

This brochure summarizes last year's water quality.

Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to drinking water standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).



# 2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT

INFORME DE CALIDAD DEL AGUA DE 2020 ≈ BÁO CÁO CHẤT LƯỢNG NƯỚC NĂM 2020

CITY OF SAN JOSE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT · SAN JOSE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM

*Delivering World-Class Utility Services and Programs to Improve Our Health, Environment and Economy*



Environmental Services

San José Municipal Water System  
Environmental Services Department  
3025 Tuers Road  
San José, CA 95121

2020  
WATER QUALITY REPORT



This report contains important information about your drinking water. We hope it will provide the facts and perspective you need to make an informed evaluation of your tap water. To view a copy in a language other than English, visit [www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality](http://www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality).

這份報告包含了有關您的飲用水的重要資訊。請於[www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality](http://www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality)網址讀取這份報告的中文版。

이 설명서에는 여러분의 식수에 대한 중요한 정보들이 포함되어 있습니다. 한국어로 읽으시려면 [www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality](http://www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality)로 가십시오.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para ver una copia en español visite la página de internet [www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality](http://www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality).

Mahalaga ang impormasyong ito. Upang makabasa ng kopya sa Tagalog, pumunta sa [www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality](http://www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality).

Bảng tin này có nhiều thông tin quan trọng về nước uống. Để xem bản tiếng Việt, xin viếng [www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality](http://www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality).

इस रपॉर्ट में आपके पीने के पानी के बारे में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी शामिल है। हकी में एक प्रत दिखने के लिए, वेबसाइट पर जाएं [www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality](http://www.sjenvironment.org/waterquality)!

# A Message from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Across America, the sources of both tap and bottled 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 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, 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, which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA and SWRCB prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. SWRCB regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 and 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 healthcare providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

## SAFEGUARDING YOUR WATER SUPPLY

**PROTECTING** our water supply is important to ensure that water is safe from contamination and aesthetically pleasing for use. Protection begins in the watersheds, where people and their activities can be a major cause of source contamination. Contamination requires additional treatment, which increases the cost to deliver water to your tap.

**PARTICIPATING** in public meetings and forums regarding water issues enables decision-makers to hear your perspective and allows you to be directly involved in protecting your water supply. Visit [www.sanjoseca.gov/councilagenda](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/councilagenda) for San José City Council meeting agendas.



**UNDERSTANDING** that drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least minute amounts of contaminants will help you make an informed choice about your drinking water. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate a health risk.

*Right:* Cesar Ramirez, Senior Construction Inspector, oversees a capital improvement project that ensures the safety and reliability of drinking water for our customers. (Photo by Alvina Narayan)

*Left:* The Fowler Pump Station is undergoing a full replacement as part of a capital improvement project to improve aging infrastructure. (Photo by Emily Meyers)





# The Source of Your Water

The San José Municipal Water System (Muni Water) serves the North San José, Alviso, Evergreen, Edenvale and Coyote Valley communities of the City of San José. The source of your water depends on the service area in which you are located.

## ■ North San José/Alviso Service Area

Muni Water purchases a blend of Hetch Hetchy water and treated water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and delivers it to our Alviso and North San José customers. In 2020, the Hetch Hetchy Watershed provided most of the total SFPUC water supply, supplemented by local watersheds in Alameda and Santa Clara counties. The major water source originates from spring snowmelt flowing down the Tuolumne River to the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, where it is stored. Since this water source meets all federal and state criteria for watershed protection, disinfection treatment practices, bacteriological quality monitoring, and high operational standards, the EPA and state of California have granted this water source a filtration exemption.

The Alameda Watershed spans more than 35,000 acres in Alameda and Santa Clara counties. Surface water from rainfall and runoff is collected in the Calaveras and San Antonio reservoirs. Prior to distribution, the water from these reservoirs is treated at the Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP). Filtration, disinfection, fluoridation and corrosion control treatment are provided for the combined Hetch Hetchy and SVWTP water at the Sunol Chloramination and Fluoridation facilities.

