

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By

THE CITY OF
SAN FERNANDO

PWS ID#: CA1910143

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



Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

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 23,946. Annually, the city serves approximately one 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, treated water from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) emergency connection, which delivers surface water from the Weymouth plant; and (3) a connection from the City of Los Angeles distribution system that is used only in extreme emergencies.



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. Visit the San Fernando website for city council meeting schedules at sanfernando.gov/Your-Government/City-Council.

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. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause "blue baby syndrome." Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant and detected nitrate levels are above 5 ppm, 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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or epa.gov/safewater.

What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air-conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection.

For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

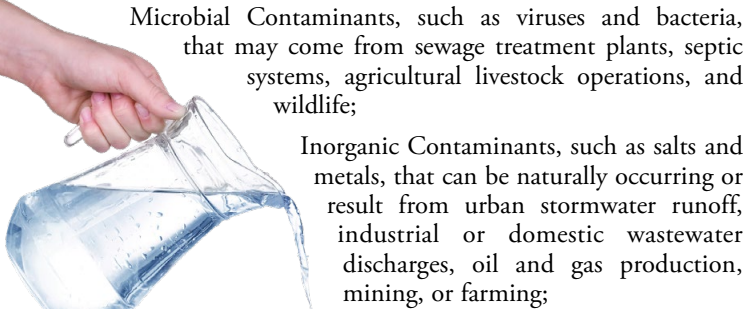
QUESTIONS?

If you should have any questions relating to your drinking water, or for additional information regarding this report, you may contact Water Operations Manager Victor Meza at (818) 898-1293.

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.

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 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 application, and septic systems; and

Radioactive Contaminants that can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breast-fed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of San Fernando is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling does not remove lead from water.



Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact Victor Meza, City of San Fernando Public Works, at (818) 898-1293. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. To view the lead service inventory, call the City of San Fernando Public Works Department at (818) 898-1293. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

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. This assessment may be found at mwdh2o.com/water-quality-and-treatment/. 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

How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

There are three treatment processes. The first consists of some basic steps. 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 use an on-site 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. Chlorine residuals are monitored from the distribution system daily 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 inline between a well discharge and the distribution system. Nitrate removal is accomplished using ion exchange resin regenerated with a sodium chloride (brine) solution. Sodium chloride is the only treatment chemical used for this system function. Nitrate monitoring is conducted on a daily basis.



The City of San Fernando, as a member agency of MWD, treats its water through the Weymouth surface water plant, first disinfecting it with ozone treatment, then coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration, and finally with additional chloramine disinfection prior to delivery to San Fernando. Chloramine disinfection is the primary disinfection used by MWD for the distribution system. When importing MWD finished water, San Fernando changes over to complete chloramine disinfection.

Hard vs. Soft Water

Hard water contains higher levels of naturally occurring minerals, primarily calcium and magnesium. These minerals are not harmful to human health and can even contribute beneficial nutrients. However, hard water can cause scale buildup in pipes, appliances, and fixtures. "Soft" water has lower mineral content and allows soap to lather more easily. It also helps extend the life of water heaters, washing machines, and plumbing fixtures. Hardness levels vary widely depending on local geology and groundwater conditions. Some households choose to install water softeners to reduce scaling and improve appliance efficiency. It is important to note that water hardness is a quality issue, not a safety concern. Both hard and soft water supplied by public water systems meet all health-based drinking water standards.

Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through them.



Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use, and avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

Water Conservation Tips

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

- Automatic dishwashers use three to six 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.



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 is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 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 to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is 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
Aggressiveness Index (units)	2025	NS	NA	12	NA	No	Naturally occurring
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2025	15	0	1.90	0.97–2.68	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	2025	10	0.004	0.3	ND–1.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2025	1	2	0.15	0.11–0.18	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	2.07	1.45–1.89	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium, Total (ppb)	2025	50	(100)	2.8	ND–4.9	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2025	5	(0)	0.99	-0.04–2.88	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	2.0	1	0.33	0.22–0.37	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	ND	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Heterotrophic Plate Count Bacteria (CFU/mL)	2025	NS	NA	21	ND–349	No	Naturally occurring
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2025	10	20	3.4	3.0–3.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits; transformation of naturally occurring trivalent chromium to hexavalent chromium by natural processes and human activities such as discharges from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	10	10	4.34	1.3–9.2	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	2025	6	1	1.4	0.6–2.8	No	An inorganic inorganic chemical used in solid rocket propellant, fireworks, explosives, flares, matches, and a variety of industries; historic aerospace or other industrial operations that used or use, store, or dispose of perchlorate and its salts
Tetrachloroethylene [PCE] (ppb)	2025	5	0.06	0.4	ND–1.3	No	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	16.05	ND–17.00	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	2025	5	0	0.04	ND–0.65	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Trichlorofluoromethane (ppb)	2025	150	1,300	0.3	ND–1.7	No	Discharge from industrial factories; degreasing solvent; propellant and refrigerant
Uranium (pCi/L)	2025	20	0.43	1.6	ND–3.0	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)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.051	ND–0.30	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0.2	2.3	ND–4.7	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; 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)	2025	500	NS	36	19–88	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence	
Color (units)	2025	15	NS	ND	ND–10	No	Naturally occurring organic materials	
Odor (TON)	2025	3	NA	ND	ND–2	No	Naturally occurring organic materials	
pH (units)	2025	6.5–8.5	NA	7.8	6.9–8.2	No	Naturally occurring	
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2025	1,600	NS	688	500–740	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence	
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	500	NS	57	24–74	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2025	500	NA	378	280–430	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits	
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	5	NS	0.16	ND–0.65	No	Soil runoff	
Zinc (ppm)	2025	5.0	NS	0.01	ND–0.04	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES ¹					
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Alkalinity (ppm)	2025	193	150–210	NA	
Boron (ppm)	2025	0.20	0.12–0.23	NA	
Calcium (ppm)	2025	68	54–78	NA	
Hardness, Total [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2025	190	NA	NA	
Langelier Index (units)	2025	0.51	0.16–0.97	Naturally or industrially influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon, and oxygen	
Magnesium (ppm)	2025	19	10–27	NA	
Potassium (ppm)	2025	3.6	2.8–4.5	NA	
Sodium (ppm)	2025	29	24–35	NA	
Vanadium (ppb)	2025	8	2–15	NA	

¹Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB 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.

CFU/mL: Colony-forming units per milliliter.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

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.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

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).

TON (Threshold Odor Number): A measure of odor in water.

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

