

Your 2021 Annual Water Quality Report



Published July 1, 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Welcome to your 2021 Pico Water District Water Quality Report. This year we have overcome challenges as our community and the world dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic. One thing that has not been impacted by COVID-19 is our water quality and delivery. The coronavirus is not transmitted through water and our disinfection process ensures your water remains safe to drink.

Looking forward, we are taking steps to improve water quality. Work is underway on new treatment facilities at three of our wells to address the presence of PFAS in our groundwater. While the water we provide meets all state and federal drinking water standards, we are taking action to remove these constituents from the water supply. The treatment systems are expected to be operational by early 2022. **The District has pursued outside funding to help pay for the projects and reduce the financial burden on our customers.**

Information about PFAS and its impact on our water supply can be found on our website, www.picowaterdistrict.net. Additional online resources include California State Water Resources Control Board at www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas and Water Replenishment District of Southern California at www.wrd.org/content/pfas-resources. Customers who have further questions are invited to call our office at (562) 692-3756.

While we plan to reopen our lobby to the public sometime after Independence Day, we will continue to offer contactless service options to help customers. Please call us at (562) 692-3756 Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and alternating Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for assistance. Payments can be made by mail, online at www.picowaterdistrict.net, by calling our office at (562) 692-3756 during business hours or by calling Xpress Bill Pay 24/7 at (800) 720-6847. A drop box is also available outside our office during business hours.

As we look forward to better days, you can be sure all of us at Pico Water District are committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable water service to our customers.

— Mark Grajeda, General Manager

This Annual Water Quality Report covers water quality testing that was performed in 2020 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 supply that meets all state and federal regulatory requirements. This report contains important information about your drinking water. Get it translated or speak with someone who understands it. For more about the information contained in this report, please call (562) 692-3756. **Si desea una copia de este informe en español, llame al (562) 692-3756 o visite nuestro sitio web en www.picowaterdistrict.net.**

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER:



Source water assessment

Pico Water District conducted an assessment of its groundwater supplies in 2002. Groundwater supplies are considered most vulnerable to contaminants from 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 requesting one at the Pico Water District office.



If you have any questions about your water

Results are from testing performed in 2020, in accordance with state and federal drinking water regulations. For more information about this report, or your water quality in general, please call the District's office at **(562) 692-3756**. Additional information about the District, water quality, and tips on water conservation can be found by visiting the District's website at www.picowaterdistrict.net.

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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). You can also get more information on tap water by visiting these helpful websites:

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

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

Lead in tap water

Pico Water District meets all standards for lead in the U.S. EPA 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 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 U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection of Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

PICO WATER DISTRICT: 2020 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)	0.41	ND-1.4	5	0.06 (a)	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
Trichloroethylene (TCE)	0.19	ND-0.61	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
Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)			RL	NL	These chemicals are widely used in firefighting foams, grease- and stain-resistant clothing and carpeting and non-stick coatings such as pots and pans
<i>PFOS (ng/l)</i>	22	3.6-33	40	6.5	
<i>PFOA (ng/l)</i>	11.5	1.8-19	10	5.1	
<i>PFBS (µg/L)</i>			0.5	5	

INORGANIC CHEMICALS

Nitrate (mg/l as N)	2.28	1.3-2.7	10	10 (a)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use/septic tanks/sewage, natural erosion
----------------------------	------	---------	----	--------	--

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 & <i>E. Coli</i> Bacteria	0%	0%	0%	0%	Human and animal fecal waste
<i>No. of Acute Violations</i>	0	0	-	-	
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (c)	Average	Range	Primary MCL	MCLG or PHG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Trihalomethanes-TTHMS (ug/l)	2.57	ND - 10	80	-	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ug/l)	0.163	ND - 1.3	60	-	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Free Chlorine Residual (mg/l)	0.86	0.24-1.21	4.0 (d)	4.0 (e)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
AT THE TAP PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS 35 sites sampled	Average	Range	Action Level	MCLG or PHG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Copper (ug/l)	102	5.3-340	1300	300 (a)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ug/l)	0.822	ND-11	15	0.2 (a)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, industrial manufacturer discharges

Secondary Standards Monitored In The Distribution System – For Aesthetic Purposes

GENERAL PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS	Average	Range	Secondary MCL	MCLG or PHG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Color (color units)	ND	ND-ND	15	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor (threshold odor number)	1	ND-1	3	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Turbidity (NTU)	0.04	ND-1.9	5 Units	-	Soil runoff

DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

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.

Notification Level (NL): Non-regulatory, health based advisory level established by the SWRCB when there is no maximum contaminant level established for this chemical.

Response Level (RL): Non-regulatory, health based advisory level established by the SWRCB when there is no maximum contaminant level established for this chemical, and when more action is required by the water company to inform the public.

FOOTNOTES

(a) California Public Health Goal (PHG). Other advisory levels listed in this column are federal Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs).

(b) Gross alpha standard also includes Radium-226 standard.

(c) Running annual average used to calculate average, range, and MCL compliance.

(d) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)

(e) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)

NTU = nephelometric turbidity units

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)

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



UNDERSTANDING PFAS

PFAS is a collective term to describe a family of chemicals used in firefighting foams and household products such as carpet, textiles and packaging. Because products containing PFAS have been so widely used and disposed of, the contaminants have made their way into the groundwater in many areas, including the Central Basin.

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 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 as needed depending on the substance being tested.

What are drinking water standards?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) 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 U.S. EPA. Historically, California limits are more stringent than the U.S. EPA'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.

What affects the quality of water?

The sources of drinking 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.

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.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PICO WATER DISTRICT

Pico Water District welcomes all customers to better understand your water service. Board of Director meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. The meetings start at 6 p.m. in the District Boardroom, located at 4843 S. Church Street in Pico Rivera. Members of the public are invited to participate. Information on adjustments to meeting times and participation procedures due to COVID-19 can be found on the Pico Water District website.

Meeting agendas and minutes are available online at www.picowaterdistrict.net.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert A. Martinez
Director

David Gonzales
President

Elpidio "Pete" Ramirez
Director

Victor Caballero
Vice President

Raymond Rodriguez
Director

