

## Key Water Quality Terms

Noted on the adjacent water quality table are definitions of key terms that refer to the standards and goals for water quality described below:

### **PUBLIC HEALTH GOAL (PHG):**

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 the PHGs.

### **MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG):**

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The USEPA sets the MCLGs.

### **MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL):**

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs or MCLGs as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

### **MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL (MRDL):**

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the 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. Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

### **TREATMENT TECHNIQUE (TT):**

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

### **REGULATORY ACTION LEVEL:**

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

### **TURBIDITY:**

A measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

### **CRYPTOSPORIDIUM:**

A parasitic microbe found in most surface water. The SFPUC regularly tests for this waterborne pathogen and found it at very low levels in source water and treated water in 2014. However, current test methods approved by the USEPA do not distinguish between dead organisms and those capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium 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.

## Drinking Water Source Assessment



In March 2003, a drinking water source assessment was completed. The assessment showed that five of Daly City's six municipal production wells assessed as being highly protected from potential pathways of contamination. Well #4's assessment showed it as being moderately protected. With the activation of the new Sullivan well in 2015, Well #4 has been designated as an emergency standby well. Daly City's municipal wells are considered most vulnerable to automotive repair activities, roadway contaminants, and railways. A copy of the complete assessment is available from the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 2nd Floor, Richmond, CA 94804. You may also obtain a summary of the assessment by contacting either State Board District Engineer Van Tsang at **(510) 620-3453**, or Daly City's Water and Wastewater Resources Department at **(650) 991-8200**.

### **FLUORIDATION PROGRAM:**

Mandated by State law, water fluoridation is a widely accepted practice proven safe and effective for preventing and controlling tooth decay. The SFPUC has fluoridated drinking water for more than 50 years. Since June 2004, Daly City fluoridates the blended well water supply throughout the entire community in keeping with the optimum level established by the SWRCB. Blended water, into your home, is optimally fluoridated at 0.7 mg/L. Average dosage for 2024 was 0.75 mg/L.

### **SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS:**

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. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/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** or at **EPA.gov/SafeWater**.

## Water conservation is still important.



While the heavy 2022-2024 Winter rains eased the immediate drought emergency in California, there is no assurance the drought conditions will not return. Which is why we urge all Daly City residents, businesses, and organizations to join us and do their part by following good conservation practices, including:

- Only use potable water for irrigation in a manner that eliminates runoff and water waste.
- Never use potable water to wash driveways or sidewalks. Use a broom.
- Wash cars and other vehicles with a nozzle or at facilities using recycled water.
- Use a recirculating pumping system for fountains or decorative water features.
- Serve drinking water in dining establishments and other public places only when first requested by a customer.
- Follow practices like these to do your share in conserving precious water resources.

## Water Conservation

### FREE WATER CONSERVATION DEVICES AND ASSISTANCE

To assist our customers in on-going conservation efforts, the Department of Water and Wastewater Resources offers a variety of free water saving devices, publications, and school programs for residents, commercial users, and students. For more information contact the Department of Water and Wastewater Resources at **(650) 991-8200**.

For additional water conservation information, visit **DalyCity.org**.

## Your Water Quality is Important

### Contacts for your questions:

Your Annual Water Quality Report in English is available on our website. This report contains important information about your drinking water. We are here to serve the Daly City community.

### If you require assistance:

- To report leaks, service problems, or other water quality issues, please immediately contact the Department of Water and Wastewater Resources at **(650) 991-8200**.
- For any questions regarding your water bill and/or to stop or start service, please contact Utility Billing at **(650) 991-8082**.

If you have questions regarding the Water Quality Report, would like additional technical or other information, or have any other water related questions or concerns, please call the Daly City Water and Wastewater Resources Department **(650) 991-8200** and your question will be routed to the appropriate staff member for response. Copies of the Report are available on request.

### If English is not your primary language:

This report contains important information regarding your drinking water. Call the Daly City Water and Wastewater Resources Department **(650) 991-8200** should you require assistance in Chinese, Spanish, or Tagalog.

Este reporte contiene información muy importante de su salud y el agua que toma. Llame a Daly City Water and Wastewater Resources Department al **(650) 991-8200** si necesita asistencia en Español.

Ang ulat na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa inyong kalusugan at sa inumin ninyong tubig. Mangyari po lamang na tawagan ang Daly City Water and Wastewater Resources Department sa numero **(650) 991-8200** kung kinakailangan ninyo ng tulong o interpretasyon sa wikang Tagalog.

