



Golden State
Water Company
A Subsidiary of American States Water Company

2023

Orcutt Water System

Consumer Confidence Report
on Water Quality for 2022

Providing Quality
Drinking Water
in California
Since 1929



About the Company

Golden State Water Company (GSWC) is a wholly owned subsidiary of American States Water Company (NYSE:AWR). GSWC provides water service to more than 1 million people in over 80 communities throughout California. AWR also owns a contracted services subsidiary, American States Utility Services, Inc. (ASUS). ASUS provides operations, maintenance and construction management services for water and wastewater systems located on military bases throughout the country under 50-year privatization contracts with the U.S. government.



Robert Sprowls
President and
Chief Executive Officer
Golden State Water Company



Mark Zimmer
General Manager,
Coastal District
Golden State Water Company

President's Message

Dear Golden State Water Customer,

Golden State Water Company (GSWC) is pleased to present our 2023 Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report), providing customers with important information regarding local water quality and service during the 2022 calendar year.

GSWC is proud to be the trusted water provider serving local customers and more than 80 communities throughout California, and we appreciate that customers have peace of mind knowing we never stop working to ensure quality, reliable water is available at their taps when they need it. We take great pride in the service we provide and embrace our role as essential workers in the community.

For more than 90 years, water quality has always been a top priority for GSWC. Our team of scientists, engineers and water experts are committed to protecting our water systems and ensuring the water we deliver to local homes and businesses meets the stringent standards set by the state and federal governments and is safe to drink. We aggressively monitor and test for hundreds of contaminants in each of our water systems and have consistently scored among the top water companies for compliance with water quality regulations.

GSWC is proud to report that the water delivered to your tap continues to meet all federal and state quality standards established to protect public health and safety. Within this document, you will find information regarding local water supply sources, testing, and the steps GSWC takes to ensure our water is in compliance with standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

To access the most up-to-date Water Quality Report for your area, sampling results, and to learn more about common contaminants, you can visit www.gswater.com/water-quality. If you have any questions about this report, please contact our 24-hour Customer Service Center at 1.800.999.4033 or email us at customerservice@gswater.com.

GSWC is constantly working toward 100 percent customer satisfaction and encourages all customers to visit www.gswater.com and follow us on Twitter and on Facebook at @GoldenStateH2O.

On behalf of everyone at GSWC, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your community.

Sincerely,



Robert Sprowls



Mark Zimmer

Golden State Water is constantly working toward 100 percent customer satisfaction and we encourage you to visit www.gswater.com and follow us on Twitter and on Facebook at @GoldenStateH2O



Where Does My Water Come From?

Water delivered to customers in the Orcutt System is groundwater pumped from the Santa Maria

Groundwater Basin through wells owned and operated by Golden State Water Company. The groundwater basin is recharged from a collection of local drainage basins, streams and creeks, as well as natural percolation from rain, agriculture and domestic use. The water system also augments supplies with water purchased from the City of Santa Maria.

Source Water Assessment

Golden State Water Company conducted source water assessments in December 2002 and January 2021 for the groundwater wells serving the customers of its Orcutt System.

The groundwater well sources are considered most vulnerable to one or more of the following possible contaminating activities: gas stations, high-density housing, residential sewer collection systems, NPDES/WDR permitted discharges, oil wells, parks, schools, water supply wells, drinking water treatment plants, storm drain discharge points, stormwater detention facilities, and roads/streets. Contaminants associated with these activities have not been detected in the water supply.

Additionally, one of the groundwater well sources is considered most vulnerable to the following activities that have been associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: fertilizer/pesticide/herbicide application and irrigated crops.

A copy of the assessment may be viewed at:

State Water Board Coastal District Office
1180 Eugenia Place, Suite 200, Carpinteria, CA 93013

You may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting:

State Water Board Coastal District Office at 1.805.566.1326

For more details, contact Rocio Flores, Water Quality Engineer, at 1.800.999.4033, or email the Customer Service Center at customerservice@gswater.com.

