ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By

ATASCADERO MUTUAL WATER COMPANY
SERVING THE COLONY SINCE 1913

PWS ID#: 4010002

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Si necesita ayuda para traducirlo, puede comunicarse con Atascadero Mutual Water Company al (805) 466-2428.

Serving Our Community

We are pleased to present our annual water quality report covering January 1 through December 31, 2025. Atascadero Mutual Water Company's (AMWC) highly competent staff constantly seeks the best approaches to delivering the highest-quality water possible to you and is dedicated to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We are committed to meeting the state's water source protection, water conservation, and community education goals and serving the needs of all our water users.

Conservation Programs and Rebates

Each year, over 50 percent of the water produced by AMWC is directly applied to lawns and other landscaping, primarily during the months of May through August. To help offset the significant stress placed on our limited water resources by landscape irrigation, AMWC offers a range of water conservation resources and programs aimed at decreasing high summer water usage, including:

- Home water survey program: A free program to help manage landscape irrigation use
- Landscape rebates
- Turf conversion
- Weather-based irrigation
- Indoor rebates
- High-efficiency toilet
- High-efficiency clothes washer
- Other rebates
- Pressure-reducing valve (PRV)
- Flow sensor
- Rainwater harvesting

Important Health Information

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million (ppm) is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause "blue baby syndrome." Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant and detected nitrate levels are above 5 ppm, you should ask advice from your health-care provider.

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

What's the Source of My Water?

AMWC's water sources are groundwater from the Atascadero Basin, the underflow of the Salinas River, and Lake Nacimiento (via the Nacimiento Water Project [NWP] pipeline). AMWC pumps groundwater from its 15 wells into its distribution system. If needed, water from the NWP can be discharged into AMWC's recharge basin to replenish the groundwater. The watershed that replenishes the Atascadero Basin encompasses a 247-square-mile area along the Salinas River, extending to its headwaters. Of that area, only a small percentage (about 550 acres) is owned by AMWC. The majority of the watershed is composed of open space and residential or commercial development.

Community Participation

AMWC Board meetings are typically held on the second Wednesday of each month,, at 4:30 p.m. The meetings are held at the AMWC business office at 5005 El Camino Real, Atascadero. Please call (805) 466-2428 or check our website to confirm the date. Agendas are available at the meetings and on our website. Public comment is welcome.

Do You Need a Guest Speaker?

AMWC offers a variety of presentations to adult and youth clubs, organizations, and troops. Topics include:

- AMWC: 100+ Years of Service to the Colony
- Water 101: Water Treatment and Production Facilities
- Water Conservation + Education: Water conservation, water cycle, and activities (ages 4-18)
- Water Wise Landscaping for Atascadero
- Well Field Tours (in person, approximately two hours)

Questions?

Should you ever have questions regarding this report or the quality of your drinking water, please call Mike Stephens, AMWC's Chief Operator, at (805) 464-5361 or email mstephens@amwc.us.

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, 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 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 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 that 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. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Lead in Home Plumbing

In 2024 the U.S. EPA required AMWC to survey its entire system to determine the presence of lead service lines. The survey included the customers' service lines. No lead service lines were found.

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. We are 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 and wish to have your water tested, contact Mike Stephens, Chief Operator, at (805) 464-5361. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at 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. Taking inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) was the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. To request access to the lead service inventory or any lead sampling that has been done, please contact AMWC at (805) 466-2428.

Treatment and Disinfection Process

Chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may be present. We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.

Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection Program

Drinking Water Source Assessment Plans (DWSAP) assess the area around a drinking water source through which contaminants might move and reach that drinking water supply. They include an inventory of possible contaminating activities (PCAs) that might lead to the release of microbiological or chemical contaminants within the delineated area and a determination of the PCAs to which the drinking water source is most vulnerable.

According to the DWSAPs, our water system has a physical barrier effectiveness rating of low to moderate. It is important to understand that this susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality, only the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area. If you would like to review the DWSAPs, please feel free to contact our office during regular business hours.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. The information in the tables represents only those substances that were detected. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing between January 1 and December 31, 2025.

