



Irvine Ranch
Water District

2022 WATER QUALITY REPORT

IRWD 2022 Water Quality Report

Since 1990, California public water utilities have provided an annual water quality report to their customers. **This year's report covers calendar year 2021 drinking water quality testing and reporting.** Irvine Ranch Water District vigilantly safeguards its water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets the quality standards required by federal and state regulatory agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water are the agencies responsible for establishing and enforcing drinking water quality standards.

IRWD and other regional water suppliers frequently go beyond what is required by testing for unregulated chemicals that may have health risks but do not have drinking water standards. For example, the Orange County Water District, which manages the groundwater basin; the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California,

which supplies imported treated surface water; and IRWD, which operates a local surface water treatment plant and several groundwater treatment plants, all test for unregulated chemicals in our water supply. Unregulated chemical monitoring helps U.S. EPA and DDW determine where certain chemicals occur and whether new standards need to be established for those chemicals.

Through drinking water quality compliance testing programs carried out by OCWD (groundwater), MWD (treated surface water) and IRWD (treatment plants and the distribution system), your drinking water is constantly monitored from source to tap for regulated and unregulated constituents.

The state allows drinking water agencies to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some data, though representative, is more than one year old.



This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

يحتوي هذا التقرير على معلومات هامة عن نوعية ماء الشرب في منطقتك. يرجى ترجمته، أو ابحث التقرير مع صديق لك يفهم هذه المعلومات جيدا.

Arabic

Der Bericht enthält wichtige Informationen über die Wasserqualität in Ihrer Umgebung. Der Bericht sollte entweder offiziell übersetzt werden, oder sprechen Sie mit Freunden oder Bekannten, die gute Englischkenntnisse besitzen.

German

이 보고서에는 귀하가 거주하는 지역의 수질에 관한 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 이것을 번역하거나 충분히 이해하시는 친구와 상의하십시오.

Korean

这份报告中有些重要的信息，讲到关于您所在社区的水的品质。请您找人翻译一下，或者请能看得懂这份报告的朋友给您解释一下。

Chinese

Questo rapporto contiene informazioni importanti che riguardano la vostra acqua potabile. Traducetelo, o parlate con una persona qualificata in grado di spiegarvelo.

Italian

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para más información o traducción, favor de contactar a Customer Service Representative. Teléfono: 949-453-5300.

Spanish

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

French

この資料には、あなたの飲料水についての大切な情報が書かれています。内容をよく理解するために、日本語に翻訳して読むか説明を受けてください。

Japanese

Bản báo cáo có ghi những chi tiết quan trọng về phẩm chất nước trong cộng đồng quý vị. Hãy nhờ người thông dịch, hoặc hỏi một người bạn biết rõ về vấn đề này.

Vietnamese

Questions about your water? Contact us for answers.

If you have questions about this report, please call Lars Oldewage, IRWD water quality manager, at 949-453-5858.

To reach IRWD Customer Service and for other information, please call 949-453-5300, or email CustomerService@IRWD.com.

Community participation

The IRWD Board of Directors meets the second and fourth Monday of each month beginning at 5 p.m. at IRWD, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California 92618.

A copy of this report is also available on our website: IRWD.com. For more information about the health effects of the listed contaminants in the following tables, call the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

The quality of your water is our primary concern

Sources of supply

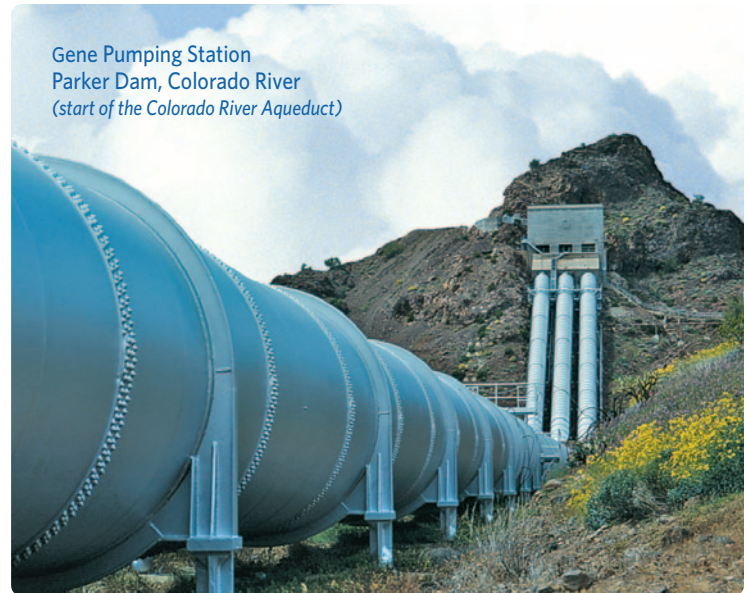
IRWD is committed to providing a clean and reliable water supply for its customers. Our drinking water is a blend of groundwater from the Orange County Groundwater Basin and surface water imported by the Metropolitan Water District. MWD's imported water sources come from the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct. Local groundwater is pumped from a natural underground reservoir that stretches from the Prado Dam and fans across the northwestern portions of Orange County, stretching as far south as the El Toro "Y." Additional source waters come from the Harding Canyon Dam watershed and the Santiago Creek Dam watershed. Local groundwater comprises approximately 65% of the total IRWD drinking water supply.

