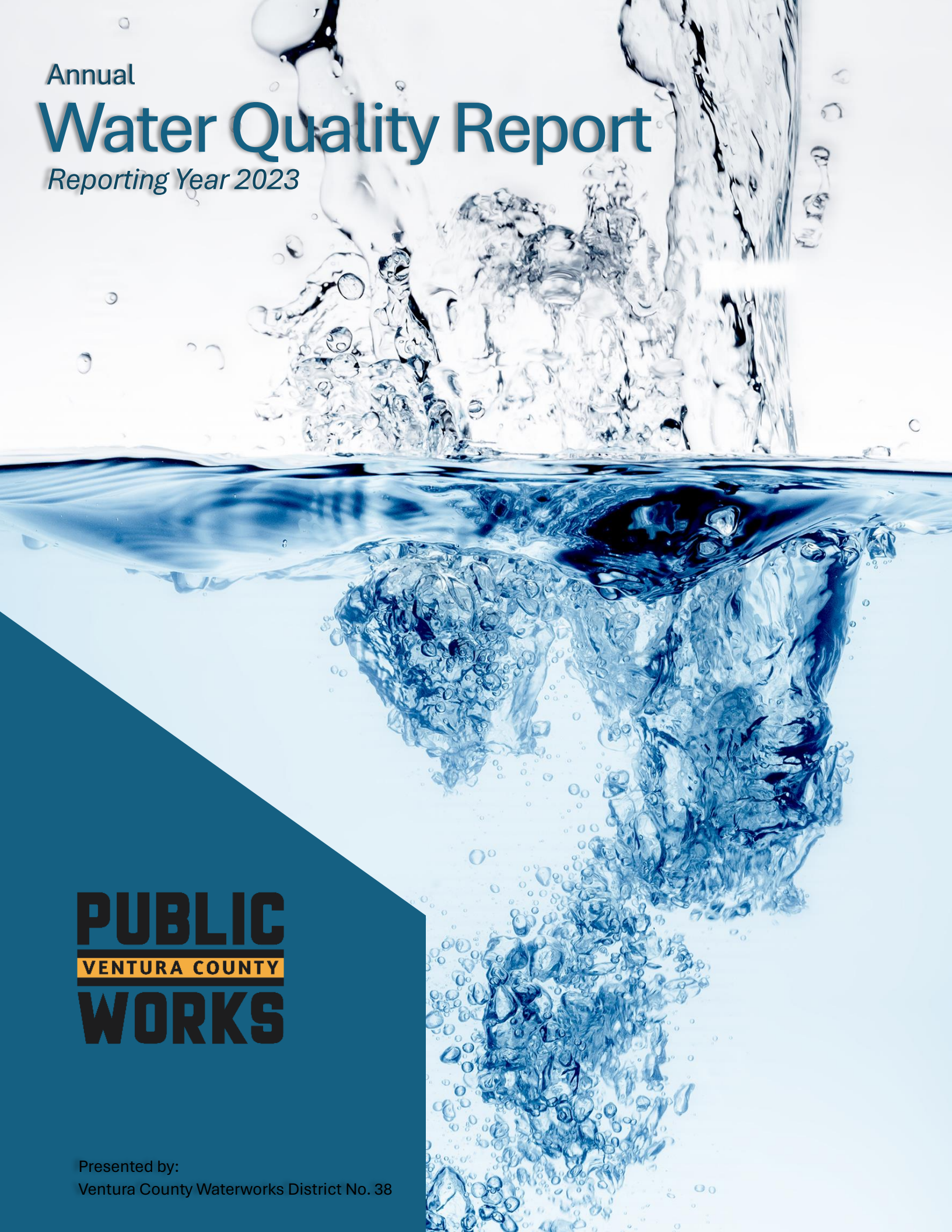
Annual

Water Quality Report

Reporting Year 2023



PUBLIC WORKS
VENTURA COUNTY

Presented by:
Ventura County Waterworks District No. 38

Maintaining High Standards

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report. This report covers the testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. We continue to maintain high standards in an effort to deliver a reliable water supply that meets Title 22 requirements. Please know that we will always work diligently to provide you with quality water at a reasonable cost. We will also remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, new local source water production, water conservation, community outreach and education while continuing to serve all your water needs.

