



**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

**2024
Water Quality
Consumer Confidence Report**

Published June 2025

We take pride in delivering high-quality drinking water

This Consumer Confidence Report provides facts and perspectives you need to make an informed evaluation of your tap water. It contains water quality monitoring results for calendar year 2024 and answers the most common customer questions.

The most frequently asked question we hear: "Is our tap water safe to drink?" Yes! Our drinking water quality is carefully regulated by the Federal Government with the Safe Drinking Water Act, requiring the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish uniform standards enforced by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Drinking Water.

The 2024 Water Quality Report is prepared according to the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements and State regulations. Only constituents that were detected in at least one water source appear in the water quality table. As required by the State, we also provide additional information for certain constituents though the water meets all enforceable drinking water standards.

PRIMARY STANDARDS are designed to protect public health, specifying limits called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for substances in water that may be harmful to humans or affect health if consumed in large quantities.

SECONDARY STANDARDS are qualities such as color, taste and odor, specifying limits for substances that may affect consumer acceptance of the water.

The State allows us to monitor some contaminants less than once per year since their concentrations don't change frequently. Due to regulatory monitoring schedules, some data can be more than one year old.

For information, guidance and potential health effects in English and Spanish, call:
EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791

Guidance for People With Compromised Immune Systems

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, who have undergone organ transplants, and some elderly, infants and other immuno-compromised people can be particularly at risk from infections and should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

Share this Water Quality Report with all people who drink City tap water, especially if they may not have received this notice directly.

This Water Quality Report is available online at SantaClaraCA.gov/WaterQualityReport. Post it in a public place or distribute paper copies by hand or mail.

Free paper copies of the 2024 Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report are available at:

- City Hall
- City Libraries
- Santa Clara Senior Center
- Community Recreation Center
- By request: Water@SantaClaraCA.gov or 408-615-2000

Water System Improvements

The City performed several capital improvement projects to maintain a high level of service and provide quality potable water to our customers. 2024's City Water Main Replacement Program upgraded 12,000 linear feet (LF) of aging water main, exceeding the annual replacement goal of 10,000 LF. Replacement mains were up-sized to a standard 8-inch size and replaced with new zinc-coated, ductile iron mains. The replacement water mains improve water quality and system resilience.

Well Rehabilitation

The City completed three well rehabilitation projects in 2024 to improve efficiency and reliability: Well 18 across from Bowers Park, Well 23 by Millikan Basics+ Elementary and Well 34 near Northside Library. The rehabilitation included replacement of the existing pumps and motors, plus well cleaning and redevelopment. Well 23 had been inactive since 2017. All three wells are currently in service.

Cross-Connection Control

The SWRCB adopted the Cross-Connection Policy Control Handbook (CCCPH) July 1, 2024. The CCCPH aims to protect public health by establishing standards to ensure a public water system's drinking water distribution system will not be subject to the backflow of liquids, gases or other substances. The standards apply statewide as defined in California's Health and Safety Code (CHSC, section 116275 (h)); compliance is mandatory.

Water & Sewer Utilities' Compliance Division administers the City's cross-connection control program. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/CrossConnectionControl for information.

Naturally Clean Tap Water Sources

Santa Clara's three water sources are used interchangeably or blended:

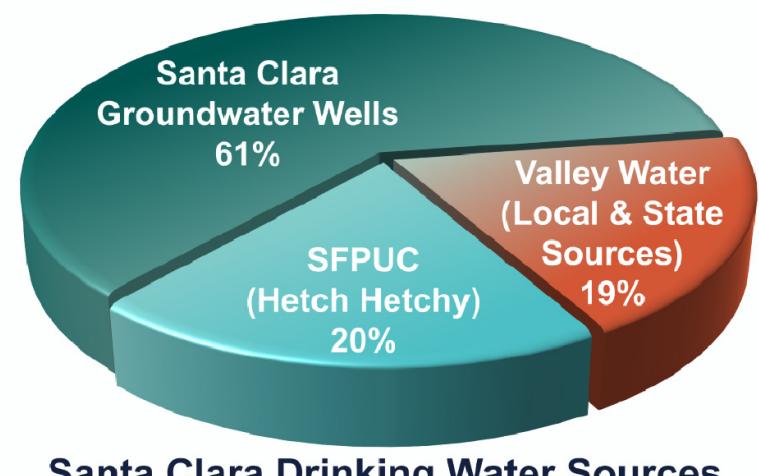
1. Protected groundwater wells within the City
2. Local reservoirs, rivers feeding the Sacramento Delta and others from Valley Water, our local water wholesaler
3. Snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada Mountains via the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Hetch Hetchy System