Basic information about drinking water contaminants

Drinking water sources (both tap and bottled water) may include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the layers of the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal and 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.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic sewage discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.



Gene Pumping Station
Parker Dam, Colorado River
(start of the Colorado River Aqueduct)

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and 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 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Safe from COVID-19

The coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 (which leads to the illness COVID-19), does not present a threat to our water supplies.

IRWD's groundwater comes from deep wells, which do not contain viruses or other pathogenic organisms. Our imported surface water receives advanced water treatment that removes all microorganisms including viruses.

Additional information about COVID-19 and your water supply is available from the California Water Boards at waterboards.ca.gov.

Information the U.S. EPA would like you to know

Drinking water fluoridation

Fluoride has been added to U.S. drinking water supplies since 1945. In December 2007, MWD joined a majority of the nation's public water suppliers in adding fluoride to drinking water to help prevent tooth decay. MWD was in compliance with all provisions of the state's fluoridation system requirements.



IRWD's local groundwater contains naturally occurring fluoride, but is not supplemented with fluoride. Fluoride levels in drinking water are limited under California state regulations at a maximum dosage of 2 parts per million.

There are many places to go for additional information about the fluoridation of drinking water:

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

800-232-4636 • [cdc.gov/fluoridation](https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation)

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water

[waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/
certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html](https://waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html)

American Water Works Association: [awwa.org](https://www.awwa.org)

For more information about MWD's fluoridation program, please contact Edgar G. Dymally at 213-217-5709 or at edymally@mwdh2o.com.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic organism that, when ingested, can cause diarrhea, fever, and other gastrointestinal symptoms.

The organism comes from animal and/or human waste and may be in surface water. MWD and IRWD tested the source waters and treated surface waters for *Cryptosporidium* in 2021 and did not detect it.

If detected in any drinking water samples, *Cryptosporidium* is eliminated by an effective treatment combination including sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

The U.S. EPA and the federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Immuno-compromised people

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, people who have had 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.

Total coliform rule

This Consumer Confidence Report reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements instituted during 2016. All water systems are required to comply with the state Total Coliform Rule. Effective April 1, 2016, all water systems are also required to comply with the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule. The state Revised Total Coliform Rule became effective July 1, 2021.

The federal and state rules protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system by monitoring for the presence of microbials (i.e., total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria). U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection as the new rule requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and resolve potential issues. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, these must be corrected by the water system.

Chloramines

Water imported from MWD and locally produced groundwater contains chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, as a drinking water disinfectant. Chloramines effectively kill bacteria and other microorganisms that may cause disease.

Chloramines have no odor when used properly.

People who use kidney dialysis machines may want to take special precautions and consult their physician for the appropriate type of water treatment.

Customers who maintain fish ponds, tanks or aquariums should also make necessary adjustments in water quality treatment, as these disinfectants are toxic to fish.

For further information or if you have any questions about chloramines please visit [IRWD.com](https://www.irwd.com) or call 949-453-5300.

Water quality issues that could affect your health

About lead in tap water

IRWD meets all standards for lead in the U.S. EPA Lead and Copper Rule. 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.

IRWD 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. IRWD encourages you to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering potted plants.

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 epa.gov/safewater/lead.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.



Nitrate advisory

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months old. 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 are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Want additional information? Explore water online.

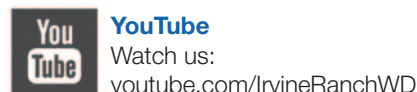


There's a wealth of information on the internet about drinking water quality, water reliability and water issues in general. A good place to begin your research is IRWD.com/water-report.

In addition to extensive information about your local water and the support and services we offer, you'll find links to many other regional, statewide and national water resources.

You can also view "Journey of a Water Sample: How We Safeguard Your Water," a short video depicting the steps IRWD staff take to ensure the high quality of our drinking water.

