

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2020



Presented By
Hilmar County Water District



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.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those 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>.



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, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and 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.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA (<https://goo.gl/TFAMKc>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. Also, the Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management has a Web site (<https://goo.gl/kGepu4>) that provides complete and current information on water issues in California, including valuable information about our watershed.

Community Participation

You are invited to attend and participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. District Directors meet the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the District's office located at 8319 Lander Avenue, Hilmar, CA 95324. Agenda for meetings are posted at the office and online at <https://www.hilmarcwd.org>.

Source Water Assessment

This is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water is considered most vulnerable to the effects of agricultural drainage, grazing, lagoon/liquid wastes, animal operations, and septic systems. A copy of the complete assessment is available for review at the District's office upon request.

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 2 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.

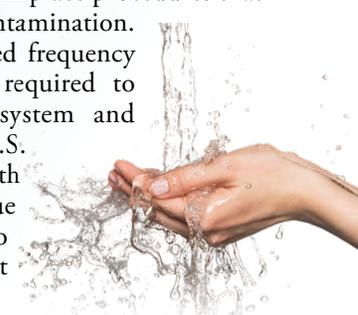
Protecting Your Water

Bacteria are a natural and important part of our world. There are around 40 trillion bacteria living in each of us; without them, we would not be able to live healthy lives. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern, however, because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease.

In 2016, the U.S. EPA passed a regulation called the Revised Total Coliform Rule, which requires additional steps that water systems must take in order to ensure the integrity of the drinking water distribution system by monitoring for the presence of bacteria like total coliform and *E. coli*. The rule requires more stringent standards than the previous regulation, and it requires water systems that may be vulnerable to contamination to have in place procedures that will minimize the incidence of contamination. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment of their system and correct any problems quickly. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under this regulation due to its more preventive approach to identifying and fixing problems that may affect public health.

Though we have been fortunate to have the highest-quality drinking water, our goal is to eliminate all potential pathways of contamination into our distribution system, and this requirement helps us to accomplish that goal.

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To the Last Drop

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines drought as a deficiency in precipitation over an extended period of time, usually a season or more, resulting in a water shortage causing adverse impacts on vegetation, animals, and/or people. Drought strikes in virtually all climate zones, from very wet to very dry.

There are primarily three types of drought: Meteorological Drought refers to the lack of precipitation, or the degree of dryness and the duration of the dry period; Agricultural Drought refers to the agricultural impact of drought, focusing on precipitation shortages, soil water deficits, and reduced groundwater or reservoir levels needed for irrigation; and Hydrological Drought pertains to drought that usually occurs following periods of extended precipitation shortfalls that can impact water supply (e.g., stream flow, reservoir and lake levels, groundwater).

Drought is a temporary aberration from normal climatic conditions; thus it can vary significantly from one region to another. Although drought occurs normally, human factors, such as water demand, can exacerbate the duration and impact that drought has on a region. By following simple water conservation measures, you can help significantly reduce the lasting effects of extended drought.



Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

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, 1 gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for 3 days. Humans can survive without food for 1 month, but can only survive 1 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 could 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 could take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40% of total water use). Toilets use about 4–6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Your water comes from two District-owned wells located approximately one mile northeast of town. The newest of these wells, Woody Well (Well #7), produces most of the water used by our residents. The Jake Well (Well #6) is the second active well on system and has provided the District with high-quality water for many years. Each well pumps from approximately 330 feet below ground and has a sanitary seal in the first 150 feet of the well column. Together, these wells pump over 310 million gallons of water annually for the District's customers.



QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Curtis Jorritsma at (209) 632-3522.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different substances on a very strict sampling schedule. The water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we show only 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 often 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 are pleased to report that your drinking water report meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG] | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1,2,3-Trichloropropane [1,2,3-TCP] (ppt) | 2020 | 5 | 0.7 | ND ¹ | NA | No | Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; leaching from hazardous waste sites; cleaning and maintenance solvent, paint and varnish remover, and degreasing agent; by-product from production of other compounds and pesticides |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 2020 | 10 | 0.004 | 4.81 | 3.46–7.33 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes |
| Chlorine (ppm) | 2020 | [4.0 (as Cl ₂)] | [4 (as Cl ₂)] | 0.45 | 0.29–0.72 | No | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment |
| Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community² | | | | | | | |
| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AL | PHG (MCLG) | AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE) | SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
| Copper (ppm) | 2019 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.094 | 0/20 | No | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| Lead (ppb) | 2019 | 15 | 0.2 | 0 | 1/20 | No | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits |

¹“ND” means “Not Detected” or that there were no traces of this substance in any of the District’s samples.

²The District is required to complete copper and lead testing on the system every three years. These constituents will be tested again in 2022.

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 that, 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

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).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).