Together, they provide an average of 15 million gallons of water per day to Santa Clara. Valley Water serves primarily the south-west portion of the City. SFPUC water typically serves the area north of Highway 101. The remaining water is pumped from the City's system of 20 active wells serving the rest of Santa Clara. The map shows the general areas served by each source.

Tested much more frequently than bottled water, Santa Clara's tap water undergoes rigorous, regular laboratory analysis and monitoring for over 100 potential contaminants and dozens of other parameters to ensure our drinking water meets Federal and State standards for health. Each week, water is collected from 34 sample stations throughout the City and sent to State-certified laboratories for testing.



Flushing water mains provides the highest water quality possible.





This Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report Details:

- Water sources and their distribution.
- Federal and State standards that drinking water must meet.
- Specific standards and contaminants for which each of our water sources is monitored and tested.
- Required information explaining why certain contaminants are monitored.

Since the City's first water service in 1895, reliably serving high-quality drinking water has been the top priority of Water & Sewer Utilities. With turn-of-the-tap convenience, Santa Clarans enjoy fresh, clean drinking water at about 1¢ per gallon.

We encourage the public to hydrate locally. Take full, cost-effective advantage of California-sourced drinking water, pure and uncompromised by questionable plastic packaging.

The Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) Program, completed and submitted to the SWRCB in 2002, is available at the Water & Sewer Utilities Office at City Hall. You may request a summary by calling 408-615-2000 or by emailing watercompliance@SantaClaraCA.gov.

Source Water Information

City Groundwater Wells

Most of our water is pumped from the City's system of deep wells. Well water is pulled up from aquifers 500 to 900 feet deep. Replenished by rainwater that infiltrates down from the land surface, aquifers are waterfilled spaces deep in the ground that collect rain naturally filtered through layers of sand, gravel, and silt.

SFPUC System

The City purchases water from the SFPUC, which is exempt from Federal and State filtration requirements, but receives the following treatments to meet all drinking water standards:

- Disinfection using ultraviolet light and chlorine
- pH adjustment for optimum corrosion control
- Fluoridation for dental health
- Chloramination to maintain disinfectant residual & minimize the formation of regulated disinfection byproducts