A drinking water source assessment was completed for the City of Santa Maria in March 2014. The City's water sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities: runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, septic tanks, sewage, and erosion of natural deposits. A summary of the assessment can be requested from the City's Utilities Department at 2065 East Main Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454, or by calling 1.805.925.0951 extension 7270.



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In every one of our water systems, a team of highly-trained employees monitors water quality on an on-going basis to ensure that our customers are receiving high-quality water.





Glossary of Terms

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

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

California Notification Level (NL)

Non-regulatory, health-based advisory levels established by the State Board for contaminants in drinking water for which an MCL has not been established.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. Maximum contaminant level goals are set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

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, MRDLs and treatment techniques (TTs) for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.

Public Health Goal (PHG)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. Public health goals are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

Regulatory Action Level (AL)

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

Treatment Technique (TT)

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

Delivering drinking water is serious business, and our team of scientists, engineers and water experts is dedicated to protecting our water systems and ensuring the water we deliver to local homes and businesses meets stringent standards set by the state and federal governments and is safe to drink.

Unit of Measurement	Unit Abbreviation	Also Known as	This can be compared to...
Parts per million (PPM)	mg/L	milligrams per liter	1 second in 12 days
Parts per billion (PPB)	µg/L	micrograms per liter	1 second in 32 years
Parts per trillion (PPT)	ng/L	nanograms per liter	1 second in 32,000 years
Grains per gallon	grains/gallon	a measurement for water hardness often used for sizing household water softeners	1 grain/gal equals 17.1 mg/L of hardness
Nephelometric Turbidity Units	NTU	a measurement of the clarity of water	Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is noticeable to the average person
Microsiemens per centimeter	µS/cm	a measurement of a solution's ability to conduct electricity	
Picocuries per liter	pCi/L	a measurement of radioactivity in water	

How to Read Your Table

The consumer confidence report lets you know which constituents, if any, are in your drinking water and how this may affect your health. The constituents presented in this table were detected above the detection limit set by the State Water Resources Control Board. Below is a guide that explains each column of the table.

Primary Standards - Health Based (units)	Primary MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detection	Average Level	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Substance A (mg/L)	50	0.6	ND - 40	20	2019	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Substance B (µg/L)	6	1	0.1 - 2.8	1.7	2016	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder

YOUR WATER MEETS ALL CURRENT FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS

Orcutt Water System – Source Water Quality

Primary Standards – Health Based (units)	Primary MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detection	Average Level	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Turbidity						
Highest single measurement of the treated surface water (NTU)	TT = 1.0	n/a	n/a	0.3	2022	Soil runoff
Lowest percent of all monthly readings less than 0.3 NTU (%)	TT = 95	n/a	n/a	100%	2022	Soil runoff
Inorganic Constituents						
Fluoride (mg/L)	2.0	1	0.2 - 1.3	0.3	2022	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [as N] (mg/L)	10	10	ND - 9.1	2.8	2022	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radioactive Constituents						
Gross Alpha Activity (pCi/L)	15(a)	(0)	ND - 3.5	ND	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	ND - 3.2	2.2	2022	Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary Standards – Aesthetic (units)	Secondary MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detection	Average Level	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Chloride (mg/L)	500	n/a	25 - 83	48	2022	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Odor—Threshold (units)	3	n/a	ND - 2	ND	2022	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	1600	n/a	790 - 1100	920	2022	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	n/a	130 - 320	220	2022	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1000	n/a	510 - 730	620	2022	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (units)	5	n/a	ND - 2.4	0.4	2022	Soil runoff
Other Parameters (units)	Notification Level	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detection	Average Level	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent
Alkalinity (mg/L)	n/a	n/a	140 - 220	180	2022	
Calcium (mg/L)	n/a	n/a	73 - 110	88	2022	
Hardness [as CaCO3] (mg/L)	n/a	n/a	300 - 460	390	2022	The sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium; the cations are usually naturally occurring
Hardness [as CaCO3] (grains/gal)	n/a	n/a	17 - 27	23	2022	
Magnesium (mg/L)	n/a	n/a	28 - 49	40	2022	
pH (pH units)	n/a	n/a	6.7 - 8.0	7.8	2022	
Potassium (mg/L)	n/a	n/a	2.1 - 3.6	2.6	2022	
Sodium (mg/L)	n/a	n/a	45 - 62	51	2022	Refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Unregulated Drinking Water Constituents (units)	Notification Level	PHG (MCLG)	Range of Detection	Average Level	Most Recent Sampling Date	
1-butanol (µg/L)	n/a	n/a	ND - 3.1	ND	2019	
Germanium (µg/L)	n/a	n/a	ND - 0.32	ND	2019	
HAA6Br [Total of 6 Brominated Haloacetic Acids] (µg/L)	n/a	n/a	ND - 24	9.2	2019	
HAA9 [Total of 9 Haloacetic Acids] (µg/L)	n/a	n/a	ND - 32	12	2019	
Manganese (µg/L) (b)	n/a	n/a	ND - 3.0	1.0	2019	