The SFPUC actively and aggressively protects the natural water resources entrusted to its care. An annual report on the Hetch Hetchy Watershed reflects the evaluation of its sanitary conditions, water quality and potential contamination sources. The report also presents performance results of watershed management activities implemented by the SFPUC and partner agencies to reduce or eliminate potential contamination sources. The SFPUC also conducts sanitary surveys of the local watersheds every five years. These surveys identified wildlife, livestock and human activities as potential contamination sources. You may contact the San Francisco office of the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water at 510-620-3474 for review of these reports.

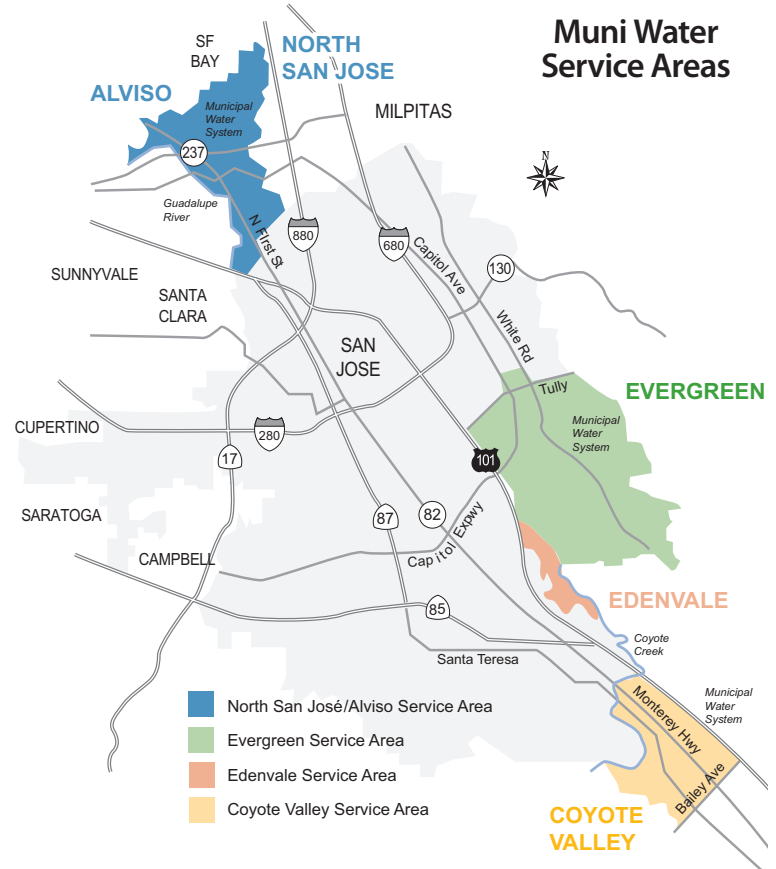
In 2020, groundwater from local deep-water wells in North San José was utilized to supplement the SFPUC supply. With this additional water source, some customers may have received a blend of groundwater and SFPUC water. A slight difference in taste and odor may have been noticed, since groundwater generally has a higher mineral content than surface water.

Muni Water conducted a one-time source water assessment of the wells in January 2003.\*

## ■ Evergreen Service Area

Muni Water purchases treated surface water from Valley Water (formerly known as the Santa Clara Valley Water District) and delivers it to our Evergreen customers. Valley Water's surface water is mainly imported from the South Bay Aqueduct, Dyer Reservoir, Lake Del Valle and San Luis Reservoir, which all draw water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed. Valley Water local surface water sources include Anderson and Calero reservoirs. Water from imported and local sources is pumped to and treated at three water treatment plants located in San José.