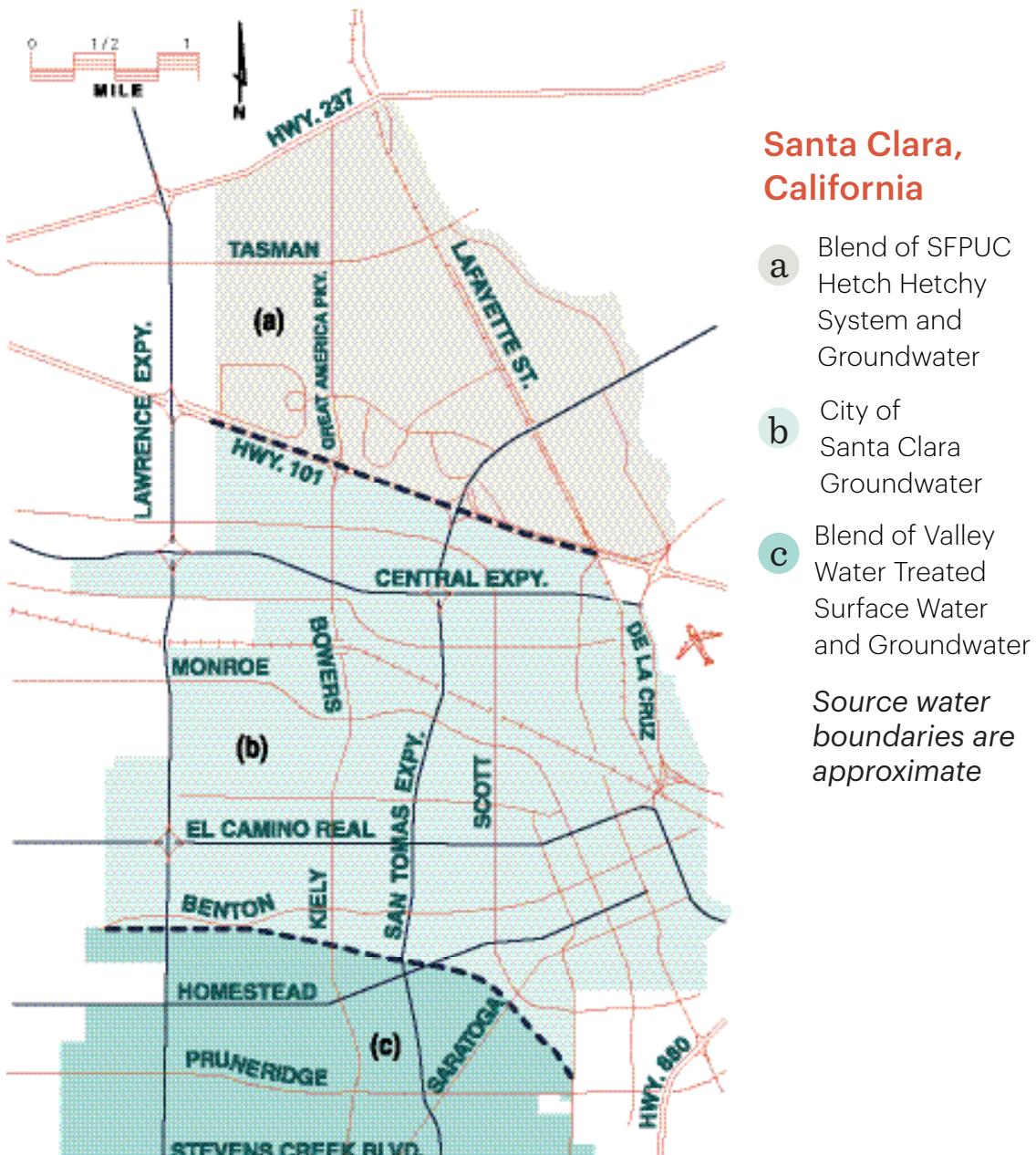
Valley Water

Valley Water provides water to Santa Clara from the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant, which processes water both sourced locally from Calero Reservoir and imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed.

Treatment includes:

- Filtration with anthracite coal and sand
- Disinfection using chlorine and chloramine

Visit the City's Water Quality webpage for more information: SantaClaraCA.gov/WaterQuality



City of Santa Clara

Water Quality Table

UNIT	MCL	State PHG/ Fed MCLG	Analysis for CSC WELL WATER		Analysis for VALLEY WATER		Analysis for SFPUC		Common Sources
			Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	
Primary Standards For Source Water Sampling									[highest running average]
MICROBIOLOGICAL									
Giardia lamblia	cyst/L	TT	0	NA	NA	NA	0 - 0.06	0.02	naturally present in environment
RADIOACTIVITY									
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	(0)	NA	NA	3.3	3.3	ND	ND
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	NA	NA	1.3	1.3	ND	ND
INORGANIC CHEMICAL									
Arsenic	PPB	10	0.004	ND - 2.2	ND	ND	ND	ND	erosion of natural deposits/industrial wastes
Barium	PPM	1	2	ND - 0.2	0.14	ND	ND	ND	erosion of natural deposits/oil drilling
Fluoride	PPM	2	1	ND - 0.2	0.14	ND - 0.11	ND	0.5 - 0.8	water additive/erosion of natural deposits
Hexavalent Chromium	PPB	10	0.02	ND - 4.3	1.9	ND	ND	ND - 0.1	natural deposit leaching
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	PPM	10	10	ND - 5.9	3.3	ND - 0.7	ND	ND - 0.4	erosion of natural deposits/runoff/leaching
Perchlorate	PPB	6	1	ND - 1.1	ND	ND	ND	ND	environmental contamination
VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND									
Toluene	PPB	150	150	ND - 4.3	0.6	ND	ND	ND	petroleum or chemical discharges