(a) MCL is based on Gross Alpha minus Uranium. (b) Manganese is a regulated contaminant but was not detected in routine samples associated with regulatory compliance and is below all regulatory standards.

ND = Not Detected CaCO3 = Calcium Carbonate

This table includes data only on constituents that were detected.

Laboratory Analyses

Through the years, we have taken thousands of water samples to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants in your drinking water. The table we provide shows only detected contaminants in the water.

Even though all the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of these substances were present in your water. Compliance (unless otherwise noted) is based on the average level of concentration below the MCL. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. Some of our data, while representative, is more than a year old.

Chloramination — The water purchased by GSWC from the City of Santa Maria contains chloramine. Chloramine is added to the water for public health protection. Chloraminated water is safe for people and animals to drink, and for all other general uses. Three special user groups, including kidney dialysis patients, aquarium owners, and businesses or industries that use water in their treatment process, must remove chloramine from the water prior to use.

Hospitals or dialysis centers should be aware of chloramine in the water and should install proper chloramine removal equipment, such as dual carbon adsorption units. Aquarium owners can use readily available products to remove or neutralize chloramine. Businesses and industries that use water in any manufacturing process or for food or beverage preparation should contact their water treatment equipment supplier regarding specific equipment needs.

Fluoridation — Fluoride has been added to the water that GSWC purchases from the City of Santa Maria. Customers should see no difference in the taste, color or odor of their water as a result of fluoridation. Fluoridation does not change the way you normally use water for fish, pets or cooking. Parents and guardians of children who receive fluoride supplements should consult the child's doctor or dentist. For information regarding fluoridation of your water, please visit the Division of Drinking Water's fluoridation website at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html.

Lead — 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. GSWC 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 two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information about lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Level 1 Assessment — Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. A complete assessment of water sources and distribution system showed no sanitary defects.

Nitrate — Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L 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 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 for advice from your health care provider.

Turbidity — Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of surface water filtration.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring — Monitoring for unregulated contaminants helps the USEPA and the State Water Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

Orcutt Water System – Distribution Water Quality							
Microbiological Constituents (units)	Primary MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Value	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent		
E. coli	(0)	(0)	Highest number of monthly samples positive was 1(c)	2022	Human and animal fecal waste		
Total Coliform Bacteria > 40 Samples / Month (Present / Absent)	n/a	(0)	More than 5% of monthly samples were present for total coliform in October. Level 1 assessment was triggered. (d)	2022	Naturally present in the environment		
Disinfection Byproducts and Disinfectant Residuals (units)	Primary MCL (MRDL)	PHG (MRDLG)	Range of Detection	Average Level	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent	
Chlorine [as Cl ₂] (mg/L)	(4.0)	(4)	0.4 - 3.9	1.0	2022	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment	
HAA5 [Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids] (µg/L)	60	n/a	ND - 1.6	0.4	2022	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (µg/L)	80	n/a	ND - 12	5.3	2022	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	
Inorganic Constituents (units)	Action Level	PHG (MCLG)	Sample Data	90th % Level	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent	
Copper (mg/L)	1.3	0.3	None of the 82 samples collected exceeded the action level.	0.25	2020	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	
Lead sampling in schools and residential plumbing	Action Level	PHG	Sample Data	90th % Level	Most Recent Sampling Date	Typical Source of Constituent	Number of Schools Tested (e)
Lead (µg/L)	15	0.2	None of the 82 samples collected exceeded the action level.	ND	2020	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.	11

