

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021



*Presented By*  
**City of Paso Robles**

## We've Come a Long Way

Once again, we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2021. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at all hours—to deliver the highest-quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

### Water: Use it Wisely.

Although the state of California drought emergency mandates are no longer in place, similar conditions may return, and it's always important for our community to use water wisely. With regular maintenance and attention to water-using fixtures and irrigation systems, most homeowners and businesses can achieve significant water savings. Try these basic steps:

#### Reduce Outdoor Water Use with Irrigation System Maintenance and Scheduling

1. Periodically turn on your system manually, look for geysers, and fix any breaks.
2. Look for sunken and tilted heads that misdirect spray. Dig out and straighten heads, or add an extension to raise the head to the proper height. Trim plants that block spray from getting to the target area.
3. Turn on drip lines and walk each line to check and repair leaks. Make sure each emitter has flowing water. Unclog or replace clogged emitters.

#### Irrigation Scheduling Tips

Many of us unknowingly use more water than our landscaping needs. Follow these basic rules of thumb to avoid overwatering:

1. Water no more than two or three days per week.
2. Water in the early morning hours (5:00 to 9:00 a.m.), when winds and temperatures are low and you can see problems like stuck valves and breaks.
3. Learn how to use your timer and adjust duration throughout the irrigation season.
4. To avoid water runoff on steep slopes, break the total watering time for sprinklers into two or three shorter runs.

#### Indoor Water Savings

Indoor water use is generally a small part of our community's overall usage; however, it's important to be mindful of how we use water both outdoors and indoors. Turn off taps when not in use, and periodically inspect toilets for leaking valves. If you hear a toilet filling when no one has flushed, you may have a leaking flap valve.

For more information on customer rebate programs and ways to save water, visit [www.prcity.com/469/Conservation](http://www.prcity.com/469/Conservation) or call (805) 227-7250.

### Where Does My Water Come From?

Water sources for the City of Paso Robles include 19 groundwater wells and surface water from Lake Nacimiento, which is treated at our water treatment plant. Water that is not immediately used in the system goes into storage tanks with approximately 12 million gallons of capacity. These tanks provide for system emergencies, firefighting, and maintaining system pressure.

### Community Participation

We welcome your comments, questions, and concerns regarding your drinking water. We encourage you to contact the Utilities Department directly at (805) 237-3861, or you can voice your concerns at the City of Paso Robles city council meetings during the public comment portion. The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall/Library Complex, 1000 Spring Street.

To view a copy of this report or get more information regarding the City of Paso Robles Water Division, visit [www.prcity.com/424/About-Our-Water](http://www.prcity.com/424/About-Our-Water).

### Important Health Information

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 relating to your drinking water, please call Colton Young at (805) 237-3866 or email us at [water@prcity.com](mailto:water@prcity.com).

## 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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Source Water Assessment

The City of Paso Robles has completed an assessment of our drinking water sources. The assessment found our sources potentially vulnerable to agricultural drainage, auto repair shops, gas stations, home manufacturing, low-density septic systems, sewer collection systems, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, animal operations, agriculture and irrigation wells, and plastic and synthetics producers. This simply means that these activities take place in the general vicinity of some wells. It does not mean there are any problems resulting from these activities, only that a potential vulnerability exists. If you would like to view the completed assessment reports or have questions regarding them, please contact Colton Young at the Paso Robles Water Division at (805) 237-3866.



## 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.

## 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
Arsenic (ppb)	2021	10	0.004	1.4	ND–7.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2021	1	2	0.02594	ND–0.31	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2021	[4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	[4 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	1.2	0.55–2.5	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fluoride (ppm)	2021	2.0	1	0.19	ND–0.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2021	15	(0)	1.48	ND–7.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	60	NA	11.26	1.7–23.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppb)	2021	100	12	0.95	ND–18.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2021	10	10	0.88	ND–6.8	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite [as N] (ppb)	2021	10,000	10,000	1,150	400–4,900	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2021	50	30	9.65	ND–30	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
Thallium (ppb)	2021	2	0.1	0.0002	ND–1.1	No	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	80	NA	22.34	8.8–37.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2021	TT	NA	0.084	0.005–0.084	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity [lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit]	2021	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	2021	20	0.43	0.34	ND–6.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community (There were no detections of lead).

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.3	0.3	0.3	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

## SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2021	200	NS	0.005	ND–51	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2021	500	NS	32.47	9.3–130	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	2021	300	NS	34.8	ND–650	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2021	50	NS	2.37	ND–24.4	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor, Threshold (units)	2021	3	NS	1.59	1–3	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2021	1,600	NS	601.92	230–960	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2021	500	NS	86.96	18–150	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2021	1,000	NS	390.62	120–630	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2021	5	NS	0.28	0.08–2	No	Soil runoff

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES <sup>1</sup>

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2021	222.91	93–360	NA
Boron (ppb)	2021	96.46	ND–800	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2021	59.71	21–92	NA
Chromium-6 (ppb)	2021	0.19	ND–2.6	NA
Hardness, Total [as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ] (grains/gal)	2021	14.52	5.2–21.6	NA
pH (units)	2021	7.75	7.4–8.2	NA
Potassium (ppm)	2021	1.54	1.3–2.5	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2021	35.25	10–130	NA
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2021	183.82	76–296.7	NA
Vanadium (ppb)	2021	7.97	ND–64	NA

<sup>1</sup> Unregulated 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.

**grains/gal (grains per gallon):** Grains of compound per gallon of water.

**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.

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