

2023

City of Fairfield

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



The City of Fairfield is pleased to provide the 2023 Water Quality Report. We are committed to providing high-quality drinking water that meets or surpasses State and Federal health standards. This annual report includes important information and provides an educational opportunity to understand where your water comes from, what it contains, and the measures we take for the protection of public health.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (State) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Water Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

The tables in this report list the drinking water contaminants detected for the period January 1 - December 31, 2023 and show how they compare to State and USEPA standards. The State allows us to monitor some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants change infrequently. 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).



We are committed to providing high-quality drinking water that meets or surpasses State and Federal health standards.

FEDERALLY REQUIRED INFORMATION ON DRINKING 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, 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 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, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Treated Water

Table 1 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Substance (reporting units)	MCL	PHG	Drinking Water		Contaminant Sources
			Range	Average	
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	< 0.02 – 0.05	0.04	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Fluoride (ppm)*	2	1	0.61 – 0.91	0.73	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	<0.05 – 1.1	0.56	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, septic tanks, and sewage; erosion of natural deposits

*The City of Fairfield treats your water by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level to help prevent dental caries in consumers. State regulations require the fluoride levels in the treated water be maintained within a range of 0.6 and 1.2 ppm.

Table 2 – DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Substance (reporting units)	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Drinking Water		Contaminant Sources
			Range	Average	
Aluminum (ppb)	200	NA	< 20 – 53	37	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes.
Chloride (ppm)	500	NA	8.1 – 12	10	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.
Odor – Threshold	3	NA	N/A	1.4	Naturally-occurring organic materials.
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1600	NA	210 – 618	359	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence.
Sulfate (ppm)	500	NA	24 – 120	67	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1000	NA	150 – 380	242	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Turbidity (Units)	5	NA	0.03 – 0.16	0.07	Soil runoff.

Table 3 – SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Substance (reporting units)	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Drinking Water		Contaminant Sources
			Range	Average	
Hardness (ppm)	NA	NA	63 – 238	112	It is the sum of cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. They are usually naturally occurring.
Sodium (ppm)	NA	NA	18 – 55	33	Generally naturally occurring and refers to the salt present in the water.

Table 4 – State Contaminants with Notification Levels – PFAS/PFOS

Substance (reporting units)	NL	PHG (MCLG)	Drinking Water	Health Effects
			Result	
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (ng/L)	5.1	NA	< 2.0	Perfluorooctanoic acid exposures resulted in increased liver weight and cancer in laboratory animals.
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (ng/L)	6.5	NA	< 2.0	Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid exposures resulted in immune suppression and cancer in laboratory animals.

SOURCE WATER

Fairfield’s source water originates from Lake Berryessa and the Sacramento Delta. Water is transported for treatment through the Putah South Canal and the North Bay Aqueduct. Treatment of source water is divided between two conventional water treatment plants, the Waterman Water Treatment Plant and the North Bay Regional Water Treatment Plant (NBR is jointly owned by the Cities of Fairfield and Vacaville).

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS

Source Water Assessments are studies and reports that generate information about potential contaminant sources. Source Water Assessments and Watershed Sanitary Surveys are conducted for the purpose of investigating potential contaminating activities which may affect the vulnerability/susceptibility of contamination to source water(s). Watershed management practices are implemented to improve water quality and reduce potential contaminant sources.

Lake Berryessa: Significant potential sources of contamination include illegal activities, unauthorized dumping, herbicide application and agricultural drainage. The most recent sanitary survey was completed in 2022.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Significant potential sources of contamination include recreational use, urban and agricultural runoff, grazing animals, and herbicide application. Updates to the sanitary survey were completed in 2022.



A copy of the complete assessments and associated vulnerability summaries can be obtained through the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water, San Francisco District Office, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P 2nd floor, Richmond, CA 94804- 510.620.3474.

