

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2020



Presented By
City of Sonoma

Our Mission Continues

City of Sonoma Water staff are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water conservation and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Mike Maestas, Water Supervisor, at (707) 933-2231, or email mmaestas@sonomacity.org.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

This notice contains important information regarding your drinking water.

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

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS NOT MET FOR THE CITY OF SONOMA

Our water system failed to monitor as required for drinking water standards during the past year and therefore was in violation of the regulations. Even though this failure was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we did to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether our drinking water meets health standards. During the calendar year 2020, we did not monitor for disinfection by-products from the distribution system and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

During November 2017, February 2019, September 2020, and December 2020, we did not collect the required number of bacteriological samples from our distribution system and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. No positive coliform bacteria results were detected in any of the 908 total routine coliform samples collected in 2017, 2019, and 2020.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do at this time.
- If you have health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

Monitoring for disinfection by-products is required during the month of September. Because 2020 was a challenging year, the city did not have a system in place to remind staff to conduct this sampling. Annual disinfection by-product sampling has now been added to the city's work order management system so that sampling will be conducted in September 2021 and future years. Results of disinfection by-product sampling during the past four years were significantly below maximum contaminant levels at both sampling locations.



The State of California requires that total coliform samples be taken pursuant to a preapproved sampling plan (Siting Plan). In the case of the City of Sonoma, the Siting Plan requires the city to take three samples per week. In weeks at the beginning or end of a month, the day of the week makes a difference in the sampling month. During the months of November 2017, February 2019, September 2020, and December 2020, the city collected nine of the ten required bacteriological samples as required by the pending Revised Federal Total Coliform Rule. During the months of October 2017, December 2017, January 2019, March 2019, August 2020, October 2020, November 2020, and January 2021, we collected 15 bacteriological samples (5 more than required per month). City water operators have been instructed on the requirements that must always be met. A specific day has been set and designated as the sampling date, and a document describing the Total Coliform Rule requirements has been placed in the Siting Plan that accompanies the tester.

For more information, please contact Public Works Director Colleen Ferguson at (707) 933-2230 or cferguson@sonomacity.org.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- **SCHOOLS:** Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- **RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS** (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- **BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS:** Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

Population Served: 11,725 people are served by the City of Sonoma Water System.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The city's primary source is water purchased from Sonoma Water. Sonoma Water's source of supply is five Ranney collectors (or caissons) located in the gravels adjacent to the Russian River, seven production wells, and, to a minor degree, three wells in the Santa Rosa plain. The Russian River originates in central Mendocino County, approximately 15 miles north of the City of Ukiah. The main channel of the Russian River is approximately 110 miles long and flows southward from its headwaters near Potter Valley to the Pacific Ocean near Jenner, about 20 miles west of the City of Santa Rosa.

Our secondary water source consists of six city groundwater wells, which are capable of producing a combined total of approximately 1.5 million gallons of water a day. The City of Sonoma uses these wells as a supplementary supply.

Once the water has been purchased or produced, it enters the city's distribution system, which includes more than 58 miles of water main, 4,405 service connections, five storage tanks, and two pumping stations. We thank our community for its continued efforts to minimize water use. This year we will be asking our community to use water wisely, especially during hot summer months, and utilize the conservation resources available to our residents.

Drought is Here, Save Water

Sonoma Water was very concerned about water levels in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma in early May. Lake Mendocino was at 43 percent of the target supply curve, and Lake Sonoma was at 62 percent of water supply capacity. Both reservoirs are at the lowest storage level for this time of year since they were filled. Hydrologic modeling by Sonoma Water engineering staff indicates that without timely measures to reduce diversions from the Russian River, Lake Mendocino could reach levels too low to support releases for water supply and fish migration by fall of 2021.

Proposed flow changes and diversion reductions by Sonoma Water alone will not be enough to address the water supply challenges the region faces. It will require a concerted and coordinated effort by all users to reduce water use.

Indoor Water-Saving Tips

- Check for leaky faucets and repair immediately.
- Defrost food without running water. Defrost frozen items in refrigerator overnight or in the microwave.
- Don't let the water run when washing the dishes; fill one sink to wash and the other to rinse.
- Don't let the water run while washing your hands.
- Instead of running the water from the tap to wash produce, partially fill the sink or a pan with water.

Outdoor Water-Saving Tips

- Add mulch around trees, shrubs, and ground cover. This helps prevent erosion, reduces water lost to evaporation, and provides insulation.
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid overspray.
- Irrigate only between midnight and 6:00 a.m. to reduce water loss from evaporation.
- Reduce and replace turf with native and drought resistant plants.
- Cover pools and hot tubs to reduce evaporation.

For a complete list, visit [SavingWaterPartnership.org](https://www.savingwaterpartnership.org).



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. 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.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The City Council normally meets on the first and third Monday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, located at 177 First Street West, Sonoma. For more information about City Council meetings, please visit www.sonomacity.org or call City Hall at (707) 938-3681.

Source Water Assessment

In 2018 the city conducted a thorough source water assessment of its municipal groundwater wells. According to the assessment, all sites are in compliance with federal safe drinking water guidelines. A complete copy of the source water assessment may be viewed at City Hall, 1 The Plaza, Sonoma.



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									
				City of Sonoma		SCWA			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AVERAGE	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2020	10	0.004	7.74	7.1-8.3	ND	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	2018	2.0	1	0.32	0.23-0.5	0.11	0.11–0.14	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2016	15	(0)	2.78	1.47–3	0.3	ND–1.36	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	2019	60	NA	7.4	5.6–9.2	ND	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	2020	10	10	0.65	0.31–1.1	ND	NA	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2019	80	NA	27.5	27–28	0.01	0.01–0.02	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
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	0.11	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives		
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES									
				City of Sonoma		SCWA			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AVERAGE	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Iron (ppb)	2017	300	NS	192	100-750	64	100–220	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2019	1,600	NS	218.57	180-280	253	230–290	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2020	500	NS	5.8	3–8.2	12	8–19	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2019	1,000	NS	205.71	180-260	156	140–200	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2020	5	NS	0.14	ND-0.40	0.033	0.013–2	No	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	2020	5.0	NS	.02	ND-0.03	0.05 ⁵	0.05–0.05	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE PART 3 (UCMR3) AND PART 4 (UCMR4)¹

		City of Sonoma		SCWA	
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AVERAGE	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Bromide (ppb)	2018	27.6	20–38	NA	NA
Chromium (ppb)	2020	0.46	ND–1.0	10	10–10
Germanium (ppb)	2018	0.84	0.43–2.1	NA	NA

OTHER SUBSTANCES

		City of Sonoma		SCWA	
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AVERAGE	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AVERAGE	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2020	110.5	95-129	130	120–150
Calcium (ppm)	2019	9.57	3.9-14	20.28	8.1–24
Magnesium (ppm)	2019	5.89	1.2-9	11.54	1.4–16
Manganese (ppb)	2020	5.5	ND-22	6.09	ND–67
pH (units)	2020	7.6	7.2-8.3	7.60	7.25–8.65
Sodium (ppm)	2019	26.7	18-44	16.24	7.5–52
Total Hardness (ppm)	2019	43.71	14-72	97.91	26–123
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2018	0.15	ND–0.78	NA	NA

¹Unregulated 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.

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. Environmental Protection Agency (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 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>.

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).

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

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.