Since 2006, Valley Water has used ozone as the primary disinfectant. Ozone disinfection is highly effective at inactivating microbial



contaminants and creates fewer disinfection by-products than chlorine. Ozone also effectively removes negative tastes and odors often caused by seasonal algal blooms in the Delta source waters.

Valley Water's source waters are vulnerable to potential contamination from a variety of land use practices, such as agricultural and urban runoff, recreational activities, livestock grazing, and residential and industrial development. Imported sources are additionally vulnerable to wastewater treatment plant discharges, seawater intrusion, and wildfires in open space areas. Local sources are additionally vulnerable to contamination from commercial stables and historic mining practices. No contaminant associated with any of these activities has been detected in Valley Water's treated water. The water treatment plants provide multiple barriers for physical removal and disinfection of contaminants. For additional information, visit the Valley Water website at [www.valleywater.org](http://www.valleywater.org).

During 2020, Muni Water utilized groundwater from local deep-water wells to supplement Valley Water's supply. Some customers may have received a blend of groundwater and Valley Water's treated water. A slight difference in taste and odor may have been noticed, since groundwater generally has a higher mineral content than surface water. Muni Water conducted a source water assessment for the Evergreen wells in December 2014.\*

## ■ Edenvale Service Area

Groundwater from deep-water wells provides 100 percent of the supply for the Edenvale service area. Muni Water conducted a one-time source water assessment for the Edenvale wells in January 2003.\* Although the source is considered potentially vulnerable to chemical and petroleum processing activities, no contaminants associated with these activities have been detected.

## ■ Coyote Valley Service Area

Groundwater from deep-water wells provides 100 percent of the supply for this service area. An assessment of these wells was conducted in June 2004,\* and potable use of the groundwater began in 2005. Although the source is considered potentially vulnerable to agricultural drainage, unauthorized dumping, storage tank leaks, and sewer collection systems, no contaminants associated with these activities have been detected.

\* For information about the type of contaminants tested or to get a copy of the groundwater well assessment reports for your service area, please contact a Water Quality Engineer at 408-277-3671.

## Water Quality

**Coliforms**, reported as “Total Coliform,” are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Standards for compliance vary depending on the size of the distribution system. In larger systems, 95 percent of all samples taken each month must be free of coliforms. In smaller systems, no more than one sample per month may test positive for the presence of coliforms.

**Disinfection** of surface water is necessary to destroy disease-causing organisms for the protection of public health. In Evergreen, North San José and Alviso, water is disinfected using chloramine. Except for a slight chlorinous taste or odor, chloramine is not harmful to the general public. However, it must be removed for kidney dialysis machines and aquariums. If you are receiving kidney dialysis treatment, please contact your doctor or dialysis technician. For pet fish, contact your local fish store for more information about special water treatment.

**Fluoride** is added to the treated water supplies in Evergreen, North San José and Alviso to help prevent dental cavities in consumers.

In Evergreen, Muni Water began fluoridating the treated water it received from Valley Water following an Evergreen community advisory vote in the early 1960s. Valley Water became responsible for fluoridating the water supply in 2016 and now provides fluoridation of the water supply at their water treatment plants.

SFPUC has been fluoridating its water supplies since November 2005. The fluoride levels in the treated water are maintained within the range required by state regulations.

In 2020, some areas of Evergreen, North San José and Alviso may have received a blend of treated water and non-fluoridated groundwater. As a result, some customers periodically received water with fluoride levels slightly below the recommended range.

At present, additional fluoride is not added in Edenvale or Coyote Valley service areas. Consult your doctor or dentist if you are considering additional fluoride supplements or treatments.

**Hardness** consists mainly of calcium and magnesium salts. Although it does not pose

a health risk, it may be considered undesirable for other reasons. Some benefits to reducing hardness by using water softeners are reductions in soap usage, longer life for water heaters, and less incrustation of pipes. Some disadvantages are an increase in sodium intake (depending on the type of softener used), proper maintenance and servicing requirements, and potential adverse effects on plants and landscaping.

