



Annual **WATER QUALITY Report**

Reporting Year 2019



PUBLIC
VENTURA COUNTY
WORKS

Presented by:
Ventura County Waterworks District No. 19

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 are 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.

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.

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, 2019. We continue to maintain our 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).

Community Participation

You are invited to attend our public meeting to voice concerns about your drinking water. The Citizens' Advisory Committee meets bimonthly at the District office located at 6767 Spring Road in Moorpark. 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 Shane Dass, 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).

Where Does the District's Water Come From?

The District's water supply comes from both imported and local sources. In 2019, 14% of our water supply came 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.

Local water is pumped from the Las Posas Basin by three groundwater wells owned and operated by the District. The wells produced approximately 86% of our total supply in 2019. The District treats the water that is pumped from the wells, and then delivers it to our customers. Local and imported water is delivered to our customers through the District's distribution system, which consists of eight reservoirs, seven booster pump stations, and approximately 46 miles of water lines. Water service is provided through 1,033 service connections.

In 2019, the District supplied approximately 2,077 acre-feet of water to over 3,275 people in the community of Somis and surrounding areas for agricultural, residential, industrial, commercial, institutional and fire protection purposes.

Lead in Household 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. 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-SOS-RADON).

