

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



***Presented By***  
**City of Torrance**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

PWS ID#: CA1910213



## Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Torrance Municipal Water Utility serves approximately 107,000 residents. In 2024 the Municipal Water Utility distributed approximately 19,297 acre-feet of drinking water to its customers, or approximately 6.3 billion gallons. (One acre-foot of water is equivalent to 325,900 gallons, or an acre of land covered with one foot of water). Torrance purchased 70 percent of the total potable water supply from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), a regional wholesaler of imported surface water. This water originates from two sources: (1) the Colorado River, via the 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct; and (2) Northern California, via the 441-mile California Aqueduct. The MWD performs advanced multistage treatment of imported water in five regional treatment plants. The remaining 30 percent of the municipal potable water supply came from three wells pumping from the West Coast Groundwater basin and from a groundwater desalination project.

## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the U.S. EPA to identify unregulated contaminants for potential regulations. Every five years, the U.S. EPA identifies a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by the nation's water utilities over a three-year period. This is occurring from 2023 through 2025 with the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5). In 2023 the City of Torrance began monitoring for a total of 30 chemical contaminants from its wells, along with a corresponding sampling from the distribution system reflecting water from each well. Once the U.S. EPA has obtained this occurrence data nationally, it is required to determine if there is a meaningful opportunity for increased health protection of drinking water by regulating these contaminants. The findings from this monitoring are reported in this year's Consumer Confidence Report.

## The Benefits of Fluoridation

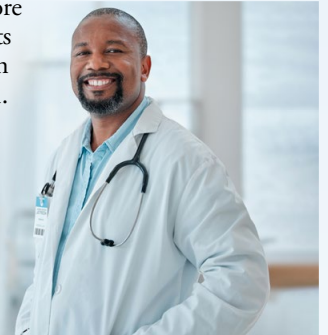
Our water system treats your water by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level to help prevent dental caries in consumers. State regulations require the fluoride levels in the treated water be maintained within a range of 0.6 to 1.2 parts per million (ppm), with an optimum dose of 0.7 ppm. Our monitoring showed that the fluoride levels in the treated water ranged from 0.65 to 0.92 ppm, with an average of 0.72 ppm. Information about fluoridation, oral health, and current issues is available from [bit.ly/SWRCBFluorideFAQs](https://bit.ly/SWRCBFluorideFAQs).

## Public Meetings

The Torrance Water Commission meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the West Annex of City Hall, 3031 Torrance Boulevard. You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water.

## Important Health Information

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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at (800) 426-4791 or [epa.gov/safewater](https://epa.gov/safewater).



## Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the city was completed in May 2015. This study was done in compliance with the SWRCB, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), Assessment Program, the goal of which is to determine the water system's vulnerability to possible sources of contamination. The assessment determined that our groundwater is most vulnerable to historic gas stations and underground storage tanks. For a copy of the complete assessment, contact the City of Torrance Public Works Department at (310) 781-6900 or visit [bit.ly/SourceWaterAssessment](https://bit.ly/SourceWaterAssessment).

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Andy Darlak, Water Operations Manager, at (310) 781-6900.

## Substances That Could Be in 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, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which 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, which are by-products 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

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 at (800) 426-4791.

## Notification of PFOA/PFOS

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) are human-made fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These substances have been synthesized for water and lipid resistance and used extensively in consumer products such as carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, and other materials (e.g., cookware) designed to be waterproof, stain-resistant, or nonstick. In addition, they have been used in fire-retarding foam and various industrial processes. The U.S. EPA has not established enforceable drinking water standards, called maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), for these chemicals.

In May 2016, the U.S. EPA issued a lifetime health advisory for PFOS and PFOA for drinking water, advising municipalities that they should notify their customers of the presence of levels over 70 parts per trillion (ppt) in community water supplies. In August 2019, the SWRCB DDW revised the notification levels to 6.5 ppt for PFOS and 5.1 ppt for PFOA. The single health advisory response level for the combined values of PFOS and PFOA remained at 70 ppt.

On February 6, 2020, DDW issued updated drinking water response levels of 10 ppt for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS based on a running four-quarter average. Exposure to PFOA and PFOS over certain levels may result in adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or to breastfed infants (e.g., low birth weight, accelerated puberty, skeletal variations), cancer (e.g., testicular, kidney), liver effects (e.g., tissue damage), immune effects (e.g., antibody production and immunity), thyroid effects, and other effects (e.g., cholesterol changes).

Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) has a notification level of 500 ppt. Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) is part of a group of perfluorochemicals (PFCs). Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) is another PFC. PFHxS, PFOS, and PFOA share similar chemical structure and uses (surface treatment agents for textiles, paper, and furniture for their excellent waterproofing and oil-resistance). PFHxS has been detected in endangered species and human blood in the general population. The response level for PFHxS is 20 ppt. For information on PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS, including possible health outcomes, visit [epa.gov/pfas](https://epa.gov/pfas).

## Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Torrance Municipal Water Utility is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling does not remove lead from water.

Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead or galvanized service line requiring replacement, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have it tested, contact Andy Darlak at (310) 781-6900. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](https://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory may be found at [bit.ly/LeadServiceInventory](https://bit.ly/LeadServiceInventory). Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.



## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken. We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA’s UCMR5 program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

| REGULATED SUBSTANCES                   |              |                 |                    |                              |                    |                   |                     |                                      |                |           |                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                        |              |                 |                    | City of Torrance Groundwater |                    | MWD Surface Water |                     | Monitored in the Distribution System |                |           |                                                                                                                          |
| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)            | YEAR SAMPLED | MCL [MRDL]      | PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG] | AMOUNT DETECTED              | RANGE LOW-HIGH     | AMOUNT DETECTED   | RANGE LOW-HIGH      | AMOUNT DETECTED                      | RANGE LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE                                                                                                           |
| Aluminum (ppm)                         | 2023         | 1               | 0.6                | 0.04                         | ND–0.21            | 0.15              | ND–0.46             | NA                                   | NA             | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; Residue from some surface water treatment processes                                         |
| Arsenic (ppb)                          | 2022         | 10              | 0.004              | 0.5                          | ND–1.4             | ND                | NA                  | NA                                   | NA             | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Glass and electronics production wastes                               |
| Barium (ppm)                           | 2023         | 1               | 2                  | 0.1                          | 0.07–0.14          | 0.12              | ND–0.12             | NA                                   | NA             | No        | Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits                                 |
| Chlorine (ppm)                         | 2023         | [4.0 (as Cl2)]  | [4 (as Cl2)]       | NA                           | NA                 | NA                | NA                  | 1.74                                 | 0.13–2.64      | No        | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment                                                                          |
| Chromium, Total (ppb)                  | 2023         | 50              | (100)              | 0.37                         | ND–1.3             | NA                | NA                  | NA                                   | NA             | No        | Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; Erosion of natural deposits                                      |
| Fluoride (ppm)                         | 2023         | 2.0             | 1                  | 0.26                         | 0.23–0.30          | 0.7               | 0.3–0.8             | 0.7                                  | 0.64–1.1       | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)  | 2023         | 15 <sup>1</sup> | (0)                | 0.04                         | ND–2.95            | ND                | ND–5.0              | NA                                   | NA             | No        | Erosion of natural deposits                                                                                              |
| Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)   | 2023         | 50              | (0)                | NA                           | NA                 | ND <sup>2</sup>   | ND–5.0 <sup>2</sup> | NA                                   | NA             | No        | Decay of natural and human-made deposits                                                                                 |
| HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids] (ppb) | 2023         | 60              | NA                 | NA                           | NA                 | NA                | NA                  | 14.4                                 | ND–26.2        | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection                                                                                |
| Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether [MTBE] (ppb)   | 2024         | 13              | 13                 | 8.5                          | ND–28 <sup>3</sup> | ND                | NA                  | NA                                   | NA             | No        | Leaking from underground gasoline storage tanks; Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories                         |
| Radium 226 (pCi/L)                     | 2023         | 5               | 0.05               | ND                           | NA                 | ND                | NA                  | NA                                   | NA             | No        | Erosion of natural deposits                                                                                              |
| Radium 228 (pCi/L)                     | 2023         | 5               | 0.019              | 0.23                         | ND–1.69            | ND                | NA                  | NA                                   | NA             | No        | Erosion of natural deposits                                                                                              |
| TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)    | 2023         | 80              | NA                 | NA                           | NA                 | NA                | NA                  | 48.4                                 | 14–60.1        | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection                                                                                |
| Turbidity (NTU)                        | 2023         | TT              | NA                 | NA                           | NA                 | NA                | NA                  | 0.2                                  | NA             | No        | Soil runoff                                                                                                              |
| Uranium (pCi/L)                        | 2021         | 20              | 0.43               | 0.12                         | ND–2.0             | 0.05 <sup>2</sup> | ND–3.0 <sup>2</sup> | NA                                   | NA             | No        | Erosion of natural deposits                                                                                              |

