



## Annual Water Quality Report 2018

### Clean Water for Our Customers

This brochure provides a snapshot of last year's water quality data for San Jose Water. Included are details about where your water comes from and how your water quality compares to State standards. SJW is pleased to report that your tap water met all USEPA and State primary drinking water health standards in 2018. As a member of the Partnership for Safe Water, SJW remains focused on water quality and environmental stewardship to ensure continued delivery of safe and high quality water to our customers. Since joining the Partnership for Safe Water, SJW has exceeded industry benchmarks in reducing main breaks per 100 miles of main and increased distribution system residual disinfectant levels. These Partnership-related improvements have contributed to increased water service reliability, more efficient main replacement, and enhanced public health protection.



## Groundwater in Santa Clara Valley – A Precious and High Quality Renewable Resource

San Jose Water (SJW) is fortunate to have a diverse water portfolio to supply its customers' needs. This water portfolio is composed of snowmelt from the Sierra Mountains, precipitation in SJW's watershed in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and groundwater from the aquifer in Santa Clara Valley. In an average year, 40% of the water served to SJW's customers is drawn from the Santa Clara Valley aquifer. The source of water delivered to your home is dependent on your location and the relative availability of each of SJW's water sources. Take a look at the SJW service area map to find your predominant source of water.

If your home or business receives groundwater, you have probably noticed that it is "hard." This is the term we often use to describe water that is rich in naturally occurring minerals. The United States Geological Survey classifies SJW's groundwater as very hard. These minerals are naturally dissolved in the water when rain is filtered through the more than 500 feet of sand and clay that protect the aquifer tapped by SJW. These minerals impart a pleasing taste to our groundwater. Did you know that many brands of bottled water have the same minerals added to their water in order to make it taste better? Groundwater also has the advantage of being cool and refreshing year round as well as of being naturally

low in Total Organic Carbon (TOC). The low TOC content of groundwater means that it also has very low concentrations of disinfection byproducts. Disinfection byproducts are formed when chlorine is added to disinfect drinking water before it is introduced into SJW's distribution system. The addition of chlorine is necessary to ensure that the water delivered to you is free of pathogens (disease-causing microbes). SJW very carefully balances its operations to achieve the lowest possible concentrations of disinfection byproducts while providing a sufficient level of chlorine to eliminate any pathogens present in the water. Details on the water's chemical composition can be found in this report.

In order to improve the aesthetic quality for the groundwater we serve, SJW is performing a study to evaluate the possibility and the cost of softening the water at our well sites, before its introduction into the distribution system. This study will be completed this year and SJW will share with our customers its finding on treatment options and their costs. It should be pointed out that the implementation of any softening solution, if supported by our customers, will take many years to implement and complete. Until then SJW will continue to deliver water to its customers that not only meet all regulatory standards but also surpasses them.



Installing retention chambers for well flushing at Gish Station



Preparing to pour a concrete pad for a new well at McLaughlin Station



## 2018 SJW Annual Water Quality Report

SJW tests our water supplies for over 200 possible parameters. Only those parameters that were detected in any of our water sources appear in this table. Primary standards relate to public health, while secondary standards relate to aesthetic qualities

such as taste, odor, and color. The state Division of Drinking Water allows us to monitor for some parameters less often than yearly because the concentrations do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than a year old.

PARAMETER	UNITS	MCL	PHG OR (MCLG)	GROUNDWATER		MOUNTAIN SURFACE WATER		SCVWD SURFACE WATER		SFPUC SURFACE WATER		TYPICAL SOURCES*
				AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	
<b>INORGANIC MATERIALS</b>												
Aluminum	ppm	1	0.6	ND	ND-0.081	ND	ND	ND	80	ND	ND	1, 4
Barium	ppm	1	2	0.16	ND-0.29	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	8, 10
Chromium-6*	ppb	N/A*	0.02	2.6	ND-4.5	NA	NA	ND**	ND**	0.068	0.031-0.1	8, 10
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	ND	ND-0.13	ND-0.14	ND-0.17	ND	ND-0.11	0.20	ND-0.7	1
Nitrate (as N)	ppm	10	10	3.2	0.61-6.5	ND	ND-0.56	ND	0.7	ND	ND	1, 2

\* There is currently no MCL for hexavalent chromium. The previous MCL of 0.010 mg/L was withdrawn on September 11, 2017. SJW is continuing to report the information collected for informational purposes.