(c) All associated repeat samples were absent for coliform and E. coli. (d) Although Level 1 assessment was triggered, the system was in compliance. See Level 1 Assessment section under Laboratory Analyses. (e) The State of California made lead sampling in schools mandatory with a compliance window through 2019. ND = Not Detected

This table includes data only on constituents that were detected.



Risk to Tap and Bottled Water

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 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 at 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 layers in the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The 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.

Contaminants in Drinking Water Sources May 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, and 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, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems
- ◆ Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

For People with Sensitive Immune Systems

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

The USEPA and Centers for Disease Control issue guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants. To obtain a copy of these guidelines, please call the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

For additional information, please contact our 24-hour Customer Service Center at **1.800.999.4033** or email us at customerservice@gswater.com.

Cross Connection Control Program

Golden State Water Company's Cross Connection Control Program provides a level of certainty that the water in the company's distribution system is protected from possible backflow of contaminated water from commercial or industrial customers' premises. For additional information, visit <https://www.gswater.com/protecting-our-drinking-water/>.



Flushing

Hydrant flushing is an essential maintenance procedure that all water providers must perform periodically to ensure the water delivered to customers meets state and federal drinking water standards. GSWC is using NO-DES (Neutral Output-Discharge Elimination System) flushing in several of our service areas to help flush our distribution systems sustainably.

Traditional hydrant flushing discharges hundreds of thousands of gallons of water onto the street. GSWC's NO-DES trucks and trailers offer a new maintenance technology, connecting two hydrants to a complex filtration system which cleans the water and returns it to the distribution system.

For more information about hydrant flushing, visit <https://www.gswater.com/flushing>.

If You Have Questions – Contact Us

For information about your water quality or to find out about upcoming opportunities to participate in public meetings, please contact our 24-hour Customer Service Center at **1.800.999.4033**. Visit us online at www.gswater.com or email us at customerservice@gswater.com.

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



Connect with us to learn more!

Visit www.gswater.com to:

- ◆ Access the latest Water Quality Report for your area
- ◆ Get the latest updates and news regarding the drought and state/local restrictions
- ◆ Learn more about water-use efficiency, including programs and rebates in your area
- ◆ Understand your water bill and learn about payment options
- ◆ Obtain information about programs for low-income customers (Customer Assistance Program or CAP)
- ◆ Sign up to receive email updates about your water service



Infrastructure Investments

Water providers have a duty to maintain the local water infrastructure to ensure that the delivery of reliable, quality water is not compromised. At GSWC, we take that responsibility seriously.

In 2022, GSWC installed approximately 56,700 feet of pipeline, 2,000 service lines and 207 fire hydrants throughout the state. Proactive system investments like these are critical to protect the quality of water we serve to the customers and to avoid the costly and sometimes dangerous effects of deferring maintenance.

Customers interested in learning more about current and completed infrastructure projects in their service areas are encouraged to visit their service area's webpage at www.gswater.com.



A drought-tolerant garden.

Conserving for California

Even though California experienced extraordinary levels of rainfall in 2023, drought conditions will continue to evolve. It's important that Californians remain committed to using water responsibly, protecting our most valuable and precious natural resource. By conserving water today, we can meet future demands for reliable, quality water.

To make conservation a way of life, we encourage you to learn more about conservation programs and/or water use restrictions in your area by visiting www.gswater.com/conservation or calling 1.800.999.4033.