此報告包括有關您的健康和食水的重要資料。如需幫助，請來電大利市水務及廢水資源部，電話 **(650) 991-8200**



**CITY OF DALY CITY**  
**Department of Water and Wastewater Resources**  
153 Lake Merced Boulevard  
Daly City, CA 94015



# 2024 Daly City WATER QUALITY REPORT

Water quality and conservation are important to our future.

### TO OUR WATER CUSTOMERS:

This 2024 Water Quality Report contains required regulatory information about Daly City's water supply compliance with State standards. It is your right to have and know this information, and to become an informed customer of your public water system. The City of Daly City is pleased to present this report to you.





Crystal Springs Reservoir

iStock  
Credit: SawBear

## Daly City Water Quality Report

Your drinking water undergoes a rigorous monitoring program. Daly City staff vigilantly safeguards its water supplies, and we are proud to report that your water once again meets or surpasses every drinking water requirement set by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), Division of Drinking Water and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking water health standards. This brochure is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state standards. We are committed to providing you with this information because we strongly believe in keeping our customers fully informed.

### Drinking Water Sources

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, oceans, 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. Such substances are called contaminants. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled. You can obtain additional information about contaminants and potential health effects by calling the **USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800)-426-4791**.

The Daly City water system has two sources of water supply: Hetch Hetchy surface water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and groundwater produced by local Daly City wells. These two sources are blended. SFPUC supplies approximately 60 percent of Daly City's average daily demand. The remaining 40 percent of Daly City's water supply comes from local groundwater wells, from an average depth of 300 feet below ground from a large underground aquifer known as the Westside Basin. In 2024 Daly City's Drinking water supply came from a blend of SFPUC Surface water and three of Daly City's five ground water wells.

### How You Can Become Involved

Daly City welcomes your comments and suggestions on how to improve your municipal water system and better preserve our resources. Daly City holds City Council meetings beginning at 7 PM on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. These meetings are open to the public and are located on the second floor of City Hall, 333 90th Street in the Council Chambers. Important customer information is also available on Daly City's website: **DalyCity.org**.

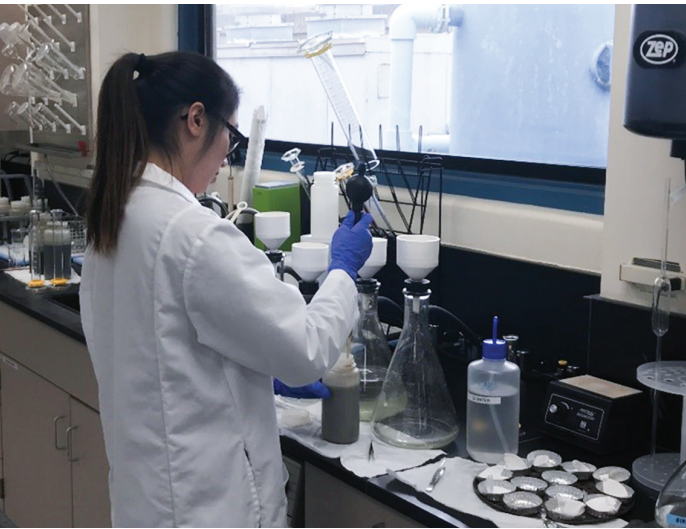
The Westside Basin serves a large portion of the northern San Mateo Peninsula and extends north to Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. It is worth noting that, in many ways, groundwater is a better protected source than surface water due to its closed environment. Thanks to consistent good water quality test results, our local well water is only required to have injected disinfection chemicals (rather than more extensive treatment) prior to being pumped into the drinking water distribution system.

Impounded in Yosemite National Park, Hetch Hetchy is supplemented with surface water from two local watersheds. Rainfall and runoff from the 35,000-acre Alameda Watershed in Alameda and Santa Clara counties are collected in the Calaveras and San Antonio reservoirs and delivered to the Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP). Rainfall and runoff from the 23,000-acre Peninsula Watershed in San Mateo County are stored in the Crystal Springs, San Andreas, and Pilarcitos reservoirs, and delivered to the Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant.

