2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Cutler Public Utility District

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by State and Federal Regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2025 and may include earlier monitoring data.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Usted puede recoger una copia en español del informe de confianza del consumidor de 2025 en la oficina del distrito.

We are pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source comes from five groundwater wells: Well Nos. 5 and 9 are currently active. Well Nos. 3 and 4 are presently inactive and have not been pumped in several years due to high levels of nitrates which were previously observed. Well No. 6 is disconnected from the distribution system and connected to a new pipeline leading to Well No. 10. When Well No. 10 becomes operational, Well No. 6 can be run to blend with Well No. 10 to produce a compliant water supply. Continuous chlorination is provided on all wells. Projects are currently being worked on to:

(a) Equip Well No. 10 to improve the available water supply (permanent well has been completed);
(b) Connect new pressure tanks to address pressure issues; and
(c) Connect a new storage tank to address supply needs (storage tank has been completed).

A preliminary study on providing treated surface water to the District was completed in 2017. Additional investigations on this alternate source of supply are ongoing.

A source water assessment was conducted for the water supply wells of the Cutler Public Utility District water system in February, 2003. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: fertilizer, pesticide and/or herbicide applications. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: automobile gas stations; chemical and/or petroleum processing and/or petroleum storage; and historic gas stations. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at: Cutler Public Utility District, 40526 Orosi Drive, Cutler, CA 93615. If you would like a summary of the assessment sent to you or if you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Mr. Dionicio Rodriguez Jr., Superintendent, at (559)528-3859.

We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., in the Cutler Public Utility District Conference Room at 40526 Orosi Drive in Cutler.

The following are definitions of some of the TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

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 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 (USEPA).

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 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.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs, MRDLs and treatment techniques (TT) for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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.

Variances and Exemptions: State Board permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

N/A: Not applicable
ND: Not detectable at testing limit
ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
ppq: parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter (pg/L)
pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

In general, sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) may 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.

Constituents that may be present in source water to contamination levels 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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 – Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board/DDW) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD						
Constituent	**MCL**	**PHG [MCLG]**	**Sample Date**	**Average Level Detected**	**Range (B)**	**Typical Source of Contamination**
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	7/11/2025	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	1	2	7/11/2025	0.13	0.11 to 0.15	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium Hexavalent (ppb)	10	0.02	11/8/2024	0.55	0.5 to 0.6	Erosion of natural deposits; transformation of naturally occurring trivalent chromium to hexavalent chromium by natural processes and human activities such as discharges from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	7/11/2025	0.16	0.15 to 0.16	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate as N (ppm)	10	10	2025	7.1	4.2 to **11.0 (C)**	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	6	1	2023/2025	2.4	ND to 2.8	Contamination from historic aerospace, explosives or other industrial operations

DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD					
Constituent	**MCL**	**Sample Date**	**Average Level Detected**	**Range**	**Typical Source of Contamination**
Chloride (ppm)	500	7/11/2025	29.5	24 to 35	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Manganese (ppb)	50	7/11/2025	25	14 to 35	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1600	7/11/2025	565	460 to 670	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate (ppm)	500	7/11/2025	24	13 to 35	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)(ppm)	1000	7/11/2025	380	310 to 450	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (Units)	5	7/11/2025	ND	ND	Soil runoff

DETECTION OF SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS INCLUDING PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES						
Constituent	**MCL**	**PHG [MCLG]**	**Sample Date**	**Average Level Detected**	**Range (B)**	**Typical Source of Contamination**
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppt)	200	3	2025	47	ND to 91	Banned nematocide that may still be present in soils due to runoff/leaching from former use on soybeans, cotton, vineyards, tomatoes, and tree fruit
Trichloropropane (E) (1,2,3-TCP) (ppt)	5	0.7	2025	4.0	ND to **7.6 (D)**	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; leaching from hazardous waste sites; used as cleaning and maintenance solvent, paint and varnish remover, and cleaning and degreasing agent; byproduct during the production of other compounds and pesticides

INITIAL MONITORING FOR PER AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)						
Constituent (and reporting units)	**Notification Level**	**Response Level**	**Sample Date**	**Average Level Detected**	**Range**	**Typical Source of Contamination**
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) (ppt)	4.0	40	10/15/2025	2.1 (E)	ND to 2.2	Discharge from manufacturing and industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures and certain firefighting activities.

PFAS are manmade substances that have been synthesized for their water and liquid resistance properties. They have been 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 non-stick. In addition, they have been used in fire-retarding foam and various industrial processes.

Please note that there are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others. Scientific research suggests that exposure to certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes. Research is still ongoing to determine how exposure to these different PFAS chemicals occurs and how they can affect human health.