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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2025	10	0.004	0.40	ND–2.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2022	1	2	0.014	ND–0.11	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	0.89	0.81–0.95	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	2.0	1	0.19	ND–0.43	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2025	15	(0)	2.3	ND–5.7	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	14.2	7.5–16.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppb)	2022	100	12	0.0019	ND–0.015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	2025	10	10	1.87	0.62–5.2	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite (ppm)	2025	10	10	2.0	1.3–3.2	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2025	50	30	6.2	ND–7.8	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	59.2	36–67.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Uranium (pCi/L)	2022	20	0.43	1.68	ND–2.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits

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

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.3	0.3	0.95	0.12–1.7	4/60	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0.2	ND	NA	0/60	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2025	500	NS	99	23–170	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	2025	15	NS	5	ND–5	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Manganese (ppb)	2025	50	NS	4	ND–20	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (TON)	2025	3	NA	2	1–3	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	2025	1,600	NS	859	310–1,300	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	500	NS	111	77–140	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2025	1,000	NS	620	340–810	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	5	NS	0.17	ND–0.60	No	Soil runoff

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES[1]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity [Total, as CaCO3] (ppm)	2025	241	200–350	Naturally occurring
Bicarbonate [HCO3] (ppm)	2025	328	260–410	Naturally occurring
Boron (ppb)	2025	102	ND–230	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2025	78	57–100	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (grains/gal)	2025	20.2	16–26	Sum of naturally occurring polyvalent cations, generally magnesium and calcium
Magnesium (ppm)	2025	37	26–47	Erosion of natural deposits
Potassium (ppm)	2025	2.0	1.3–3.1	Erosion of natural deposits
o-Phosphate [as PO4] (ppm)	2025	2.2	2.0–2.7	Added as a corrosion inhibitor
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppt)	2025	6.44	ND–18	Industrial manufacturing
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppt)	2025	6.43	ND–22	Industrial manufacturing; consumer products
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid [PFHpA] (ppt)	2025	0.47	ND–3.5	Industrial manufacturing; consumer products
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] (ppt)	2025	6.4	ND–19	Industrial manufacturing
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	2025	1.7	ND–9.7	Industrial manufacturing
Perfluorononanoic Acid [PFNA] (ppt)	2025	1.2	ND–6.6	Industrial manufacturing
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2025	10.9	ND–32	Industrial manufacturing; consumer products
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppt)	2025	4.9	ND–17	Industrial manufacturing; consumer products
Perfluoropentanesulfonic Acid [PFPeS] (ppt)	2025	2.0	ND–2.0	Industrial manufacturing; firefighting foam
Perfluoropentanoic Acid [PFPeA] (ppt)	2025	1.7	ND–9.3	Industrial manufacturing; consumer products
Sodium (ppm)	2025	60	26–110	Naturally occurring
Vanadium (ppb)	2025	5.6	ND–7.9	Naturally occurring

[1] Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals. Of this group, perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), and perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) have been detected in some of AMWC's 15 water supply wells. Most wells are below the response level (water source must be taken out of service) but above the notification level (SWRCB recommends that water utility notify customer) established by the SWRCB.

Four wells have PFOS levels above the response level. Water from these wells is blended with water from wells with very low or no PFAS detections to effectively reduce PFAS levels, as approved by the SWRCB. Ongoing sampling shows that the blended water consistently has levels of PFBS, PFOA, PFOS, and PFHxS below the response level of 5,000, 10, 40, and 10 parts per trillion (ppt), respectively. Notification levels for these three chemicals are 500, 4.0, 4.0, and 3.0 ppt, respectively. AMWC is currently designing and seeking funds to construct a water treatment facility using granular activated carbon to remove PFAS from the drinking water. Construction of the treatment facility is expected to begin in late 2026.

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.

grains/gal (grains per gallon): Grains of compound per gallon of water.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

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.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

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).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

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

µmho/cm (micromhos per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.