



Your 2018 Annual Water Quality Report



This Annual Water Quality Report covers water quality testing that was performed in 2017 and is based on requirements established by the State of California. Included in this report are details about where your water comes from, how it is tested, what is in it, and how it compares with state and federal limits. We strive to keep you informed about the quality of your water, and to provide a reliable and economic supply that meets all state and federal regulatory requirements.

Important Information about your water

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it. For more information about the information contained in this report, please call (562) 692-3756.

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Traducir, o hable con alguien que entiende.

Message from the General Manager

Pico Water District: Serving up Quality and Reliability Since 1926

At Pico Water District, we make it our job to provide the highest quality and most reliable water service at the lowest possible rate - the same way we have since our founding in 1926.

While the District has grown from the **243 customers** it had back then to serving **23,000** today, our commitment to great customer service and responsible management of our resources hasn't changed.

Pico Water District only supplies groundwater which is pumped from a local basin known as the Central Basin, a valuable asset that helps us avoid buying more expensive supplies imported from Northern California and provides a more reliable local source in times of drought. We share rights to the Central Basin with water providers from surrounding cities and work with them to maintain healthy water levels in the basin.

As part of our commitment to water quality, and as required by law, we run hundreds of tests throughout the year to ensure the water we send to taps meets all federal and state health and safety regulations.

The results of that testing are included in this annual Consumer Confidence Report. We are proud to report that all drinking water meets these rigorous health standards. I invite you to read this report and assure you that we at Pico Water District will continue to fulfill our mission of providing reliable, cost-effective, high-quality water services for the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Grajeda
General Manager

About the District

The District was formed in 1926 as a "County Water District" under the State Water Act of 1913 and was formerly known as Pico County Water District, a public agency. The new District replaced five small water systems and improved water pressure throughout the service area, thus increasing property values for residents.

The District is fortunate to be supplied by groundwater from the Central Basin, which provides a reliable source for drinking water, even in times of drought. Today, the District provides water to about **23,000 people**.

SERVICE AREA

2.3 square miles

METERS

5,400 water connections

MAINLINES

52 miles of pipelines ranging in size from **4 to 14** inches in diameter

BOOSTER STATIONS

3 booster pumps

SOURCE OF SUPPLY

4 active wells

RESERVOIRS

One **1,250,000-million-gallon** storage tank

Frequently asked questions about this report



Where Does My Tap Water Come From and is it Safe to Drink?

All water delivered to Pico Water District customers comes from groundwater wells drilled in our service area. The quality of groundwater delivered to your home is presented in this report. This Water Quality Report reflects that the Pico Water District water quality is safe to drink and meets all federal and state requirements for drinking water.



How is My Drinking Water Tested?

Your drinking water is tested regularly for unsafe levels of chemicals, radioactivity and bacteria at the source and in the distribution system. We test weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually or less often depending on the substance being tested. State and federal laws allow us to test some substances less than once per year because their levels do not change frequently. All water quality tests are conducted by specially trained technicians working in state-certified laboratories.



What Are Drinking Water Standards?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) limits the amount of certain substances allowed in tap water. In California, the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water regulates tap water quality by enforcing limits that are at least as stringent as the USEPA. Historically, California limits are more stringent than the USEPA's.

There are two types of these limits, known as standards. Primary standards protect you from substances that could potentially affect your health. Secondary standards regulate substances that affect the aesthetic qualities of water. Regulations set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for each of the primary and secondary standards. The MCL is the highest level of a substance that is allowed in your drinking water.

Public Health Goals (PHGs) are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency. PHGs provide more information on the quality of drinking water to customers, and are similar to their federal counterparts, Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs). PHGs and MCLGs are advisory levels that are non-enforceable. Both PHGs and MCLGs are concentrations of a substance below which there are no known or expected health risks.



How Do I Read the Water Quality Table?

Although we test for over 100 substances, regulations require us to report only those found in your water. The first column of the water quality table lists the average concentration of a substance detected in your water. The next column lists the range of concentrations found in your drinking water. The next three columns list the MCL, PHG or MCLG, and possible sources that could contribute to the substance being in the water.


To review the quality of your drinking water, compare the highest concentration and the MCL. Check for substances greater than the MCL. Exceedance of a primary MCL does not usually constitute an immediate health threat. Rather, it requires testing the source water more frequently for a short duration. If test results show that the water continues to exceed the MCL, the water must be treated to remove the substance, or the source must be removed from service.





