

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2020

Presented By



Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

PWS ID#: CA0410006



Quality First

Once again, we are pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

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.

Testing for *Cryptosporidium*

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100-percent removal. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Community Participation

We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please call us or attend any of our regularly scheduled board of directors meetings. They are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the agency's boardroom, 2310 Oro Quincy Highway, Oroville. Please visit our website, www.southfeather.com, for visitor and Zoom conference information.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The raw water source for the South Feather Water and Power Agency's distribution system is the watershed of the South Fork of the Feather River and the upper portion of Slate Creek. Through a series of dams, canals, and tunnels, water is delivered to the Miners Ranch Reservoir and extracted directly to the treatment plant.

Source Water Assessment

An assessment has been completed for the water sources serving the Miners Ranch Water Treatment Plant. Our pristine water source is considered most vulnerable to active and historic mining operations but not associated with any detected contaminants.

For a copy of the complete assessment, please contact Reese Crenshaw at the SWRCB-DODW Valley District Office, 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101, Redding, CA 96002, or call (530) 224-4867. You may also contact Rath Moseley at South Feather Water and Power Agency, 2310 Oro Quincy Highway, Oroville, CA 95966, or call (530) 533-4578.

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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call John Shipman at (530) 589-0212.

What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, don't use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing "7 PC" (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, one gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for three days. Humans can survive without food for one month but can only survive one week without water.

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 can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of drinking water?

It can take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of 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. 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. Environmental Protection Agency (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.

What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, and toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. *Serratia* is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including humans). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of the above-mentioned sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to routinely clean and dry the involved surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help to eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence.

Serratia will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

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.

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.

We participated in the fourth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 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 in order to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are 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.



REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chlorine (ppm)	2020	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	1.00	0.86–1.19	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Control of DBP precursors [TOC] (ppm)	2020	TT	NA	0.70	0.60–0.80	No	Various natural and human-made sources
Cryptosporidium (oocyst/L)	2016	Surface water treatment = TT	HPC = NA; Others = (0)	1	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
E. coli [Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule] (# positive samples)	2020	See footnote 1	(0)	0	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Fecal Coliform and E. coli [State Total Coliform Rule] (# positive samples)	2020	See footnote 2	[0]	0	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2020	60	NA	20.6	15.9–26.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2014	NS ³	0.02	0.15	0.099–0.17	No	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2020	80	NA	22.1	17.8–27.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria [State Total Coliform Rule] (# positive samples)	2020	1 positive monthly sample	(0)	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	2020	TT	NA	0.096	0.020–0.096	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2020	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff



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)	2020	1.3	0.3	0.729	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2020	15	0.2	<5	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2020	500	NS	4.2	3.0–5.4	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2017	1,600	NS	47	NA	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2020	500	NS	4.4	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2020	1,000	NS	42	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES⁴

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bicarbonate Alkalinity (ppm)	2020	29	NA	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2020	5.5	NA	NA
HAA6Br (ppb)	2018	1.2	1.05–1.35	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA9 (ppb)	2018	17.3	15.3–19.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hardness, Total [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2020	27	NA	NA
Magnesium (ppm)	2020	3.1	NA	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2014	3.35	NA	NA
Strontium (ppb)	2014	38	34–43	NA
Vanadium (ppb)	2014	0.24	0.20–0.27	NA

¹ Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is E. coli-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for E. coli.

² A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.

³ There is currently no MCL for hexavalent chromium. The previous MCL of 10 ppb was withdrawn on September 11, 2017.

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

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.

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).

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

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