



# Your 2019 Annual Water Quality Report

This Annual Water Quality Report covers water quality testing that was performed in 2018 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.



## Message from the General Manager

Welcome customers to our Spring 2019 Newsletter. This is an opportunity for Pico Water District to share recent efforts behind the scenes to improve your water service. Over the past few years the District's Board of Directors and staff have worked hard to make infrastructure improvements that will help make the system more reliable, more efficient and reduce operational costs.

These projects include replacing old undersized four-inch mains with new larger pipelines, replacing service lines to homes and business and installing more fire hydrants in areas where water mains are replaced; and also includes the development of a new well. Collectively, these projects will improve water service to our customers.

Pico Water District is currently utilizing new technology to improve efficiency in the office too. By sending out work orders electronically to our field crews, which can then be uploaded directly from the field staff spends less time driving back and forth to the office to pick up work orders. The District continues to work on replacing all old manual direct read meters with new AMR Meters. These meters can be read from a moving vehicle-reducing the time it takes to read meters from days to hours.

The Board also approved the replacement of the District's Utility Billing System. This new Utility Billing System will allow for a more streamlined billing system, more automated payments through our new online credit card payment system and help with accounting processes. Our new online bill pay system allows customers to pay online, over the phone or in person. Now, our customers can pay at their convenience by check, cash, debit or credit card.

## 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.**

# 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.



## Board of Directors Elect New Leaders

The Pico Water District started 2019 by selecting new Board officers. The Board voted to elect Barbara Contreras Rapisarda as President and David R. Gonzales as Vice President. They join Board members Victor Caballero, Andrew Lara and Robert A. Martinez in representing Pico Water District customers.

Board meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the District Boardroom, located at 4843 S. Church Street in Pico Rivera. The public is invited to attend.

# 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 websites:

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency: [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater)

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water: [waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/programs/](http://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).

## 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 known of 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.

## 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

Results are from testing performed in 2018, 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 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](http://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			
<b>Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)</b>	0.66	ND-1.8	5	0.06 (a)	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
<b>Trichloroethylene (TCE)</b>	0.25	ND-0.71	5	1.7 (a)	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
<b>Methylene chloride</b>	ND	ND	5	4	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories; insecticide
<b>INORGANICS</b>					
<b>Nitrate (mg/l as N)</b>	2.55	2.2-2.9	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
<b>Total Coliform Bacteria</b>	0%	0%	5%	0%	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Fecal Coliform &amp; E. Coli Bacteria</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	Human and animal fecal waste
<b>No. of Acute Violations</b>	0	0	-	-	
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (c)	Average	Range	Primary MCL	MCLG or PHG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
<b>Trihalomethanes-TTHMS (ug/l)</b>	3.83	ND - 6.8	80	-	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Haloacetic Acids (ug/l)</b>	0.281	ND - 1.2	60	-	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Turbidity (NTU)</b>	ND	ND	5 Units	-	Soil runoff
<b>Free Chlorine Residual (mg/l)</b>	0.8	0.06-1.34	4.0 (d)	4.0 (e)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

### Secondary Standards Monitored At The Source - For Aesthetic Purposes

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

### 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 (MDRL)
- ( e ) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDGL)

### ABBREVIATIONS

- 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)