Why Do I See So Much Coverage in the News About the Quality of Tap 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**, including 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**, which 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, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems;

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State prescribe regulations that limit certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

All 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). You can also get more information on tap water by visiting these helpful web sites:

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency: epa.gov/safewater

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water: waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/



Lead in Tap Water

Pico Water District meets all standards for lead in the USEPA Lead and Copper Rule, however if present then 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. Pico Water District 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Should I Take Additional Precautions?

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. The USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection of *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Additional information:



Source Water Assessment

Pico Water District conducted an assessment of its groundwater supplies in 2002. Groundwater supplies are considered most vulnerable to chemical/petroleum processing/storage, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, landfills/dumps, automobile gas stations, fleet/truck/bus terminals, railroad yards/maintenance/fueling areas, motor pools, dry cleaners, automobile repair shops, electrical/electronic manufacturing, sewer collection systems, lumber processing and manufacturing, water supply wells, parking lots/malls, veterinary offices/clinics, fire stations, office buildings/complexes, food processing, research laboratories, rental yards, junk/scrap/salvage yards, automobile body shops, wood/pulp/paper processing and mills, furniture repair/manufacturing, and hospitals. A copy of the approved assessment may be obtained by asking for a copy in the office.



If you have any questions about your water, please call the District Office

For more information about this report, or your water quality in general, please call the District Office at (562) 692-3756. The Board of Directors meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6 p.m. The meetings are held in the Boardroom at 4843 S. Church Street; all members of the public are welcome to attend. Additional information about the District, water quality, and tips on water conservation can be found by visiting the District's website at picowaterdistrict.net.



Pico Water District: 2018 water quality testing results

Primary Standards Monitored At The Source - Mandated For Public Health

ORGANIC CHEMICALS (ug/l)	Groundwater		Primary MCL	MCLG or PHG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
	Average	Range			
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)	0.97	ND-2.3	5	0.06 (a)	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
Trichloroethylene (TCE)	0.36	ND-0.82	5	1.7 (a)	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Methylene chloride	ND	ND	5	4	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories; insecticide
INORGANICS					
Arsenic (ug/l)	1.9	1.6-2.1	10	0.004 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass/electronics production
Barium (ug/l)	84	67-110	1000	2 (a)	Oil drilling waste and metal refinery discharge; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ug/L)	0.37	0.22-0.62	50	100	Discharge from steel/pulp mills/chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ug/L)	1.825	1.3-2.5	100	12 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories
Lead (ug/L)	0.772	ND-6.0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers
Copper (ug/L)	175	5.5-570	1000	300	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ug/L)	0.66	0.44-0.98	50	30	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from petroleum, glass, metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
Fluoride (mg/l)	0.32	0.29-0.34	2	1 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (mg/l as N)	2.38	2.1-2.6	10	10 (a)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use/septic tanks/sewage, natural erosion

Pico Water District: 2018 water quality testing results

Primary Standards Monitored In The Distribution System-Mandated For Public Health

MICROBIALS	Average % Positive	Range % Positive	Primary MCL	MCLG or PHG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	0%	0%	5%	0%	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform & E. Coli Bacteria	0%	0%	0%	0%	Human and animal fecal waste
No. of Acute Violations	0	0	-	-	
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (c)	Average	Range	Primary MCL	MCLG or PHG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Trihalomethanes-TTHMS (ug/l)	3.76	0.65-9.2	80	-	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ug/l)	0.556	ND-1.7	60	-	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chromium (ug/L)	0.37	0.22-0.62	50	100	Discharge from steel/pulp mills/chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	0.004	ND-0.20	5 Units	-	Soil runoff
Free Chlorine Residual (mg/l)	0.882	0.24-1.22	4.0 (d)	4.0 (e)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
AT THE TAP PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS (35 sites sampled in 2017)	90th Percentile	No. Sites Above AL	Primary MCL	MCLG or PHG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Copper (ug/l)	100	0	1.3 AL	0.3 (a)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ug/l)	0.74	0	15 AL	2 (a)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, industrial manufacturer discharges

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. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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.