\*\*Less than 1ppb

### RADIONUCLIDES

Gross Alpha Activity	pCi/L	15	None	ND	ND-3	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	1
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	ND	ND-1.1	NA	NA	ND	ND	ND	ND	1

### VOLATILE ORGANIC CHEMICALS

1,1,1-Trichloroethane	ppb	200	1	ND	ND-1.1	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	8
1,1-Dichloroethylene	ppb	6	0.01	ND	ND-0.64	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	8

### SURFACE WATER TREATMENT

	UNITS	MCL	PHG	MAXIMUM LEVEL FOUND								TYPICAL SOURCES*
				GROUNDWATER		MOUNTAIN SURFACE WATER		SCVWD SURFACE WATER		SFPUC SURFACE WATER		
				AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	
Turbidity	NTU	TT = 5 NTU	-	NA		NA		NA		NA	1.8	11
	NTU	TT = 1 NTU	-	NA		0.05		0.24		1	NA	
	NTU	TT = 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	-	NA		100%		100%		99.96%	0.3-0.8	
<b>DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS</b>				<b>MCL</b>	<b>PHG</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>RANGE</b>	
Bromate	ppb	10	0.1	ND	ND	ND	ND	2	ND-4	ND	ND	9

### IN SURFACE WATER SAMPLES COLLECTED PRIOR TO TREATMENT:

SURFACE WATER PRETREATMENT	PARAMETER	UNITS	MCL	PHG	GROUNDWATER		MOUNTAIN SURFACE WATER		SCVWD SURFACE WATER		SFPUC SURFACE WATER		TYPICAL SOURCES*
					AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	
Cryptosporidium	oocysts/L	TT	(0)	NA	NA	0.056	ND-2	ND	ND-0.1	ND	ND	10	
Giardia	cysts/L	TT	(0)	NA	NA	0.278	ND-2	ND	ND-0.1	0.03	0-0.24	10	

### SJW DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM SAMPLES

DISINFECTION	PARAMETER	UNITS	MRDL	MRDLG	RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE			TYPICAL SOURCES*	
					AVERAGE	RANGE			
Total Chlorine	ppm		4.0 as Cl <sub>2</sub>	4 as Cl <sub>2</sub>	1.53				
<b>DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS</b>				<b>MCL</b>	<b>PHG</b>	<b>HIGHEST SITE AVERAGE</b>		<b>RANGE</b>	
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb		80	NA	50		ND-67	9	
Haloacetic Acids	ppb		60	NA	20		ND-19	9	
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS</b>				<b>MCL</b>	<b>PHG</b>	<b>AVERAGE %</b>		<b>RANGE</b>	
Coliform Bacteria	%		> 5% of monthly samples positive	(0)	0.10%		0.47%	10	
<i>E. coli</i>			Detection in conjunction with second coliform positive	(0)	Samples Collected at Designated Sample Points:	<b>SAMPLES COLLECTED</b>		<b>NUMBER DETECTED</b>	
						4769		1**	15

\*\*Although *E. coli* was detected, the water system is not in violation of the *E. coli* MCL.

### LEAD AND COPPER

PARAMETER	UNITS	AL	PHG		90th PERCENTILE LEVEL		SITES ABOVE AL	
					AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE
Lead	ppb	(15)	0.2	Samples Collected at Customers' Taps (2017):	< 5		0	1, 14
Copper	ppm	(1.3)	0.3		0.30		0	1, 14