In addition to these local sources, the SFPUC received approval to use the surface water collected in Lake Eleanor, Lake Cherry, and the associated creeks — all conveyed via the Lower Cherry Aqueduct, Early Intake Reservoir, and Tuolumne River (collectively known as Upcountry Non Hetch Hetchy Sources, or UNHHS) as additional drinking water sources; this water, if used, will be treated at the SVWTP prior to service to and any distribution. The water at the two local treatment plants is subject to filtration, disinfection, fluoridation, and pH adjustment for corrosion control optimization.

City of Daly City - Water Quality Data for 2024						
Data based on Hetch Hetchy water, and effluents from both SVWTP and HTWTP						
Detected Contaminants	Unit	MCL/TT	PHG or (MCLG)	Range or Level Found	Average or [Max]	Typical Sources of Drinking Water
TURBIDITY						
Unfiltered Hetch Hetchy Water	NTU	5	N/A	0.3 - 0.5 <sup>(2)</sup>	[2.1]	Soil runoff
Filtered Water from Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP)	NTU	TT = Max 1 TT = Min 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	N/A N/A	— 99.97%	[0.4] —	Soil runoff Soil runoff
Filtered Water from Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant (HTWTP)	NTU	TT = Max 1 TT = Min 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	N/A N/A	— 100%	[0.1] —	Soil runoff Soil runoff
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRECURSOR						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	12.6 - 58.3	[39.7] <sup>(5)</sup>	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Five Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	9.8 - 61.2	[37] <sup>(5)</sup>	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Bromate	ppb	10	0.1	ND - 5.9	[3] <sup>(4)</sup>	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection using ozone
MICROBIOLOGICAL						
E. coli <sup>(6)</sup>	—	0 PS	(0)	—	[0]	Human or animal fecal waste
INORGANICS						
Chromium (VI) Fluoride <sup>(6)</sup> (raw water)	ppb ppm	10 2.0	0.02 1	ND - 0.2 ND - 0.8	0.1 0.3	Leaching from natural deposits Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth
Nitrate (as N) Chlorine (including free chlorine and chloramine)	ppm ppm	10 MRDL = 4.0	10 MRDLG = 4	ND - 0.4 2.72 - 2.92	ND [2.82] <sup>(4)</sup>	Erosion of natural deposits Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Constituents with Secondary Standards	Unit	SMCL	PHG	Range	Average	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Aluminum	ppb	200 (MCL = 1000)	600	ND - 59	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; some surface water treatment residue
Chloride	ppm	500	N/A	<3 - 18	9.3	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Iron	ppb	300	N/A	<6 - 41	1.4	Leaching from natural deposits
Manganese	ppb	50	N/A	<2 - 2.7	<2	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	N/A	31 - 317	193	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate	ppm	500	N/A	1 - 41	18	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	N/A	24 - 169	102	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	NTU	5	N/A	0.1 - 0.4	0.2	Soil runoff
Lead and Copper	Unit	RAL	PHG	Range	90th Percentile	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Copper	ppb	1300	300	<50 - 160 <sup>(7)</sup>	88	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems
Lead	ppb	15	0.2	<5.0 - 44 <sup>(8)</sup>	7.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems
Non-Regulated Water Quality Parameters	Unit	ORL	Range	Average	Key	
Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	ppm	N/A	7.4 - 120	60	< / ≤ = less than / less than or equal to	
Bromide	ppb	N/A	<10 - 29	<10	AL = Action Level	
Boron	ppb	1000 (NL)	23 - 65	41	Max = Maximum	
Calcium (as Ca)	ppm	N/A	3.2 - 28	15	Min = Minimum	
Chlorate <sup>(9)</sup>	ppb	800 (NL)	24 - 597	144	N/A = Not Available	
Giardia lamblia	cyst/L	N/A	0 - 0.06	0.02	ND = Non-detect	
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	ppm	N/A	8.4 - 106	60	NL = Notification Level	
Lithium	ppb	N/A	<2 - 4	<2	NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Limit	
Magnesium	ppm	N/A	0.2 - 9.5	5.7	ORL = Other Regulatory Level	
pH	—	N/A	8.43 - 9.76	9.07	ppb = part per billion	
Silica	ppm	N/A	4.9 - 9.9	7.5	ppm = part per million	
Sodium	ppm	N/A	3.1 - 24	16	PS = Number of Positive Sample	
Total Organic Carbon <sup>(10)</sup>	ppm	N/A	1.1-1.8	1.5	µS/cm = microSiemens/centimeter	

## Water Quality Data



The table to the left lists drinking water contaminants detected in 2024. Contaminants below federally established detection limits, such as arsenic, perchlorate, MTBE, and others, are not listed. The table contains the name of each contaminant, the applicable drinking water standards or regulatory action levels, the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the typical contaminant sources, and footnotes explaining the findings. The State allows the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because their concentrations do not change. For certain other contaminants that were absent in the water, based on many years of monitoring, the SFPUC received a monitoring waiver from the State.