Distribution System

Table 5 – DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS PRECURSORS, DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS

Substance	Compliance Ratio		Range	Average	Contaminant Sources
DBP Precursors	More than or equal to 1.0		< 0.3 – 3.7	2.0	Various natural and man-made sources
Substance (reporting units)	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range	Highest Running Annual Average	Contaminant Sources
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	NA	18.0 – 79.0	61	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	NA	4.7 – 26.0	18	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Substance (reporting units)	MRDL	MRDLG	Range	Running Annual Average	Contaminant Sources
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	< 0.10 – 1.65	0.58	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

Table 6 – TURBIDITY AS A MEASURE OF FILTER PERFORMANCE

Substance (reporting units)	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Entry Point to Distribution System		Contaminant Sources
			NBR	Waterman	
Turbidity (NTU) <i>Measure of the cloudiness of the water.</i>	TT = 1.0 Percentage of samples ≤ 0.3	NA	Maximum = 0.13 100	Maximum = 0.09 100	Soil runoff

We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Table 7 – DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER IN CUSTOMER TAPS

Substance (reporting units)	AL	PHG	No. of Samples (Collected in 2023)	90th Percentile Detected	No. Sites exceeding AL	Contaminant Sources
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	50	< 5.0	0	Plumbing corrosion; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	50	0.170	0	Plumbing corrosion; erosion of natural deposits

Table 8 – DETECTION OF E. Coli – REVISED TOTAL COLIFORM RULE

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Distribution System	Contaminant Sources
E. coli	0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste

ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

AL – Action Level: The concentrations of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant 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.

MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. Set by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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.

NL – Notification Level.

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 Environmental Protection Agency.

Ppb – Parts per billion: or micrograms per liter (µg/L).

Ppm – Parts per million: or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

TT – Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce a contaminant in drinking water.

µS/cm – microsiemens per centimeter.

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

CURRENT MONITORING ORDERS

Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

PFAS are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s. PFAS can be present in drinking water. Current scientific research suggests that exposure to certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes. Under the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5), the City of Fairfield will monitor for one year (2024), twenty-nine Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.



UPCOMING MONITORING ORDERS

Microplastics

Studies of rodents exposed to some types of microplastics through drinking water indicate potentially adverse effects, including on the reproductive system. However, more research is needed to understand potential human health implications and at what concentrations adverse effects may occur. Therefore, California is monitoring microplastics in drinking water to understand its occurrence and is supporting ongoing research. The City of Fairfield has been selected to monitor microplastics during Phase 1 of a pending statewide plan.

WATER QUALITY

Lead —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. The City of Fairfield 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 two 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 <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Triennially, the City of Fairfield collects samples at consumer taps to identify levels of lead in drinking water that may result from corrosion of lead-bearing components in the water system's distribution system or in household plumbing. Compliance was met with the latest round of testing in 2023. The next round of testing will commence in summer of 2026.

Security — The City of Fairfield has performed a comprehensive vulnerability assessment for the water system resources. If you should see items of concern or notice anything suspicious, please contact the City of Fairfield at **707.434.6100**.

Sensitive Populations — Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water hotline (1.800.426.4791).

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse the City of Fairfield a 707-437-5397 para asistirlo en español.

Ang pag-uulat na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa inyong inuming tubig. Mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa City of Fairfield o tumawag sa 707-428-7496 para matulungan sa wikang Tagalog.

For More Information:

Questions regarding this report, Jenell Pratt:	(707) 437-5386
Water Billing:	(707) 428-7346
Water Repairs:	(707) 428-7415
Water Quality Concerns:	(707) 437-5390
After Hours Water Repairs:	(707) 428-7300
Water Conservation Information:	(707) 428-7630
EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline:	(800) 426-4791

City of Fairfield, Public Works Department, 1000 Webster Street, Fairfield, CA

Public input on drinking water issues is encouraged. You are welcome to attend a City Council meeting and have your voice heard. Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Fairfield City Council Chamber at 1000 Webster Street.