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

| SUBSTANCE<br>(UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | AL  | PHG<br>(MCLG) | AMOUNT DETECTED<br>(90TH %ILE) | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH | SITES ABOVE<br>AL/TOTAL SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Copper (ppm)                   | 2024            | 1.3 | 0.3           | 0.19                           | ND–0.5            | 0/200                         | No        | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives |
| Lead (ppb)                     | 2024            | 15  | 0.2           | ND                             | ND–9.1            | 0/200                         | No        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits                                            |

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

|                                 |                 |               |               | City of Torrance<br>Groundwater |                   | MWD Surface Water  |                   | Monitored in the<br>Distribution System |                   |           |                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SUBSTANCE<br>(UNIT OF MEASURE)  | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | SMCL          | PHG<br>(MCLG) | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED              | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED                      | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE                                                                                                       |
| Aluminum (ppb)                  | 2022            | 200           | 600           | 42                              | ND–210            | 47                 | ND–150            | NA                                      | NA                | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes                                    |
| Chloride (ppm)                  | 2023            | 500           | NS            | 121.5                           | 81–160            | 105                | 96–116            | NA                                      | NA                | No        | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Seawater influence                                                            |
| Color (units)                   | 2022            | 15            | NS            | ND                              | ND–8.8            | 1.5 <sup>2</sup>   | 1–2 <sup>2</sup>  | <5                                      | NA                | No        | Naturally occurring organic materials                                                                                |
| Corrosivity (units)             | 2022            | Non-corrosive | NS            | 12.7                            | 12.6–12.7         | 12.5               | 12.4–12.6         | NA                                      | NA                | No        | Natural or industrially influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon, and oxygen affected by temperature and other factors |
| Manganese (ppb)                 | 2022            | 50            | NS            | 46.9                            | ND–58             | ND                 | NA                | NA                                      | NA                | No        | Leaching from natural deposits                                                                                       |
| Odor, Threshold (TON)           | 2023            | 3             | NS            | 0.8                             | ND–4.0            | 0.5                | ND–1.0            | ND                                      | NA                | No        | Naturally occurring organic materials                                                                                |
| Specific Conductance<br>(µS/cm) | 2023            | 1,600         | NS            | 1,050                           | 1,000–1,400       | 987.5              | 880–1,080         | NA                                      | NA                | No        | Substances that form ions when in water; Seawater influence                                                          |
| Sulfate (ppm)                   | 2023            | 500           | NS            | 249.7                           | 140–340           | 224.5              | 196–253           | NA                                      | NA                | No        | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes                                                             |
| Total Dissolved Solids<br>(ppm) | 2023            | 1,000         | NS            | 320                             | 170–1,100         | 626.5              | 556–690           | NA                                      | NA                | No        | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits                                                                                |
| Turbidity (NTU)                 | 2023            | 5             | NS            | 0.3                             | 0.1–0.9           | ND                 | NA                | NA                                      | NA                | No        | Soil runoff                                                                                                          |

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES<sup>9</sup>

|                                |                 | City of Torrance<br>Groundwater |                   |                                                                                                                                                             |  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| SUBSTANCE<br>(UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED              | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH | TYPICAL SOURCE                                                                                                                                              |  |
| Lithium (ppb)                  | 2023            | 15.9                            | ND–58             | Naturally occurring metal that may concentrate in brine waters; Used as pharmaceuticals; Used in electrochemical cells, batteries, and in organic syntheses |  |

<sup>1</sup>Gross alpha particle activity standard also includes the radium 226 standard.  
<sup>2</sup>Sampled in 2023.  
<sup>3</sup>MTBE was detected in one well in 2024 after treatment effluent samples were below the detection limit.



## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**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 technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) 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. MCLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.

**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):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NS:** No standard.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements 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. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

**TON (Threshold Odor Number):** A measure of odor in water.

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter):** A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

## BY THE NUMBERS



**3.4 BILLION**

The daily volume in gallons of water recycled and reused in the U.S., reducing waste and conserving resources.



**28%**

The percent reduction in per capita water use in the U.S. since 1980, thanks to efficiency improvements.



**99.99%**

The percent effectiveness of modern water treatment plants in removing harmful bacteria and viruses from drinking water.



**1.2 MILLION**

The length in miles of drinking water pipes in the U.S. delivering clean water to millions of homes and businesses daily.



**1.7 MILLION**

The number of jobs supported by the U.S. water sector.

## Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit <https://bit.ly/3IeRyXy>.