## Secondary Standards-Aesthetic Standards

PARAMETER	UNITS	SMCL	GROUNDWATER		MOUNTAIN SURFACE WATER		SCVWD SURFACE WATER		SFPUC SURFACE WATER		TYPICAL SOURCES*
			AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	
Aluminum	ppm	200	ND	ND-81	ND	ND	ND	ND-80	ND	ND	1, 4
Color	CU	15	0.26	ND-5	ND	ND	ND	ND	<5	<5-7	11, 12
Chloride	ppm	500	56	21-86	24	15-30	63	36-80	4.9	<3-9.7	3, 6
Conductivity	µmho/cm	1600	743	470-1000	475	420-530	450	280-533	125	29-221	6, 13
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	ppm	NA	314	152-456	198	176-220	91	51-126	ND	ND	1
Iron	ppb	300	ND	ND-500	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	3, 5
Manganese	ppb	50	ND	ND-32	ND	ND	ND	ND-35	ND	ND	3
Odor - Threshold @ 60°C	TON	3	ND	ND	ND	ND	1	1-1	ND	ND	12
Sodium	ppm	NA	31	18-54	23	19-27	49	31-65	ND	ND	1
Sulfate	ppm	500	58	39-120	41	24-52	52	25-80	15	0.9-29	3, 5
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	454	200-630	300	280-320	261	192-292	72	<20-144	1
Turbidity	NTU	5	0.46	ND-1.1	0.11	0.11-0.12	0.04	0.01-0.24	0.2	ND-0.3	11
Zinc	ppm	5	ND	ND-0.13	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	1



# IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

**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 Environmental Protection Agency.

**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. Environmental Protection Agency.

**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 level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at consumer's tap.

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

**One part per million (ppm):** is the same as one milligram per liter (mg/L). One ppm corresponds to a single penny in \$10,000 or one minute in two years.

**Detection Limit for Purposes of Reporting (DLR):** The lowest level of a constituent that the Department of Public Health requires to be reported.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU):** This is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.

**Not Detected (ND):** If a constituent is not measured at or above a DLR, it is reported as ND.

**Not Analyzed (NA):** Source designated non-vulnerable or testing not required.

**TON:** Threshold Odor Number, a measure of odor.

**umho/cm:** micromho per centimeter, a measure of electrical conductivity.

**pCi/L:** picocuries per liter, a measure of radioactivity.

# WATER QUALITY GUIDANCE

## Source Water Assessment

An original assessment of the drinking water sources for SJW's water system was completed in December 2002 and is updated as new wells are brought online. SJW's wells are considered most vulnerable to one or more of the following activities, which have not been associated with any contaminants detected in the water supply: dry cleaners, automobile gas stations and repair shops, and underground storage tanks. Some of SJW's wells are also considered vulnerable to metal plating and finishing, photo processing/printing, electrical/electronics manufacturing, chemical/petroleum processing/storage, known contaminant plumes, and plastics/synthetics producers. SJW's surface supplies are considered most vulnerable to low density septic systems. Imported surface

water purchased from Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is considered most vulnerable to a variety of land use practices, such as agricultural and urban runoff, recreational activities, livestock grazing, as well as residential and industrial development. In addition, local sources are vulnerable to potential contamination from commercial stables and historic mining practices. Although these activities exist in areas near one or more of SJW's or SCVWD's sources, physical barriers, treatment systems, and monitoring programs are in place to ensure that water supplied to our customers is not adversely affected. Customers seeking additional information are encouraged to contact SJW Customer Service at 408.279.7900.



Gish station's system for retention of well flushing water

## Special Populations

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/ Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Drinking Water Regulation

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). 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, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### *E. coli*

*E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems.

## Fluoride

For information on fluoride in your water, please refer to our website at <https://www.sjwater.com/customer-care/help-information/fluoride>.

## Selenium

Selenium is a naturally-occurring metal and also an essential nutrient. However, long-term exposure to concentrations above the MCL may cause a variety of circulatory problems.

## Lead

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. San Jose 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

## Nitrate

Nitrate as Nitrogen (Nitrate-N) in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such Nitrate-N levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate-N levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

## Turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration systems.

## Reminder for Dialysis Patients and Aquarium Owners

Chloramine and chlorine may be present in the water provided by SJW. These chemicals are used to protect public health by destroying disease-causing organisms. Except for a slight chlorinous taste or odor, these disinfectants will not cause any problems for the general public. However, home dialysis patients and aquarium owners must take special precautions before the water can be used in kidney dialysis machines or aquariums. Please consult your doctor or dialysis technician to be sure your home equipment is adequate and proper tests are being performed every time it is used. Before filling an aquarium or fish pond, the disinfectant must be removed. Your local tropical fish store can help determine the best water treatment for your fish.