Footnotes:

- All results met State and Federal drinking water health standards.
- These are monthly average turbidity values measured every 4 hours daily at Tesla Treatment Facilities.
- This is the highest locational running annual average value.
- This is the highest running annual average value.
- Natural fluoride in Hetch Hetchy water was ND. Elevated fluoride levels in raw water at both SVWTP and HTWTP were attributed to transfers of fluoridated Hetch Hetchy water into local reservoirs. The fluoride level in our treated water ranged from 0.5 ppm to 0.8 ppm with an average of 0.7 ppm.
- The most recent Lead and Copper Rule monitoring was in 2022. 00 of 55 site samples collected at consumer taps had copper concentrations above the regulatory Action Level.
- The most recent Lead and Copper Rule monitoring was in 2022. 03 of 55 site samples collected at consumer taps had lead concentrations above the regulatory Action Level.
- The detected chlorate in the treated water is a degradation product of sodium hypochlorite used by the SFRWS for water disinfection.
- The range and average values of the total organic carbon were from operational monitoring results at Tesla Treatment Facilities.

Results for total Chromium at Daly City Wells are always below the SWRCB MCL of 50 ppb. While Nitrate levels in the Daly City system are maintained at safe levels, it is worth noting that Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 parts per million is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 parts per million may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen for other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant or are pregnant, you should seek advice from your health care provider.

To ensure a safe drinking water supply, the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) was published on December 27, 2021. UCMR 5 requires sample collection for 30 chemical contaminants between 2023 and 2025 using analytical methods developed by the EPA and consensus organizations. This monitoring provides a basis for future actions to protect public health.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether those contaminants need to be regulated. Daly City was required to monitor the 30 chemical contaminants and completed all the required monitoring for UCMR 5. The 30 chemical contaminants included 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium.

A list of the 30 contaminants is available at USEPA's website: **EPA.gov/dwucmr/Fifth-Unregulated-Contaminant-Monitoring-Rule** and at: **SWRCB.ca.gov**.

### Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

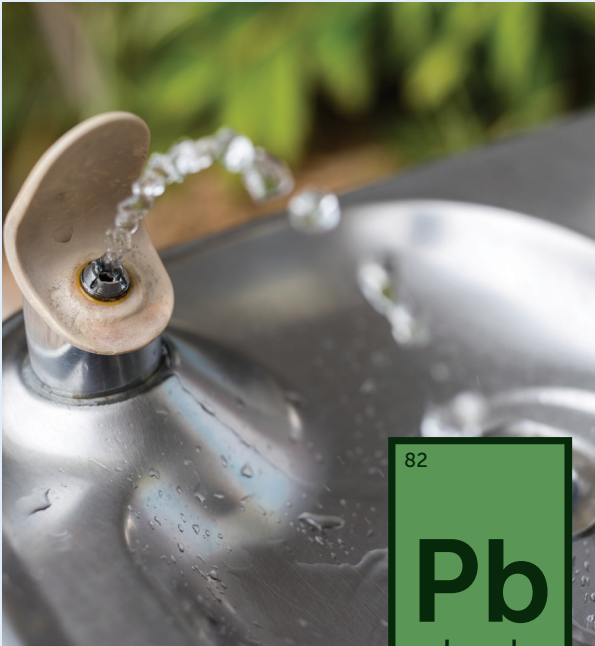
**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



### Reducing Lead from Plumbing Fixtures

Lead in drinking water, which has received national attention in Flint, Michigan, is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. There are no known lead service lines in the Daly City water distribution system. In 2022 the City of Daly City participated in a triennial Lead and Copper Monitoring. The Department of Water and Wastewater Services uses a predetermined list of residences built after 1982 that are approved by the State Division of Drinking Water.

The City is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water (please see water quality footnotes 7 and 8 in the adjacent Water Quality Data table) but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. If present, elevated levels of Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. If you are concerned about lead levels in your water, you may wish to test your water with a home test kit. You can further minimize the potential for lead exposure in water that's been sitting for several hours, by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. Additional information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at **EPA.gov/SafeWater/Lead** or from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791**.