

A Message from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Across America, the sources of both tap and bottled drinking 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 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, 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**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and SWRCB prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. SWRCB regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control 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.

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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.



Anderson Reservoir, photo courtesy of AJ Valdez

SAFEGUARDING YOUR WATER SUPPLY

PROTECTING our water supply is important to ensure that water is safe from contamination and aesthetically pleasing for use. Protection begins in the watersheds, where people and their activities can be a major cause of source contamination. Contamination requires additional treatment, which increases the cost to deliver water to your tap.

PARTICIPATING in public meetings and forums regarding water issues enables decision-makers to hear your perspective and allows you to be directly involved in protecting your water supply.

UNDERSTANDING that drinking water — including bottled water — may reasonably be expected to contain at least minute amounts of contaminants will help you make an informed choice about your drinking water. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate a health risk.



Justin Calderon, Water System Technician, ensures customers receive high quality water.

2015 DROUGHT EVERY DROP COUNTS

California is entering its fourth year of drought. The State Water Board and San José City Council declared an Emergency Water Shortage. Everyone is asked to reduce their water use by 30 percent. It is important that everyone reduce their water use not only to get us through this year, but also to better prepare us for next year in case the drought continues. Outdoor water use accounts for about half of the typical water bill and may be the easiest place to reduce your water use.

Here are some of the new rules.

- If using a sprinkler system, residents and businesses can only water outdoors on two designated days, and only before 10 a.m. and after 8 p.m.
 - Odd numbered addresses may water on Mondays and Thursdays;
 - Even numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays and Fridays;
 - Properties without an address may water on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Residents cannot wash cars at home with potable water. Instead, car washing can be done with gray water or at a commercial car washing facility which uses a recirculation system.
- Residents cannot refill residential swimming pools or outdoor spas more than one foot and no initial filling with potable water is allowed, with the exception of existing pools that are drained to make leak repairs.

Please view the full list of San José water use rules now in effect at www.sjenvironment.org/muniwater.

How do I report water wasters? Please report water wasters through the Santa Clara Valley Water District's hotline at 408-630-2000 or email drought@valleywater.org.

You may qualify for a rebate if you upgrade to more water-efficient fixtures or if you replace your lawn. For more information about rebate programs, call the Santa Clara Valley Water District at 408-265-2607, ext. 2554 or visit www.save20gallons.org.

For more water conservation tips, visit www.sjenvironment.org/waterconservation



About Us

THE SAN JOSE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM is a City-owned water utility that has served customers since 1961. We are committed to delivering a reliable water supply that meets or exceeds all drinking water health standards.

Our office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed holidays). For more information, visit our website at www.sjenvironment.org/muniwater or call 408-535-3500 (translation services are available).

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, City of San José Environmental Services Department materials can be made available upon request in alternative formats, such as Braille, large print, audiotape or computer disk. Requests may be made by calling 408-277-3671 (voice), 800-735-2929 (California Relay Service), or 408-294-9337 (TTY).

The City of San José is committed to open and honest government and strives to consistently meet the community's expectations by providing excellent service, in a positive and timely manner, and in the full view of the public.

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Definitions

- 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 technically feasible.
Secondary MCLs 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 USEPA.
- 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.
- NL** (Notification Level)
Health-based advisory levels established by the SWRCB for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels.
- PDWS** (Primary Drinking Water Standard)
MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring, reporting, 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 Environmental Protection Agency.
- Source Water**
Raw water that has not been treated to meet drinking water standards.
- Treated Water**
Water that has been treated to meet USEPA and SWRCB drinking water standards.
- Treatment Technique**
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Abbreviations:

- < less than
- AL Action Level
- CU Color Unit
- NA Not Applicable
- ND Not Detected
- NS No Standard
- NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- pCi/L pico Curies per liter
- ppb parts-per-billion (equals 1 microgram per liter (µg/L))
- ppm parts-per-million (equals 1 milligram per liter (mg/L))
- TON Threshold Odor Number
- TT Treatment Technique
- µS/cm microSiemens per centimeter

This brochure summarizes last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to drinking water standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

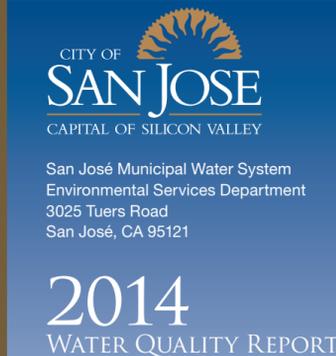


2014 WATER QUALITY REPORT

CITY OF SAN JOSE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SAN JOSE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM

Delivering World Class Utility Services and Programs to Improve Our Health, Environment and Economy



This report contains important information about your drinking water. We hope it will provide the facts and perspective you need to make an informed evaluation of your tap water. To view a copy, visit www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality.

這份報告包含了有關您的飲用水的重要資訊。請於 www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality 網址讀取這份報告的中文版。
이 설명서에는 여러분의 식수에 대한 중요한 정보들이 포함되어 있습니다. 한국어로 읽으시려면 www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality 로 가십시오.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para ver una copia en español visite la página de internet www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality.

Mahalaga ang impormasyong ito. Upang makabasa ng kopya sa Tagalog, pumunta sa www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality.

Bảng tin này có nhiều thông tin quan trọng về nước uống. Để xem bản tiếng Việt, xin viếng www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality.