Secondary Standards: Consumer Acceptance Contaminant Levels

Aluminum ⁽²⁾	PPB	200	600	ND - 90	ND	ND	ND - 59	ND	erosion of natural deposits; some surface water treatment residue
Chloride	PPM	500	NA	19 - 55	39	47 - 53	50	< 3 - 9.9	4.9
Color	UNITS	15	NA	ND - 10	3	ND - 3	2	< 5	< 5
Iron	PPB	300	NA	ND - 280	130	< 20	< 20	< 6 - 41	20
Odor	UNITS	3	NA	ND - 1	ND	1.4 - 2.0	1.6	ND	naturally occurring organic material
Manganese	PPB	50	NA	ND - 23	5	< 1.0	< 1.0	< 2 - 2.7	natural deposit leaching
Specific Conductance	uS/cm	1600	NA	465 - 718	591	414 - 522	466	31 - 317	174
Sulfate	PPM	500	NA	25 - 58	42	57 - 80	66	1 - 41	21
Total Dissolved Solids	PPM	1000	NA	272 - 428	356	238 - 298	268	24 - 169	97
Turbidity	NTU	5	NA	0.12 - 5.8	1.06	0.02 - 0.30	0.04	0.1 - 0.4	soil runoff

Consumer Information

pH	UNITS	NS	NS	7.6 - 7.8	7.7	7.5 - 8.0	7.7	NA	NA
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	PPM	NS	NS	159 - 246	202	68 - 87	77	7.4 - 120	56
Bicarbonate Alkalinity (as HCO ₃)	PPM	NS	NS	NA	NA	82 - 106	94	ND	ND
Boron	PPB	NS	NS	NA	NA	114 - 151	133	23 - 65	44
Calcium (as Ca)	PPM	NS	NS	45 - 88	67	19 - 28	23	3.2 - 28	15
Chlorate ⁽³⁾	PPB	NS	NS	NA	NA	NA	NA	24 - 597	134
Hardness	PPM	NS	NS	170 - 330	246	93 - 133	111	8.4 - 106	57
Lithium	PPB	NS	NS	NA	NA	NA	NA	< 2 - 4	2
Magnesium	PPM	NS	NS	14 - 27	20	11-16	13	0.2 - 9.5	4.9
Phosphate	PPM	NS	NS	NA	NA	0.96 - 1.16	1.07	ND	ND
Potassium	PPM	NS	NS	1 - 1.4	1.2	2.6 - 3.3	3.0	ND	ND
Silica	PPM	NS	NS	NA	NA	11 - 12	12	4.9 - 9.9	7.4
Sodium	PPM	NS	NS	22 - 44	32	45 - 49	47	3.1 - 24	13
Temperature	°C	NS	NS	9.9 - 35.8	19.3	13.9 - 21.6	18	NA	NA
Total Organic Carbon ⁽⁴⁾	PPM	NS	NS	NA	NA	1.2 - 2.0	1.6	1.1 - 1.8	1.5
Vanadium	PPB	NS	NS	NA	NA	1 - 2	2	NA	NA

All Santa Clara water sources meet or exceed Federal and State standards.

Primary Standards As Measured In City Of Santa Clara Distribution System

UNITS	MCL	State MCL	Range	Average	Common Sources
MICROBIOLOGICAL					
Total Coliform	% pos (+)	5.0%	5.0%	0 - 1.4%	< 5.0%
Fecal Coliform and E.coli ⁽⁵⁾	# of pos (+)	0	0	0	human and animal fecal waste
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS, RESIDUALS, PRECURSORS					
Trihalomethanes	PPB	80	NA	ND - 54.0	[56.0]
Haloacetic Acids	PPB	60	NA	ND - 46.4	[34.9]
Chlorine residual	PPM	4	4	0.0 - 3.4	0.8
INORGANIC CHEMICAL as measured at 52 Residential Taps in 2022:					
Copper	PPM	AL = 1.3	0.3	90th percentile = 0.47 ppm	Number Exceeded = 0
Lead	PPB	AL = 15	0.2	90th percentile = ND	Number Exceeded = 0
SCHOOLS REQUESTING LEAD TESTING IN 2018: 33 Schools (172 samples taken)					
Lead	PPB	AL = 15	0.2	90th percentile = ND	Number Exceeded = 1 ⁽⁶⁾

Unregulated Contaminants As Measured In City Of Santa Clara Distribution System

UNITS	Notification Level	Range	Average	Common Sources
Lithium	PPB	NA	ND - 10	ND

Definitions

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS = chemical byproducts of disinfection

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM = drinking water delivery system

HARDNESS = the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) = 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.