**Turbidity** is a measure of the water’s cloudiness. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the water treatment process. The turbidity standard for unfiltered supplies (e.g., Hetch Hetchy) is 5 NTU. The turbidity for filtered water supplies (e.g., Valley Water treated water) must be less than 0.3 NTU 95 percent of the time and at no time higher than 1 NTU.

**Cryptosporidium** and **Giardia lamblia** are parasitic microbes found in most surface water. The SFPUC and Valley Water regularly test for these waterborne pathogens and found them at very low levels in source and/or treated water in 2020. However, current test methods approved by the EPA do not distinguish between dead organisms and those capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia lamblia* may produce symptoms of nausea, abdominal cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

**Lead**, if present at elevated levels, 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. Muni Water 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 at 800-426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

The water at all 20 public K-12 schools in the Muni Water service area has been tested in recent years, and results showed no detections of lead.

## 2020 Water Quality Data

Water at various locations in the distribution system is tested by certified City staff and a private, state-certified laboratory using the latest testing procedures and equipment. During 2020, numerous tests were conducted on samples taken from the distribution system. In addition to these tests, Valley Water and SFPUC perform their own water quality analyses of the source and treated water.

Test results from the distribution system and source water analyses are shown in the table. Some of the data, though representative, are more than one year old. SWRCB allows monitoring for some constituents less than once per year since their concentrations do not change frequently.

Lab analysis was also performed for many constituents other than those listed in the tables; only those constituents detected in the tap water are shown. For a complete list of all the constituents analyzed or any questions about this report, please contact a Water Quality Engineer at 408-277-3671.



**PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS — Public Health-Related Standards**

Parameter	Unit	MCL (MRDL) [AL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Evergreen* (Valley Water Treated Water)		Evergreen (Groundwater)		Edenvale** (Groundwater)		Coyote Valley*** (Groundwater)		North San José/ Alviso (SFPUIC Treated Water)		North San José/ Alviso (Groundwater)		Typical Source
				Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	
<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>																
Aluminum	ppm	1	0.6	ND	ND - 0.1	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	1
Arsenic	ppb	10	0.004	ND	ND	2.3	2.1 - 2.5	2.5	2.4 - 2.7	2.2	2 - 2.4	ND	ND	2.8	2.5 - 3	6, 12
Barium	ppm	1	2	ND	ND	0.2	0.2 - 0.2	0.14	0.11 - 0.15	ND	ND - 0.1	ND	ND	0.2	0.2 - 0.2	1
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	0.8	0.4 - 0.9	0.1	0.1 - 0.2	0.2	0.2 - 0.2	0.14	0.13 - 0.14	0.7	0.6 - 0.9	ND	ND	1, 2
Nitrate (as N)	ppm	10	10	ND	ND - 0.8	2.4	2.1 - 2.8	2.3	1.7 - 2.9	0.7	0.6 - 0.8	ND	ND	1.7	0.5 - 3	1, 3
Selenium	ppb	50	30	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND - 6	6
<b>ORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>																
Total Trihalomethanes <sup>b</sup>	ppb	80	NS	40	23 - 60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	44	14 - 42	NA	NA	4
Total Haloacetic Acids <sup>b</sup>	ppb	60	NS	11	ND - 25	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	36	7 - 40	NA	NA	4
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	TT	NS	2.2	1.5 - 2.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.9	1.7 - 3.4	NA	NA	15
Bromate	ppb	10	0.1	3.3	ND - 7.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	ND	ND	NA	NA	4
<b>DISINFECTION</b>																
Chloramine (as chlorine) <sup>a</sup>	ppm	(4)	[4]	2.0	0 - 3.4	NA	NA	NA	NA - 2.6**	NA	NA - 3.3***	2.8	1.4 - 3.8	NA	NA	5
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>																
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	oocysts/L	TT	(0)	ND	ND - 0.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6
<i>Giardia Lamblia</i>	cyst/L	TT	(0)	ND	ND - 0.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.01	ND - 0.05	NA	NA	6
				<b>Highest %</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Highest %</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Highest %</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Highest %</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Highest #</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Highest #</b>	<b>Range</b>	
Total Coliform <sup>a</sup>	% positive per month	5	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	# positive per month	1	(0)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	6
<b>CLARITY</b>																
Turbidity (unfiltered sources)	NTU	5	NS	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Highest Level = 1.3		NA	NA	7
Turbidity (filtered sources)	NTU	1	NS	Highest Level = 0.26 <sup>c</sup>		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Highest Level = 0.4 <sup>c</sup>		NA	NA	7
<b>LEAD AND COPPER</b>																
<b>90th Percentile (# Samples Exceeding AL)</b>																
Lead <sup>e</sup>	ppb	[15]	0.2	ND (0 of 51)								ND (0 of 30)				8
Copper <sup>e</sup>	ppb	[1300]	300	220 (0 of 51)								50 (0 of 30)				8

**SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS — Aesthetic Standards**

Parameter	Unit	SMCL	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	
Chloride	ppm	500	67	51 - 71	49	46 - 54	47	46 - 49	39	37 - 41	8.7	ND - 15	34	29 - 39	9, 10
Color	CU	15	ND	ND	3	ND - 10	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	11
Iron	ppm	0.3	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND - 0.12	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	1
Manganese	ppm	0.05	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.03	0.02 - 0.04	1
Odor	TON	3	1	1 - 1	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	11
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	493	385 - 532	880	850 - 930	700	690 - 710	543	530 - 560	160	30 - 260	720	610 - 830	10, 14
Sulfate	ppm	500	54	31 - 67	60	59 - 62	48	47 - 50	34	34 - 35	17	1 - 34	60	45 - 75	9, 12
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	297	138 - 362	587	510 - 630	463	430 - 490	320	310 - 330	72	ND - 137	390	310 - 470	9
Turbidity	NTU	5	0.04	0.02 - 0.26	0.2	0.2 - 0.3	0.12	ND - 0.15	0.3	0.2 - 0.4	ND	ND - 0.2	0.38	0.15 - 0.61	7

**OTHER WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS**

Parameter	Unit	MCL	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range
Boron	ppb	NS	140	ND - 198	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	ND	ND	NA	NA
Calcium	ppm	NS	21	17 - 24	61	58 - 63	49	43 - 56	44	41 - 45	12	2.9 - 22	78	61 - 95
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>d</sup>	ppm	NS	103	84 - 118	407	386 - 438	319	316 - 323	249	243 - 257	45	8 - 79	305	228 - 382
Magnesium	ppm	NS	12	10 - 14	62	56 - 71	48	43 - 51	34	33 - 35	4	0.2 - 6.8	27	18 - 35
pH	-	NS	7.9	7.6 - 8.1	7.8	7.7 - 7.8	7.7	7.3 - 8.3	7.7	7.7 - 7.7	9.3	8.6 - 9.8	7.8	7.7 - 7.9
Potassium	ppm	NS	3.1	2.4 - 3.2	1.1	1 - 1.2	0.8	ND - 1.2	1	ND - 1	0.8	0.3 - 1.3	1.5	1.3 - 1.7
Silica	ppm	NS	13	8 - 15	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.8	2.8 - 7	NA	NA
Sodium	ppm	NS	56	43 - 59	39	38 - 39	31	30 - 31	19	17 - 22	14	2.4 - 22	40	34 - 46
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	ppm	NS	79	70 - 103	340	320 - 360	103	100 - 110	183	180 - 190	55	6.7 - 138	270	240 - 300

\* SFPUIC treated water was delivered to the Evergreen System in January and November 2020 via the SFPUIC-Valley Water Interline connection. Refer to the North San Jose/Alviso treated water data column in this table for details on the quality of that water supply.