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

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

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

Pico Water District: 2018 water quality testing results

Secondary Standards Monitored At The Source - For Aesthetic Purposes

SOURCE GROUND WATER	Average	Range	Primary MCL	MCLG or PHG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Aggressive Index (<i>corrosivity</i>)	12.4	12.4	-	-	Natural-industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen/carbon/oxygen in water
Langelier Index @ 60oC	0.49	0.13-0.69	-	-	Natural-industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen/carbon/oxygen in water
Conductivity (<i>umhos/cm</i>)	812	650-970	1,600	-	Substances that form ions when in water, seawater influence
Manganese (<i>ug/l</i>)	0.368	ND-0.73	50	-	Leaching form natural deposits; industrial wastes
Zinc (<i>ug/L</i>)	12.3	9-15	5	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (<i>mg/l</i>)	522.5	400-590	1,000	-	Runoff/leaching form natural deposits
Chloride (<i>mg/l</i>)	81.2	60-98	500	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (<i>mg/l</i>)	101	66-120	500	-	Runoff/leaching form natural deposits; industrial wastes
Iron (<i>ug/L</i>)	3	ND-12	300	-	Runoff/leaching form natural deposits; industrial wastes

Secondary Standards Monitored At The Source - For Aesthetic Purposes

GENERAL PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS	Average	Range	Primary MCL	MCLG or PHG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Color (<i>color units</i>)	ND	ND-ND	15	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor (<i>threshold odor number</i>)	1	1 - 1	3	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials

ABBREVIATIONS

pCi/l = picoCuries per liter

NTU = nephelometric turbidity units

umhos/cm = micromhos per centimeter

ND = constituent not detected at the reporting limit

mg/l = milligrams per liter or parts per million (equivalent to 1 drop in 42 gallons)

ug/l = micrograms per liter or parts per billion (equivalent to 1 drop in 42,000 gallons)

Additional Chemicals of Interest

	Groundwater	
	Average	Range
Alkalinity as CaCO₃ (<i>mg/l</i>)	188	150-210
Calcium (<i>mg/l</i>)	87.7	59-110
Magnesium (<i>mg/l</i>)	16.4	12-19
pH (<i>standard unit</i>)	7.4	7.1-7.7
Potassium (<i>mg/l</i>)	4.5	3.9-5.3
Sodium (<i>mg/l</i>)	56.5	46-80
MBAS (<i>mg/L</i>)	ND	ND
Hardness as CaCO₃ (<i>mg/L</i>)	293	200-350



Pico Water District Board of Directors

Victor Caballero
President

Barbara Contreras Rapisarda
Vice President

Andrew Lara
Director

David Raul Gonzales
Director

E.A. "Pete" Ramirez
Director

Location & Hours

4843 S. Church Street
Pico Rivera, CA 90660-2102
Monday-Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Every other Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 562.692.3756
Fax: 562.695.5627

Stay informed with the Pico Water District

Pico Water District is committed to the highest standards of quality, fiscal responsibility, efficient business practices, accountability, and dedication to transparency. As part of this mission, we encourage customers and other members of the community to be informed about operations and the decision-making processes.

PWD holds board meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at **6 p.m.**



These meetings take place in the board room at **4843 S. Church Street** in Pico Rivera and are open to the public. The agendas and minutes for these meetings are posted on our website (picowaterdistrict.net). You can also contact us at **(562) 692-3756** for more information.

Save water AND money this summer!

While the statewide drought was declared over in 2017, we continue to face dry conditions in our area. The U.S. Drought Monitor reports most of Southern California, including the Pico Water District service area, under a "severe drought" as of June 2018.

On average, 30 to 60% of the water consumed by Californians is used outdoors. Small changes can lead to big water savings and reduce your bill. Here are a few adjustments that can save water:



Set your lawnmower blades to 3 inches. This encourages deeper roots and saves 16 - 50 gallons per day.



Use a broom to clean outdoor areas. This can save 8 - 18 gallons a minute compared to hosing down these areas.



Adjust sprinkler heads. This can save 12-15 gallons each time you water your lawn.



Check for irrigation system leaks. A leak as small as the tip of a ball point pen can leak 6,300 gallons of water each month.



Upgrade to drip irrigation. This can cut 15 gallons of use each time you water.



Add a smart irrigation controller. This change can reduce water use by 24 gallons per day.