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. EPA.

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.

NA = not applicable or available

ND = not detected

NS = no standard

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality.

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

PPB = Parts Per Billion (µg/L)

PPM = Parts Per Million (mg/L)

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS (PDWS) = MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

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 EPA.

REGULATORY ACTION LEVEL (AL) =

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

RESIDENTIAL TAPS = household faucets used for lead and copper sampling

SECONDARY STANDARDS = secondary MCLs are set to protect the aesthetics of drinking water

SODIUM = refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring.

TREATMENT TECHNIQUE (TT) = A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS = Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA and SWRCB to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated. Every four years, the EPA updates the list of unregulated contaminants to monitor.

uS/cm = microSiemens per centimeter

Notes

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Contaminant Regulations

The EPA and SWRCB prescribe regulations that limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems to ensure its safety. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish contaminant limits in bottled water to provide protection for public health, though it's tested less frequently than tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be expected to contain small amounts of contaminants; their presence doesn't necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Naturally Occurring Drinking Water Contaminants

Tap and bottled drinking water sources include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. Travelling water dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive material, potentially picking up substances resulting from animal or human activity.

Naturally occurring source water contaminants may include:

- **Microbials (viruses, bacteria)** sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife
- **Inorganics (salts, metals):** stormwater runoff, wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, farming, naturally occurring
- **Pesticides/herbicides:** agriculture, stormwater runoff, landscaping
- **Organic chemicals:** byproducts of synthetic and volatile organic chemical industrial processes and petroleum production or gas stations, stormwater runoff, agricultural and septic systems
- **Radioactive contaminants:** naturally occurring or resulting from oil/gas production or mining activities

Arsenic and Perchlorate

Both Arsenic and Perchlorate were below their Public Health Goals, meaning there is no known or expected risk at their current levels in the City's drinking water.

Sources of arsenic occur from erosion of natural deposits, orchard runoff, and electronics and glass production wastes. Sources of perchlorate include rocket fuel, explosives and industrial uses and their resulting environmental contamination.



Lead

No Santa Clara water sources have exceeded the ACTION LEVEL for lead. Lead levels in your home may be higher than others due to plumbing in your home's original construction. Elevated lead levels can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

Lead in drinking water comes from service line and home plumbing components. The City provides high quality drinking water, but cannot control materials used in your home's plumbing. When water hasn't been used for several hours, you can minimize potential lead exposure by:

1. Flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. (Use collected flushing water for cleaning, watering plants or running your garbage disposal.)
2. Using only cold water for drinking and cooking.

Concerned about lead in your water? Visit epa.gov/lead.

An initial lead service line inventory was completed in 2024 where more than 2,000 service lines were inspected. No lead services were found during the inspections. A summary of the inventory can be found at SantaClaraCA.gov/WaterServiceLineInventory.

Nitrates in Groundwater Resources

Nitrate levels above 10 ppm in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of blood to carry oxygen in infants under six months old, pregnant women or those with specific enzyme deficiencies, resulting in serious illness. If you are pregnant or caring for an infant, consult your health care provider.

PFAS

Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances, collectively known as PFAS, are a group of chemicals that have been widely used in industrial applications and consumer products such as carpets, clothing, furniture, fabrics, paper packaging for food, firefighting foams, and other materials including waterproof/stain resistant/nonstick cookware. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are two common types of PFAS. From 2019 to date, no PFAS compounds have been detected during the City's monitoring.

Hexavalent Chromium

Hexavalent Chromium, also known as Chromium-6, occurs naturally from the erosion of chromium deposits. It's used in various applications: paints, dyes, anticorrosion coatings and other industrial uses. As of October 1, 2024, the regulatory standard for Hexavalent Chromium is 10 ppb. Our 20 groundwater wells were tested for Hexavalent Chromium and were all found to be below 10 ppb.