\*\* Valley Water treated surface water was delivered to the Edenvale distribution system during June and October 2020. Refer to the Evergreen treated water data column in this table for details on the quality of that water supply.

\*\*\* Temporary chlorination was performed during June and November 2020 for maintenance purposes. No chlorine was present in the service area during the remainder of the year.

**NOTES:**

- a** Distribution system data in 2020.
- b** Distribution system data in 2020. Running averages are calculated from data for previous quarters that are not shown in this table.
- c** Filtered water turbidity required to be < 0.3 NTU in 95% of samples. All filtered water sources met this standard.
- d** To convert hardness from ppm to grains per gallon, divide by 17.1.
- e** Distribution system customer data in 2018.

**TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER:**

- 1 Erosion of natural deposits
- 2 Water additive that promotes strong teeth
- 3 Runoff/leaching from fertilizers
- 4 By-product of drinking water disinfection
- 5 Added for disinfection
- 6 Naturally present in the environment
- 7 Soil runoff
- 8 Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems
- 9 Runoff/leaching of natural deposits
- 10 Seawater influence
- 11 Naturally occurring organic material
- 12 Industrial waste
- 13 Industrial discharges
- 14 Substances forming ions in water
- 15 Various natural and human-made sources
- 16 Naturally occurring
- 17 Human/animal fecal waste
- 18 Discharge from steel and pulp mills, chrome plating
- 19 Discharge from metal factories

**See next page for definitions and abbreviations used in this table.**



# Make Water Efficiency a Way of Life

Muni Water's customers demonstrated their continued commitment to conservation by reducing water use in **2020 by 19 percent** compared to seven years ago during the drought! It's important to eliminate water waste and make efficient water use a part of our daily lives.

To prevent water waste, the City has water use rules that remain in effect at all times, regardless of drought conditions. There are also programs in place to help make efficient water use a daily practice.

For water-efficiency tips or to view the complete list of water use rules in effect at all times, please visit [www.sjenvironment.org/waterefficiency](http://www.sjenvironment.org/waterefficiency).



San José Municipal Water System staff in a photo taken prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo by A.J. Valdez)

## About Us

**THE SAN JOSE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM** is a City-owned water utility that has served customers since 1961. We are committed to delivering a reliable water supply that meets or exceeds all drinking water health standards. For more information, visit our website at [www.sjenvironment.org/muniwater](http://www.sjenvironment.org/muniwater) or call 408-535-3500 (translation services are available).

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, City of San José Environmental Services Department materials can be made available upon request in alternative formats, such as Braille, large print, audiotape or computer disk. Requests may be made by calling 408-277-3671 (voice), 800-735-2929 (California Relay Service), or 408-294-9337 (TTY).*

*The City of San José is committed to open and honest government and strives to consistently meet the community's expectations by providing excellent service, in a positive and timely manner, and in the full view of the public.*



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## Definitions

### AL (Regulatory Action Level)

The concentration 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 that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technically 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. The EPA sets MCLGs.

### 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.

### NL (Notification Level)

Health-based advisory levels established by the SWRCB for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels.

### PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard)

MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring, reporting, and water treatment requirements.

### PHG (Public Health Goal)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The California Environmental Protection Agency sets PHGs.

### Source Water

Raw water that has not been treated to meet drinking water standards.

### Treated Water

Water that has been treated to meet EPA and SWRCB drinking water standards.

### Treatment Technique

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### Abbreviations:

<	less than
AL	Action Level
CU	Color Unit
NA	Not Applicable
ND	Not Detected
NS	No Standard
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/L	pico Curies per liter
ppb	parts-per-billion (equals 1 microgram per liter (mg/L))
ppm	parts-per-million (equals 1 milligram per liter (mg/L))
TON	Threshold Odor Number
TT	Treatment Technique
µS/cm	microSiemens per centimeter