

WATER SUPPLY: The City of Santa Maria (“City”) is committed to producing the highest quality drinking water from two sources of supply: City water wells located in the Santa Maria Airport area, and State Water treated at the Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant by the Central Coast Water Authority and delivered to the City via the Coastal Branch Aqueduct. In 2024, the City received about 38 percent of its water from the State Water Project.

WATER QUALITY: The City routinely checks water quality from the source to your home. Please see the other side of this brochure, which summarizes test results from 2016-2024 and shows that the City met all State and Federal drinking water standards in 2024.

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. Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (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.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT: A drinking water source assessment for the City was completed in March 2014. The City’s water sources were considered most vulnerable to the following activities: runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, septic tanks, sewage, and erosion of natural deposits. You may request a summary of the assessment at the City Utilities Department, 2065 East Main Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454, or by calling (805) 925-0951 extension 7270.

WATER SYSTEM SECURITY: Multiple levels of safety are implemented to protect the City’s drinking water system. These measures are part of ongoing operations and ensure the treatment and reliable delivery of water.

CONTAMINANTS: 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 materials 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 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications and septic systems; and

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

ABOUT LEAD: 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 plumbing. The City is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 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 or at <https://epa.gov/lead>.

To access and view available information about your service line, visit the interactive map located on the City’s website at: <https://bit.ly/leadserviceinventory>

ABOUT NITRATE: Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L 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 mg/L 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 are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

COMMENTS? Your comments are important to the City, and may be heard at any regular meeting of the Santa Maria City Council, on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 110 East Cook Street, Santa Maria. ■

For questions related to water quality, call the Water Resources Manager at (805) 925-0951 extension 7270.

This notice is being sent to residents by the City of Santa Maria. State Water System ID#: 4210011.

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Santa Maria's original water system, 1880

City of Santa Maria 2024

WATER QUALITY REPORT



This report provides information regarding the quality of water for the City of Santa Maria during 2024. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. Through planning and operational efficiency, the City continues to provide reliable drinking water.



(805) 925-0951 ext. 7270 ■ www.cityofsantamaria.org

2065 East Main Street • Santa Maria, CA 93454
TDD 800-735-2929 (English) • 800-855-3000 (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

2024 Water Quality Information

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Mandatory Health-Related Standards

Parameter	Units	State MCL	PHG (MCLG)	PURCHASED STATE PROJECT WATER (h)		LOCAL GROUNDWATER (i)		MAJOR SOURCES
				RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	
				Turbidity (a)	NTU	TT = 0.3	0.04 - 0.15	
Aluminum (b)	ppb	1000	600	< 50 - 71	ND (< 50)	ND (< 50)	ND (< 50)	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some treatment processes
Chromium (hexavalent)	ppb	10	0.02	0.099	0.099	<1 - 1.3	1.1	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	pCi/L	15	(0)	ND (< 3)	ND (< 3)	< 3.0 - 3.4	3.1	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	ND (< 1)	ND (< 1)	< 1.0 - 3.1	1.8	Erosion of natural deposits

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MONITORING

Total Chlorine Residual	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4.0	Average = 2.0 (Range = 0.12 - 3.3)				Measure of the disinfection of the water
Total Coliform Bacteria, E. coli (c)	NA	see note (c)	(0)	Average = 0% (Range = NA)				Naturally present in the environment; human and animal fecal waste
Fluoride (treated water) (d) (e)	ppm	2	1	Average = 0.86 (Range = 0.60 - 1.2)				Erosion of natural deposits; additive to promote strong teeth
Total Trihalomethanes (f)	ppb	80	NA	Highest LRAA = 23.4 (Range = 8.6 - 29.9)				Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (f)	ppb	60	NA	Highest LRAA = 7.5 (Range = 3.3 - 9.3)				Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Nitrate as NO ₃ -N	ppm	10	10	Average = 2.1 (Range = 0.40 - 3.8)				Leaching from fertilizers; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS--Aesthetic Standards

Chloride	ppm	500	NA	Average = 37 (Range = 34 - 39)				Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron	ppb	300	NA	ND (< 10)	ND (< 10)	ND (< 100)	ND (< 100)	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Odor Threshold	Units	3	NA	Average = 2 (Range = 1 - 2)				Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	NA	Average = 830 (Range = 460 - 1000)				Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate	ppm	500	NA	Average = 265 (Range = 240 - 290)				Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	NA	Average = 630 (Range = 570 - 710)				Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (a)	NTU	5	NA	Average = 0.19 (Range = < 0.1 - 0.71)				Soil runoff

ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS (Unregulated)

Alkalinity (Total) as CaCO ₃	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 148 (Range = 72 - 180)				Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Boron	ppb	NL = 1000	NA	NA	NA	110 - 180	142	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Calcium	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 90 (Range = 83 - 98)				Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Hardness (Total) as CaCO ₃	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 388 (Range = 360 - 420)				Leaching from natural deposits
Magnesium	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 40 (Range = 36 - 43)				Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
pH	pH units	NA	NA	Average = 7.5 (Range = 6.9 - 8.0)				Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Potassium	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 2.8 (Range = 2.7 - 2.9)				Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sodium	ppm	NA	NA	Average = 53 (Range = 52 - 54)				Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Vanadium	ppb	NL = 50	NA	NA	NA	3.0 - 3.7	3.4	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; combustion of fossil fuels

LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLING PROGRAM - SAMPLING OCCURRED IN SEPTEMBER 2022

Parameter	Units	Samples Collected	90 th Percentile Level Detected	Number of Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	MAJOR SOURCES
Copper	ppb	52	200	0	1300	300	Plumbing system corrosion; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppb	52	< 5.0	0	15	0.2	Plumbing system corrosion; erosion of natural deposits

ABBREVIATIONS, NOTES, AND DEFINITIONS

Abbreviations:

AL = Regulatory Action Level
 LRAA = Locational Running Annual Average
 NA = Not Applicable
 ND = Not Detected
 NL = Notification Level
 NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
 ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
 ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
 pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
 TT = Treatment Technique
 µS/cm = microsiemens per centimeter (unit of specific conductance of water)

Notes:

- (a) Turbidity (NTU) measures the cloudiness of the water and is a good indicator of the effectiveness of State Water Project filtration and is listed as a Primary Standard. The performance standard is less than 0.3 NTU in 95% of measurements taken every 15 minutes and not to exceed 1.0 NTU at any time.
- (b) Aluminum also has a Secondary MCL of 200 ppb.
- (c) Total coliform MCL: No more than 5.0% of the monthly samples may be Total Coliform positive. E. coli MCL is 0.
- (d) For fluoridated water systems, target fluoride levels are set by State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water.
- (e) The City of Santa Maria reinstated adding fluoride to the water supply in August 2020.
- (f) Compliance based on the locational running annual average (LRAA) of distribution system samples.
- (g) Turbidity, as delivered, is listed in the Secondary Standards and is considered an aesthetic standard.
- (h) Water quality information from purchased State Project Water includes samples collected in 2024.
- (i) Water quality information from individual wells includes samples collected from 2016–2024.

No public schools requested to be tested for lead in 2024.

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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 are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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. Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS): MCLs, MRDLs, and treatment techniques for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.

Public Health Goal (PHG): 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 Environmental Protection Agency.

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect your health at the MCL level.

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