The USEPA established primary drinking water standard MCLs for PFOA (4 ppt), PFOS (4 ppt) and PFHxS (10 ppt) on April 26, 2024. Regulatory compliance with primary PFAS MCLs begins in April, 2029. The State Water Board/DDW mandated Initial Monitoring for PFAS to establish subsequent routine PFAS monitoring requirements.

Notification Level: The concentration of a PFAS which, if exceeded, triggers reporting of the result in the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.

Response Level: The concentration of a PFAS which, if exceeded triggers other requirements that a water system must follow.

The tables below and on the following page(s), list all the drinking water constituents that were detected during the most recent samplings for the constituent. The presence of these constituents in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Water Board/DDW allows us to monitor for certain constituents less than once per year because the concentrations of these constituents are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are therefore more than one year old.

SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants			MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contamination
Water Supply (Distribution System)	**Highest No. of Detections**	**No. of Months in Violation**			
E. coli	(In the year) 0	0	(a)	0	Human and animal fecal waste
Water Source (Groundwater Wells)	**Total No. of Detections**	**Sample Dates (of Detections)**			
E. coli	(In the year) 0	Not Applicable	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste

(a) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is E. coli-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E.coli-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for E. coli.

E. Coli/Fecal Coliform: E. coli/Fecal coliforms are bacteria whose presence indicate that water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes.

Total Coliform: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.

The District collects 9 to 11 samples each month in the water supply (distribution) system. The District collects monthly samples at each operational water well (source).

SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Constituent	MCL	PHG [MCLG]	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range	Typical Source of Contamination
Hardness (ppm)	None	None	7/11/2025	210	160 to 260	Generally found in ground and surface water
Sodium (ppm)	None	None	7/11/2025	33	29 to 37	Generally found in ground and surface water

TEST RESULTS (A)

Lead and Copper Rule	No. of samples collected	PHG	Action Level	90th percentile level detected	No. Sites Exceeding Action Level	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb) 2024	20	0.2	15	ND	0	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) 2024	20	0.3	1.3	0.16	0	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON LEAD

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in water service lines and in home plumbing. The Cutler Public Utility District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes from the water system, but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. The Cutler Public Utility District has completed an inventory of the water service lines and has not identified any lead service lines in the water system. The service line inventory is publicly available at the Cutler Public Utility District, 40526 Orosi Drive in Cutler.

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. If present, lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed) and young children.

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, including:

- Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flushing your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes;
- Using only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water; and
- Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly.

If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Cutler Public Utility District at 559-528-3859. Additional information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

Constituent	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range (B)	Typical Source of Contamination
Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/L)	15	(0)	7/11/2025	2.3	1.34 TO 3.3	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	2001/2020	1.4	1.0 to 1.7	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	5 (Combined Radium)	0.05	7/11/2025	ND	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)		0.019	7/11/2025	0.31	ND to 0.581	Erosion of natural deposits

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS							
Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	**MCL [MRDL]**	**PHG**	**MCLG [MRDLG]**	**Sample Date**	**Running Annual Average**	**Range**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)(ppb)	80	N/A	N/A	10/10/2025	< 3.5	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) (ppb)	60	N/A	N/A	10/10/2025	< 6.0	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine as CL2 (ppm)	[4.0]	N/A	[4]	2025	0.51	0.30 to 0.68	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment. Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose or stomach discomfort

(A) Results reported due to regulatory requirement or detection of a constituent.
(B) Results reported include amounts that are less than the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board/DDW) required detection level for this contaminant.
(C) ABOUT NITRATE: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L (as N) is a health risk for infants of 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 a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels as N that are 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. In September, 2023, the SWRCB issued a Compliance order to address the MCL violation. The District's Corrective Action Plan to address 1,2,3-TCP (Note E) is being used to address the Compliance Order. Monthly public notification regarding the MCL violation is underway.
(D) ABOUT 1,2,3-TCP: Some people who drink water containing 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP) in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. In August, 2022, the SWRCB issued a Compliance Order to address the MCL violation. The District submitted its Corrective Action Plan to address the Compliance Order in December, 2022. Quarterly public notification regarding the MCL violation is underway.
(E) ABOUT PERFLUOROOCTANESULFONIC ACID (PFOS): Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years may have increased health risks such as cardiovascular, immune and liver effects, as well as increased incidence of certain types of cancers including liver cancer. In addition, there may be increased risks of developmental and immune effects for people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL following repeated exposure during pregnancy and/or childhood.

Additional General Information On Drinking Water

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. The presence of constituents does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about constituents, contaminant levels and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1/800/426-4791 or their website https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-regulations.

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 and 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1/800/426-4791.