## Ongoing lead sampling in the system

Data from the 2018 round of Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) sampling can be found in the Primary Standards table under Lead and Copper. To make LCR sampling as meaningful as possible, SJW worked with the state Division of Drinking Water and an outside consultant to identify the areas of highest risk for lead exposure from drinking water in our system. Samples collected at customers' taps last year have met the regulatory standards for lead and copper. An additional round of LCR sampling will be taking place in the summer of 2019 as well, due to the change of treatment process at the Montevina Water Treatment plant. If you have reason for concern about lead-containing fixtures in your home, please feel free to contact us at 408.279.7900 to request sampling.

## Lead Sampling in Schools

In January 2018, Assembly Bill 746 went into effect requiring water utilities to collect lead samples in all daycare, pre-school and kindergarten through 12th grade schools on public property to ensure students have access to safe drinking water. If a private school wishes to have their water sampled, the head of the school may also request lead testing from their water

provider. San Jose Water has sampled 245 of the 347 schools in our area to date. Of the 1,265 samples, 5 have been above the action level, all of which were promptly resolved. All public schools will be tested by July 2019. For more information about sampling in your child's school, contact your school officials or check out the website at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/leadsamplingschools.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/leadsamplingschools.html)

## To Learn More about the Quality of Your Water

Your drinking water is continually tested to ensure compliance with state and federal standards for quality and safety. This annual report summarizes the results of more than 18,000 water quality tests conducted throughout the year. If you have any questions about your water quality, service, or the information contained in this report, please call us at 408.279.7900, Monday to Friday between 8:30AM and 5:30PM. You may also contact the US EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791 for additional public information about the Safe Drinking Water Act or US EPA's drinking water regulatory programs.

## Important Information About Your Drinking Water

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please contact San Jose Water at 408.279.7900 for assistance.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse San Jose Water a 408.279.7900 para asistirlo en español.

Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Xin vui lòng liên hệ San Jose Water tại 408.279.7900 để được trợ giúp bằng tiếng Việt.

這份報告含有關於您的飲用水的重要訊息。請用以下地址和電話聯繫 San Jose Water 以獲得中文的幫助: 408.279.7900.





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Se Habla Español  
*At your service since 1866*

This report is being sent to you in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Landlords, businesses and schools are encouraged to share this report with nonbilled water customers at their locations. Additional copies are available free of charge by calling our office.

Se le está enviando este informe en conformidad con la Ley de Agua Potable Segura. Se alienta a los propietarios, negocios y escuelas a compartir este informe con los usuarios a los que no se cobra el agua en sus centros. Llame a nuestra oficina para obtener más copias sin costo.

Báo cáo này được gửi đến quý vị chiếu theo quy định của Đạo Luật Nước Uống An Toàn. Những người cho thuê nhà, chủ doanh nghiệp và nhà trường được khuyến khích chia sẻ bản báo cáo này với những người sử dụng nước tại chỗ nhưng không nhận hóa đơn. Quý vị có thể xin thêm miễn phí bản sao của báo cáo này bằng cách gọi văn phòng chúng tôi.

這份報告根據《安全飲用水法案》的規定寄發給您。請房東、企業業主以及學校當局將此報告內容與其所在地點不會收到水費帳單的自來水用戶分享。如需更多的免費報告副本，請致電本辦公室。

## DRINKING WATER INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

Detailed information about specific drinking water topics is available on the Internet. Visit our web site or any other of those listed below to find out more about water treatment, quality, and current regulations.

**San Jose Water Company:** <http://www.sjwater.com>

**Santa Clara Valley Water District:** <http://www.valleywater.org>

**American Water Works Association:** <http://www.awwa.org>

**SWRCB Division of Drinking Water:** [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/programs/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/index.shtml)

**United States Environmental Protection Agency:** <http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>