect and maintain our groundwater quality and adequate water supply. The District's Groundwater Management Plan (California Water Code section 10750) is on file with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). You may view the document by visiting stpud.us or by requesting a copy by calling Customer Service at (530) 544-6474. The District has an ongoing drinking water source development program that seeks potential drinking water well locations. Due to the volume of the average annual Sierra snowpack and Lake Tahoe itself, our aquifer has a significant recharge capability.

Groundwater in South Lake Tahoe is generally of excellent quality, though it has faced threats from both natural and human-made contaminants. Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) plumes in the South Y area led the District to remove affected wells from service and develop new, uncontaminated sources. Naturally occurring arsenic, uranium, and gross alpha particle activity have been found in parts of the aquifer; one district well requires arsenic treatment to meet water quality standards. Infiltration basins used for stormwater recharge also pose potential risks, but these are effectively managed through careful well siting, design, and wellhead treatment.

Test Results

The following tables list the drinking water contaminants monitored for the year of this report, unless otherwise noted. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The U.S. EPA and State Water Resources Control Board require water districts to monitor for certain contaminants less often than once per year based on results of previous testing. The District monitors for more contaminants than are listed in these tables. Contaminants not detected during testing are not shown in the tables.

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.

The District 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 or visit epa.gov/dwucmr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AVERAGE DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2025	10	0.004	2.5	ND–8.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2025	1	2	0.013	ND–0.044	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine, Free (ppm)	2025	4	4	0.47	ND–1.5	No	Added for drinking water disinfection
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	2.0	1	0.067	ND–0.180	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2025	10	10	0.18	0.030–0.507	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria (% positive each week)	2025	4	NA	0	0–1	No	Naturally present in the environment. A total of 1,419 Coliform and E. Coli samples were taken throughout the distribution system in 2025 as part of our routine monitoring.
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	2.6	ND–12	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Uranium (pCi/L)	2025	20	0.43	3.6	ND–12	No	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	0.61	ND–1.2	0/82	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0.2	2.9	ND–88	2/82	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AVERAGE DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2025	500	NS	8.7	0.75–65.2	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	2025	300	NS	ND	ND–17	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2025	50	NS	2.0	ND–6.0	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor, Threshold (TON)	2024	3	NS	ND	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Silver (ppb)	2025	100	NS	ND	NA	No	Industrial discharges
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2025	1,600	NS	140	100–344	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	500	NS	2.7	0.77–5.8	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2025	1,000	NS	101	83–211	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	5	NS	0.12	0.05–0.25	No	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	2025	5.0	NS	0.006	ND–0.020	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [1]				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AVERAGE DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity (ppm)	2025	54.5	46.3–66.6	NA
Bromide (ppm)	2025	0.020	ND–0.060	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2025	15.0	9.0–21.6	NA
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2025	47.2	25.2–79.0	NA
Magnesium (ppm)	2025	2.61	0.29–6.5	NA
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid [PFHpA] (ppt)	2024	0.4	ND–4.0	NA
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	2024	1.9	ND–12.3	NA
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppt)	2024	0.4	ND–4.0	NA
Perfluoropentanoic Acid [PFPeA] (ppt)	2024	2.5	ND–14	NA
Radon (pCi/L)	2025	1,607	232–4,050	Decay and erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2025	10.2	5.1–29.0	NA
Temperature - System (°F)	2025	52	36–74	NA
Vanadium (ppb)	2025	3.8	ND–6.2	NA

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.

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.

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).

TON (Threshold Odor Number): A measure of odor in water.

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

About Our Monitoring Violation

The State Water Resources Control Board established a new maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium of 10 parts per billion (ppb) on October 1, 2024. Samples were to be collected by April 1, 2025. The District sampled for hexavalent chromium from May through June 2025. The District's samples were all at or below 1.2 ppb. All water samples met drinking water standards.