



ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2020

Presented By



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.

If you should have any questions relating to your drinking water, or for additional information regarding this report, you may contact Interim Public Works Superintendent Alejandro Mendez at (818) 898-1294.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our City Council meetings and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The City Council meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 117 Macneil Street, San Fernando. You may also visit the San Fernando city website for City Council meeting schedules at <http://ci.san-fernando.ca.us/city-council/>.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of San Fernando, incorporated in 1911, provides water service to an area of approximately 2.42 square miles with an approximate population of 24,322 residents. Annually, the city serves approximately 1 billion gallons of water to our customers. San Fernando residents are fortunate to have three sources of water: (1) local groundwater wells that draw water from the Sylmar basin; (2) imported water from the Metropolitan Water District emergency connection, which delivers surface water from the Joseph Jensen Plant; and (3) a connection from the City of Los Angeles distribution system that is used only in extreme emergencies. In 2020 the City of San Fernando received 100 percent of its supply from local groundwater.

How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

There are two treatment processes; one consists of some basic steps. First, groundwater is drawn from the Sylmar basin, then chlorine is injected in a sodium hypochlorite solution of 0.8 percent for disinfection (as a precaution against any bacteria that may be present). The city's wells utilize an onsite chlorine generation (OSG) system, in which the 0.8-percent sodium hypochlorite solution is used as a disinfectant agent. Through an electrolytic process, the OSG operates automatically, requiring only salt, water (softened), and electricity to produce the sodium hypochlorite solution. We carefully monitor on a daily basis the amount of chlorine injected at each well site.

Water is then pumped to reservoirs and the distribution system, where it flows by gravity through the distribution system into your home or business. Likewise, chlorine residuals are monitored from the distribution system daily in order to ensure a reliable supply of drinking water.

Another treatment uses a proprietary ion exchange process for removal of nitrate anions from the water. A self-contained unit is installed in line between a well discharge and the distribution system. Nitrate removal is accomplished using ion exchange resin regenerated with sodium chloride (brine) solution. Sodium chloride is the only treatment chemical used for this system function. Nitrate monitoring is also conducted on a daily basis.

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.

Important Health Information

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million (ppm) is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 ppm may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

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>.

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.

Source Water Assessment

In August 2002 the California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, Central District, conducted a drinking water source assessment for the City of San Fernando Water Division. The purpose of the assessment was to determine the vulnerability of our water sources to possible contaminating activities. The following are the results for Wells 2A, 3, 4A, and 7A.

SOURCE	VULNERABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH DETECTED CONTAMINANTS	VULNERABILITY NOT ASSOCIATED WITH ANY DETECTED CONTAMINANTS
Well 2A	Housing-high density; Parks; Septic systems-high density; Apartments and condominiums	Sewer collection systems
Well 3	Housing-high density; Parks; Septic systems-high density; apartments and condominiums	Sewer collection systems, Automobile gas stations, Dry cleaners
Well 4A	Sewer collection systems; Dry cleaners	None
Well 7A	Housing-high density; Septic systems-high density; Apartments and condominiums	Automobile gas stations



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
Barium (ppm)	2018	1	2	0.147	0.130–0.170	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium, Total (ppb)	2020	50	(100)	3.3	2.9–3.8	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2020	5	(0)	1.2	ND–3.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2020	2.0	1	0.32	0.25–0.38	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Free Chlorine Residual (ppm)	2020	[4.0]	[4]	1.55	0.5–2.70	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2020	50 ¹	(0)	1	ND–3	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2020	60	NA	0.2	ND–3.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate [as Nitrogen] (ppm)	2020	10	10	6	2.9–8.3	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	2020	5	0.05	1.2	ND–3.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Tetrachloroethylene [PCE] (ppb)	2020	5	0.06	0.7	0.62–0.74	No	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
Total Coliform Bacteria [federal Revised Total Coliform Rule] (positive samples)	2020	TT	NA	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform Bacteria [state Total Coliform Rule] (positive samples)	2020	1 positive monthly sample	(0)	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2020	80	NA	6.1	0.6–19	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2020	TT	NA	0.2	ND–0.2	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	2020	20	0.43	1.23	ND–1.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits

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	0.25	0/31	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2020	15	0.2	1.5	0/31	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
Odor, Threshold (Units)	2020	3	NS	0.5	ND-2	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2018	1,000	NS	383	360-400	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2019	5	NS	0.18	ND-0.56	No	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ²

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Boron (ppb)	2014	160	160-160	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2020	1.52	ND-5.3	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform (ppb)	2020	1.2	ND-3.6	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform (ppb)	2020	1.4	0.61-3.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chromium VI [Hexavalent Chromium] (ppb)	2019	3.5	3.16-3.97	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
Dibromochloromethane (ppm)	2020	2.0	ND-6.7	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Hardness, Total [as CaCO₃] (ppm)	2018	247	210-270	Erosion; leaching of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2018	29	27-32	Erosion; leaching of natural deposits; seawater influence

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES ²

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aggressiveness Index (units)	2019	13	12-13	Elemental balance in water affected by temperature and other factors
Alkalinity, Total [as CaCO₃] (ppm)	2019	190	170-200	Naturally occurring
Bicarbonate [as HCO₃] (ppm)	2019	230	210-240	Naturally occurring
Bromide (ppb)	2019	98	94-100	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2019	72	64-72	Erosion; leaching of natural deposits
Carbon Dioxide (ppb)	2015	5,800	5,400-6,200	Naturally occurring
Carbonate [as CO₃] (ppm)	2018	0.8	ND-2.5	Naturally occurring
Chlorate (ppb)	2015	133	130-140	By-product of drinking water chlorination; industrial processes
Chloride (ppm)	2018	28	24-31	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Chlorodifluoromethane [HCFC-22] (ppb)	2015	380	360-400	NA
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	0.2	ND-1.8	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	0.16	ND-1.3	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Hardness, Total [as CaCO₃] (ppm)	2018	247	210-270	Erosion; leaching of natural deposits
Iron (ppb)	2018	43	ND-130	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Langelier Index, 60 degrees C (units)	2018	1.8	0.85-1.5	NA
Magnesium (ppm)	2018	18	12-21	Erosion; leaching of natural deposits
Manganese (ppb)	2019	4.7	0.51-13	Leaching from natural deposits
Molybdenum (ppb)	2015	4	4-4	NA

UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES ²

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Nitrate + Nitrite as Nitrogen (ppm)	2018	7.9	7.3–8.4	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
pH (units)	2019	7.9	7.7–8.2	Naturally occurring
Potassium (ppm)	2018	4.0	3.4–4.5	Erosion; leaching of natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	2018	613	570–640	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Strontium (ppb)	2015	517	500–530	NA
Sulfate (ppm)	2018	53	46–62	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppb)	2019	0.44	ND–0.44	NA
Vanadium (ppb)	2015	7	7–8	Naturally occurring; industrial waste discharge

¹The State Water Resources Control Board considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

²Unregulated 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.

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).

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

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