

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2020

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

Este relatório contém a informação importante sobre sua água bebendo. Tenha-o por favor traduzido por um amigo ou por alguém que o compreende e o pode o traduzir para você.



Presented By
City of Tulare

PWS ID#: 5410015



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 you and your family. We remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users by delivering drinking water that meets all state and federal standards.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report or if you have any concerns about your water. 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 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.

Source Water Assessment

Source Water Assessments were conducted for the City of Tulare in November 2002. At that time, no contaminants were detected in the water supply. However, the water source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities: chemical and petroleum processing, storage, and use; historic gas stations; and high-density septic systems.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Tulare Water customers enjoy a groundwater supply from 24 city-owned and operated wells. The source water wells are identified by numbers: #1, #11, #12, #13, #14, #15, #17, #22, #26, #27, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, #39, #40, #42, #44, #45, #46, and #47. Water is pumped by these wells from an area deep beneath the city called the Confined Ground Water System that consists of alluvial sediments below a Corcoran clay layer of the Tulare Lake Basin. To learn more about our watershed on the Internet, go to the U.S. EPA Surf Your Watershed website at www.epa.gov/surf/.



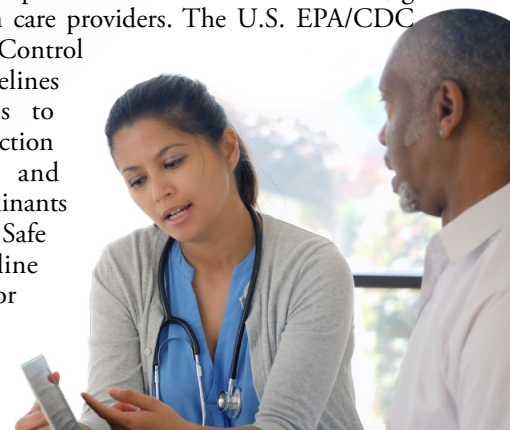
Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our Board of Public Utilities meeting and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the first and third Thursday of each month, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the Tulare Library Building, in the City Council Chambers, 475 North M Street, Tulare, CA.

Important Health Information

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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 related to your drinking water, please call Mr. Tim Doyle, Water Utility Manager, at (559) 684-4286.

Compliance Order for 1,2,3-Trichloropropane MCL Exceedance

Our water system recently failed a drinking water standard. The City of Tulare has levels of 1,2,3 trichloropropane (1,2,3 TCP) above the Drinking Water Standards (MCL) Maximum Contaminant Level. On May 8, 2018, the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) issued the City of Tulare a Compliance Order for violating the 1,2,3-TCP Maximum Contaminant Level. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing 1,2,3-trichloropropane in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened?

1,2,3 TCP was an unregulated contaminant prior to December 14, 2017.

What is being done?

The city is constructing granular activated-carbon (GAC) filter systems at seven city well sites to remove the contamination. Construction of the filter systems began in the summer of 2019. We anticipate completely resolving the problem before May 2021.



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 storm-water 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 storm-water 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 storm-water 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.



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.

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] ^{1,2} (ppt)	2020	5	0.7	11	ND–34	Yes	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; leaching from hazardous waste sites; used as cleaning and maintenance solvent, paint and varnish remover, and cleaning and degreasing agent
Aluminum (ppm)	2020	1	0.6	0.233	ND–0.73	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic ³ (ppb)	2020	10	0.004	7	ND–13	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)]	0.78	ND–1.89	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Dibromochloropropane [DBCP] (ppt)	2020	200	1.7	19	ND–52	No	Banned nematocide that may still be present in soils due to runoff/leaching from former use on soybeans, cotton, vineyards, tomatoes, and tree fruit
Fluoride (ppm)	2020	2.0	1	0.3	ND–1.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2020	15	(0)	2.5	ND–5.58	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2020	60	NA	2.8	ND–2.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2020	10	10	3.3	ND–9.3	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2020	5	0.019	0.42	ND–0.926	No	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2020	80	NA	8	ND–24	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria [state Total Coliform Rule] (% positive samples)	2020	5.0% of monthly samples are positive	(0)	2.4%	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2020	500	NS	9.9	2.8–55	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (Units)	2020	15	NS	8.6	ND–20	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron ⁴ (ppb)	2020	300	NS	226.7	ND–550	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Odor–Threshold (Units)	2020	3	NS	1.3	ND–1.5	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2020	1,600	NS	212.7	140–490	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2020	1,000	NS	134.4	96–260	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity ⁵ (NTU)	2020	5	NS	1.4	0.15–5.6	No	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES ⁶

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Agressiveness Index (Units)	2018–2020	12	11–12
Alkalinity (ppm)	2018–2020	75.6	51–140
Bicarbonate [HCO ₃] (ppm)	2018–2020	71.4	43–140
Calcium (ppm)	2018–2020	11.5	1.4–34
Carbonate (ppm)	2018–2020	12.4	2.4–21
Hardness (ppm)	2018–2020	25	3.5–87
Langelier Index (ppm)	2018–2020	-0.096	-1.1–1.2
Magnesium (ppm)	2018–2020	0.8	0.11–4.1
pH (Units)	2018–2020	8.9	7.9–9.4
Potassium (ppm)	2018–2020	3	2.1–3.9
Sodium (ppm)	2018–2020	36	3.9–110
Sulfate (ppm)	2018–2020	7.6	3.1–22

¹ In December 2017, 1,2,3-TCP was adopted and moved to the primary standards of regulated substances. Some people who drink water containing 1,2,3-TCP in excess of the MCL and PHG over many years may have the increased risk of getting cancer, based on studies in laboratory animals.

² This substance had a notification level (NL) of 5 ppt until December 14, 2017, when the MCL of 5 ppt became effective.

³ Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

⁴ High amounts of iron in drinking water causes turbidity, stains plumbing fixtures and laundry, and imparts objectionable tastes and colors to food and drinks.

⁵ Turbidity is caused by particles suspended or dissolved in water, making the water appear cloudy or murky.

⁶ Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to 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.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

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).

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