IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ABOUT YOUR WATER

Your 2022 Annual Water Quality Report

Published July 2022

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY TO BETTER SERVE OUR CUSTOMERS

Here at Pico Water District, we strive to deliver safe, reliable and affordable water while providing superior customer service. To improve communications with our customers, we recently redesigned our website. You can access our online bill pay portal, meeting agendas and much more by visiting **www.picowaterdistrict.net.**

The new site also provides conservation resources and tips for reducing water use. With California experiencing extreme drought, the Pico Water District Board of Directors recently approved mandatory restrictions prohibiting the following wasteful practices:

- **Watering lawns within 48 hours of rainfall**
- **Using water to clean driveways, sidewalks and other hard surfaces**
- **Allowing excess water from irrigation systems to run off into streets**
- **Using hoses without an auto-shutoff nozzle to wash vehicles**

We are also 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 groundwater. While the water we deliver meets or exceeds 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 the end of 2023.

The District's Board of Directors and leadership team have been working for several years to minimize the financial impact of these projects on customers. A $4.3 million grant from the Water Replenishment District of Southern California will be used to help cover the cost of constructing the treatment facilities.

Information about PFAS and its impact on the water supply can be found on our website, and customers who have further questions can call our office at **562.692.3756**.

Pico Water District would like to thank all our customers for their water efficiency efforts. By working together, we can preserve our water resources now and in the future.

Mark Grajeda
General Manager

This Annual Water Quality Report covers water quality testing that was performed in 2021 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 2021, 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 2022 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Results are from testing performed in 2021, in accordance with state and federal drinking water regulations.

Primary Standards Monitored At The Source – Mandated For Public Health

ORGANIC CHEMICALS (ug/l)	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range	Primary MCL	MCLG or PHG	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Tetrachloroethylene *(PCE)*	1.7	ND-4.5	5	0.06 (a)	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)
Trichloroethylene *(TCE)*	0.57	ND-1.7	5	1.7 (a)	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
INORGANIC CHEMICALS - Sampled 2021 - 2022					
Arsenic *(ug/l)*	ND	ND - 2.4	50	0.04 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits; glass/electronics production wastes; runoff
Barium *(mg/l)*	ND	ND - 0.12	1	2 (a)	Oil drilling waste and metal refinery discharge; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride *(mg/l)*	0.33	0.27 - 0.38	2	1 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive that promotes strong teeth
Nitrate *(mg/l as NO3)*	8.1	ND - 11	10	10 (a)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use/septic tanks/sewage, natural erosion
RADIOLOGICAL (pCi/l) - Sampled 2021- 2022					
Gross Alpha *(b)*	8.7	8.7-8.7	15 (c)	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226	0.26	0.26-0.26	5	-	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	0.21	0.046-0.37	5	-	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	5.7	5.7-5.7	20 (c)	0.5 (a)	Erosion of natural deposits
POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)					
PFOS *(ng/L)*	24.3	14-41	40	6.5	These chemicals are widely used in firefighting foams, in grease and stain-resistant materials and for non-stick coatings such as pots, pans, clothing and carpets.
PFOA *(ng/L)*	12.3	7.7-17	10	5.1	
PFBS *(ng/L)*	6.13	3.9-9.6	-	-	

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 (d)	**Average**	**Range**	**Primary MCL**	**MCLG or PHG**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Trihalomethanes-TTHMS *(ug/l)*	5.1	1.1 - 13	80	-	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids *(ug/l)*	1.1	0 - 2.3	60	-	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity *(NTU)*	0.01	ND - 0.18	5 Units	-	Soil runoff
Free Chlorine Residual *(mg/l)*	0.3	0.19-0.79	4.0 (e)	4.0 (f)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
AT THE TAP PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS 56 sites sampled in 2020	**90%**	**# Sites above all**	**Primary MCL**	**MCLG or PHG**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Copper *(ug/l)*	0.37 (g)	0	1.3 AL	0.17 (a)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Lead *(ug/l)*	3.9 (g)	0	15 AL	2 (a)	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, industrial manufacturer discharges

Secondary Standards Monitored At The Source – For Aesthetic Purposes

SOURCE GROUND WATER (Sampled 2021- 2022)					
Aggressive Index *(corrosivity)*	12.2	12.0 - 12.9	Non-Corrosive	-	Natural-industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen/carbon/oxygen in water
Chloride *(mg/l)*	78	66 - 91	500	-	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Conductivity *(umhos/cm)*	850	700 - 970	1,600	-	Substances that form ions when in water, seawater influence
Foaming Agents *(ug/l)*	6	ND - 30	500	-	Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Iron *(ug/l)*	ND	ND	300	-	Leaching form natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese *(ug/l)*	1.7	1.4 - 2.0	50	-	Leaching form natural deposits; industrial wastes
Odor *(threshold odor number)*	ND	ND - 1	3	-	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Sulfate *(mg/l)*	105	100-110	500	-	Runoff/leaching form natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids *(mg/l)*	534	420 - 640	1,000		Runoff/leaching form natural deposits
Turbidity *(NTU)*	ND	ND - 0.02	5	-	Soil runoff

Secondary Standards Monitored In The Distribution System – For Aesthetic Purposes

GENERAL PHYSICAL CONSTITUENTS					
Color *(color units)*	ND	ND-ND	15	–	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Odor *(threshold odor number)*	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 (MRDL)

(e) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)

(f) Response Level (RL)

(g) Notification Level (NL)

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)

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.

DEFINITIONS AND 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): Notification levels are health-based advisory levels established by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

Response Level (RL): When chemicals are found at concentrations greater than their notification levels, certain requirements and recommendations apply. The level at which DDW recommends removal of a drinking water source from service is called the "response level".

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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.

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.

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 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.

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 5:30 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

Elpidio "Pete" Ramirez	Raymond Rodriguez	Victor Caballero	David Gonzales	Robert A. Martinez
President	Vice President	Director	Director	Director

Pico Water District is committed to keeping our community informed and involved.