We take our responsibility seriously for providing you and your family with quality drinking water. We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions or concerns, we are always available to assist you.

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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Ventura County Waterworks District Laboratory & Reclamation Facility

General Information About Water Sources

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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Where Does the District's Water Come From?

The District's water supply comes solely from the State Water Project. The State water originates in Northern California where it is captured in reservoirs north of Sacramento and released into the Delta of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. It is transported via the 444-mile California Aqueduct to State Water Project contractors such as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). The District water is filtered and disinfected by MWD at its Jensen Filtration Facility in Granada Hills. MWD then delivers the water to its 26-member agencies, including Calleguas Municipal Water District (CMWD), Ventura County's regional wholesale purveyor and the District's direct supplier.

The District provides water service through 792 service connections to over 1,759 people in the community of Lake Sherwood. Water is delivered to our customers through our distribution system, which consists of two reservoirs, two booster pump stations, and approximately 19 miles of water lines. In 2023, the District supplied approximately 1330 acre-feet of water, which was used for residential, institutional, commercial and fire protection purposes.

What Makes Water Hard?

If substantial amounts of either calcium or magnesium, both nontoxic minerals, are present in drinking water, the water is said to be hard. "Hard" water does not dissolve soap readily, so making lather for washing and cleaning is difficult. Conversely, water containing little calcium or magnesium is called "soft" water.

Community Participation

You are invited to attend our public meeting to voice concerns about your drinking water. The Citizens' Advisory Committee meets quarterly at the Sherwood Lake Country Club, 341 Williamsburg, Thousand Oaks. If you wish to attend, please call (805) 378-3000 for the specific date and time.

For more information about this report, or for any other questions relating to the quality of your drinking water, please contact Jordan Corkery, Water and Wastewater Laboratory Manager, at (805) 378-3089.

Information for Customers with Special Water Needs

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, 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).

Lead in Household Plumbing Participation

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. The District 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/safewater/lead.

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 the mains.

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, 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.

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

Information on Radon

Radon is a 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 of radon 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 in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal for your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your State radon program (1-800-745-7236), the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or the National Safety Council Radon Hotline (1-800-767-7236)

PPCPs and How to Dispose Them

When cleaning out your medicine cabinet, what do you do with your expired pills? Many people flush them down the toilet or toss them into the trash. Although this seems convenient, these actions could threaten our water supply.

Recent studies are generating a growing concern over pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) entering water supplies. PPCPs include human and veterinary drugs (prescription or over-the-counter) and consumer products, such as cosmetics, fragrances, lotions, sunscreens, and house cleaning products. Many of these drugs and personal care products do not biodegrade and may persist in the environment for years.

The best and most cost-effective way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source waters clean. Never flush unused medications down the toilet or sink. Instead, check to see if the pharmacy where you made your purchase accepts medications for disposal, or contact your local health department for information on proper disposal methods and drop-off locations. You can also go to www.Earth911.com to find more information about disposal locations in your area.

Revised Total Coliform Rule

This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements during 2021. These revisions add the requirements of the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule, effective since April 1, 2016, to the existing state Total Coliform Rule. The revised rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbials (i.e., total coliform and E. coli bacteria). The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection as the rule requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, these must be corrected by the water system. The state Revised Total Coliform Rule became effective July 1, 2021.

Summary of Water Quality Results for 2023

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of drinking water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that were detected in 2023. The State requires that we monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year. Some of this data, though representative of water quality, are more than one year old.