SFPUC Water: Tested for Cryptosporidium & Giardia

Monthly (or more frequent) tests of SFPUC source and treated waters occasionally show very low levels of Cryptosporidium and Giardia in water serving the East Bay, South Bay and San Francisco Peninsula.

Cryptosporidiosis, an intestinal tract disease brought on by a parasitic microbe called Cryptosporidium, transmits through contaminated water, food or direct contact with human or animal waste. Giardia is caused by a different parasitic organism, but also causes symptoms similar to flu. Symptoms usually last about two weeks for those with normal immune systems. Immuno-compromised people, infants, small children and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness.

Guidance from the California Department of Public Health and County health agencies recommend that people with serious immune problems consult their health care providers about preventing Cryptosporidium and Giardia infection. They may choose to bring drinking water to a rolling boil for at least one minute as an extra precaution.

Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis information and guidance:

- Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health:
408-918-3400

Some Santa Clara Water is Fluoridated

Fluoridation adjusts naturally occurring fluoride in drinking water to the ideal level for protecting your teeth. Water purchased by the City from the SFPUC is fluoridated, while water from Valley Water is not.

If you're in zip code 95054, you receive fluoridated water from the SFPUC that may be blended with unfluoridated well water. The area receiving a blend of water from both SFPUC and City wells are shown on the source water map included in this report. The majority of Santa Clara will continue to receive water without added fluoride. Contact your health care provider with any dental fluorosis concerns.

For more information, visit cdc.gov/fluoridation.

Leaks Sneak Up!

The EPA found that one in ten homes has a leak that wastes 90 gallons of water or more per day! Be diligent in checking for leaks in your home and landscape. Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/FixALeak for leak detection tips and to learn how the City can help.

Additional Water Quality Information

Water & Sewer Utilities

1500 Warburton Ave.
Santa Clara, CA 95050
8 a.m.–5 p.m., Mon–Fri
408-615-2000, including emergencies
water@SantaClaraCA.gov

After-Hours Water Emergencies

408-615-5640

Water Billing Questions

408-615-2300

Water Quality Report Questions

Wendy Kwong
408-615-2000
watercompliance@SantaClaraCA.gov

Public Input

Provide input on decisions that affect drinking water quality to Santa Clara City Council at a Council meeting or in advance:
408-615-2250
mayorandcouncil@SantaClaraCA.gov

A list of all City Council meetings, agenda items & study sessions can be viewed on the City website at SantaClara.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

Making Conservation A California Way of Life

Last year, statewide rainfall topped 100% of average; now Moderate to Extreme drought conditions prevail in Southern California, while Abnormally Dry conditions threaten us. At our rainy season's end, Santa Clara County rainfall year totaled just 68% of average. The State recognizes the ongoing drought reality:

- *Making Conservation A California Way of Life* regulations took effect statewide January 1.
- Urban Water Use Objective calls for a reduction to 47 gallons per capita per day from now until 2030.
- A drought emergency measure now permanently bans drinking water for irrigating non-functional turf at commercial, industrial, institutional (CII) and HOA properties with AB 1572, phasing in 2027.



Conservation remains critical to protect our drinking water supplies. Rain or shine, do your part to maximize water resources using free conservation devices and generous landscape rebates:

SantaClaraCA.gov/SaveOurWater

Attention

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

ਇਹ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਣ ਹੈ।
ਕਿਸੇ ਕਾਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੀ ਤੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਾਓ।

Chi tiết này thật quan trọng.
Xin nhờ người dịch cho quý vị.

यह सूचना महत्वपूर्ण है।
कृपा करके किसी से :सका अनुवाद करायें।

이 안내는 매우 중요합니다.
본인을 위해 번역인을 사용하십시오.

この報告書には上水道に関する重要な情報が記されております。翻訳を御依頼なされるか、内容をご理解なさっておられる方にお尋ね下さい。

此份有關你的食水報告,內有重要資料和訊息,請找他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

Mahalaga ang impormasyong ito. Mangyaring ipasalin ito.

Atencion: Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.