			Imported Water from Calleguas Municipal Water District and Supplied by: Waterworks District No. 38			**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
	Percent of Supply		***100%***			
Parameter (Unit of Measure)	**MCL [MRDL]**	**PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]**	Average	Range	Violation	
PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Mandatory Health-Related Standards						
CLARITY (a)						
Turbidity (NTU) (TT)	Highest Single Value		0.07		No	Soil runoff
	% of samples <0.3		100%		No	
MICROBIOLOGICAL						
Total Coliform Bacteria (g)	1	(0)	ND	n/a	No	Naturally present in the environment
E. coli	0	(0)	ND	n/a	No	Human and animal fecal waste
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS AND DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS						
Bromate (ppb) (b)	10	0.1	7.5	ND - 14.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb) (c)	60	n/a	15.1	14.5 - 15.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Chlorine Residual (ppm)	[4]	[4]	1.62	0.11 - 2.50	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) (c)	80	n/a	30.5	30.0 - 31.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
INORGANIC CHEMICALS						
Aluminum (ppb)	1,000	600	ND	ND - 83	No	Erosion of natural deposits, residual from water treatment process
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	.03	ND - 3.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards
Barium (ppm)	1	2	ND	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from oil & metal refineries
Fluoride - Distribution System (ppm) (d)	2.0	1	0.7	0.6 - 1.0	No	Errosion of natural deposits, water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (as N) (ppm)	10	10	1.0	ND - 1.0	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	50	30	.08	ND - 8	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, erosion of natural deposits
RADIOLOGICALS						
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	15	(0)	.03	ND - 3.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	50	(0)	.04	ND - 4.4	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	2	1.5 - 3.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Home Tap Water Samples Collected for Lead and Copper Analyses							
Parameter (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	RAL	PHG (MCLG)	Amount Detected (90th %)	# Sites Above AL / Total Sites	Violation	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Lead (ppb)	2021	15	0.2	ND	0 / 10	No	Corrosion of home plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2021	1.3	0.3	0.133	0 / 10	No	Corrosion of home plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

			Imported Water from Calleguas Municipal Water District and Supplied by: Waterworks District No. 38			
		Percent of Supply	*100%*			
Parameter	**Secondary MCL**	**Notification Level**	Average	Range	Violation	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards						
Aluminum (ppb) (e)	200		ND	ND - 83	No	Erosion of natural deposits, residual from water treatment process
Chloride (ppm)	500		54	48 - 105	No	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits, seawater influence
Color (Units)	15		1.0	ND - 1	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor Threshold (Units)	3		2.0	ND - 2	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1,600		593	578 - 752	No	Substances that form ions when in water, seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	500		104	95 - 112	No	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000		363	357 - 420	No	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU) (f)	5		ND	ND	No	Soil runoff
ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS (Unregulated)						
Alkalinity (ppm)	NS	NS	94	85 - 120		
Boron (ppb)	NS	1,000	200	200 - 200		
Calcium (ppm)	NS	NS	40	36 - 40		
Chlorate (ppb)	NS	800	ND	ND		
Hardness (Total Hardness) (gpg)	NS	NS	8.5	8.1 - 9.1		
Magnesium (ppm)	NS	NS	11	10 - 16		
N-Nitrosodimethylamine (ppt)	NS	10	3.5	ND - 3.5		
pH (pH Units)	NS	NS	8.4	8.1 - 8.6		
Potassium (ppm)	NS	NS	2.5	2.4 - 4.0		
Sodium (ppm)	NS	NS	64	60 - 81		
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	NS	NS	2.1	1.4 - 2.6		
Vanadium (ppb)	NS	50	3.9	ND - 3.9		

ABBREVIATIONS, DEFINITIONS, and NOTES

n/a = not applicable
ND = None Detected
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
pCi/L = PicoCuries per Liter

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) = 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 are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) = 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. Environmental Protection

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) = 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 pathogens.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) = 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.

Notification Level = The level at which notification of the public water system's governing body is required.

Public Health Goal (PHG) = 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.

Primary Drinking Water Standard = MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Regulatory Action Level (RAL) = The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) = A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

(a) The turbidity level of filtered water shall be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of the measurements taken each month and shall not exceed 1.0 NTU at any time.

(b) Compliance for treatment plants that use ozone is based on a running annual average of monthly samples.

(c) Compliance is based on a Locational Running Annual Average of data collected at distribution system-wide monitoring locations. The range of all samples collected is included.

(d) MWD treats their water by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level in order to help prevent dental caries in consumers. The fluoride levels in the treated water are maintained within a range of 0.7 - 1.3 ppm, as required by State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Drinking Water (DDW)

(e) Aluminum has both primary and secondary standards.

(f) The monthly averages and ranges of turbidity shown in the Secondary Standards section are based on source effluents.

(g) Total coliform MCL: No more than 1monthly sample may be total coliform positive.