Enjoy keeping in the know via social media? Follow IRWD's water updates here:



Irvine Ranch Water District Local and Imported Drinking Water Quality Results for 2021

Chemical	MCL	MRDL	PHG MRDLG (MCLG)	Average Local Treated Groundwater	Average Local Treated Surface Water	Average Imported MWD Treated Water	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Radiologicals – Tested in 2020 and 2021									
Alpha Radiation (pCi/L)	15	(0)	<3	ND	<3	ND – 3.4	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits	
Beta Radiation (pCi/L)	50	(0)	NR	ND	5	ND – 6	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	<1	1.5	2	ND – 3	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits	
Inorganic Chemicals – Tested in 2021									
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	ND	<0.10	0.141	ND – 1.1	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits	
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	<2	ND	ND	ND – 3.7	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits	
Barium (ppm)	1	2	ND	0.11	0.11	ND – 0.11	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits	
Bromate (ppb)	10	0.1	NR	NR	<1.0	ND – 4.6	No	Byproduct of Drinking Water Ozonation	
Chlorine (ppm)	4.0	4	NR	2.1	NR	0.19 – 2.9	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment	
Fluoride (ppm) naturally-occurring	2	1	0.47	0.33	NR	ND – 1.6	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits	
Fluoride (ppm) treatment-related	Control Range 0.6 – 1.2 ppm Optimal Level 0.7 ppm		NR	NR	0.7	0.6 – 0.9	No	Water Additive for Dental Health	
Nitrate (ppm as N)	10	10	1.3	ND	ND	ND – 4.6	No	Fertilizers, Septic Tanks	
Nitrate+Nitrite (ppm as N)	10	10	1.3	ND	ND	ND – 4.6	No	Fertilizers, Septic Tanks	
Secondary Standards* – Tested in 2021									
Aluminum (ppb)	200*	600	ND	<100	141	ND – 1100	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits	
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	23	98	86	9.9 – 98	No	Leaching from Natural Deposits; Seawater Influence	
Color (color units)	15*	n/a	<3	<3	1	ND – 4	No	Naturally-Occurring Organic Substances	
Odor (TON)	3*	n/a	<1	1	2	ND – 4	No	Naturally-Occurring Organic Materials	
Manganese (ppb)	50 *	n/a	ND	25	ND	ND – 25	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes	
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	474	973	958	350 – 973	No	Ions in Water; Seawater Influence	
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	47	211	214	3.2 – 215	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	264	590	597	152 – 597	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	n/a	<0.10	0.10	ND	ND – 0.40	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits	
Unregulated Contaminants – Tested in 2021									
Alkalinity, Total (ppm as CaCO ₃)	Not Regulated	n/a	148	124	125	66 – 228	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Bicarbonate (ppm as HCO ₃)	Not Regulated	n/a	172	150	NR	80 – 235	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Boron (ppm)	NL = 1	n/a	<0.10	0.13	0.13	ND – 0.21	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Bromide (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	<0.10	NR	NR	ND – 0.18	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	32	69	66	2.6 – 69	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Carbonate (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	2.9	ND	NR	ND – 21	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Chlorate (ppb)	NL = 800	n/a	NR	NR	59	59	n/a	Byproduct of Drinking Water Chlorination	
Corrosivity (Aggressiveness)	Not Regulated	n/a	11.9	12.2	12.4	11.0 – 12.6	n/a	Elemental Balance in Water	
Corrosivity (Langlier Index)	Not Regulated	n/a	0.20	0.26	0.59	(-)0.76 – 0.93	n/a	Elemental Balance in Water	
Hardness, Total (ppm as CaCO ₃)	Not Regulated	n/a	107	276	274	7.6 – 276	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Hardness, Total (grains/gal)	Not Regulated	n/a	6.3	16	16	0.4 – 16	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	Not Regulated	0.02**	<1	ND	ND	ND – 1.9	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Industrial Discharge	
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	6.7	37	25	ND – 37	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Molybdenum (ppb)	Not Regulated	n/a	8.2	4.7	NR	1.6 – 15	n/a	Drinking Water Treatment Chemical for Aesthetic Quality	
Perfluoro Octanoic Acid (ppt)	NL = 5.1	n/a	<2	NR	ND	ND – 4.0	n/a	Industrial discharges	
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	8.1	7.9	8.1	7.7 – 9.0	n/a	Acidity, Hydrogen Ions	
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	1.5	4.9	4.4	0.6 – 4.9	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	59	91	94	29 – 121	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT	n/a	0.72	2.4	2.4	ND – 6.7	TT	Various Natural and Man-Made sources	
Vanadium (ppb)	NL = 50	n/a	2.9	ND	ND	ND – 6.7	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits	

Your water has been tested for many more chemicals than are listed above, including metals (such as mercury), pesticides, volatile organics and PFAS compounds. Chemicals not detected in any water sources are not included in the table.
 *Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).
 **There is currently no MCL for hexavalent chromium. The previous MCL of 10 ppb was withdrawn on September 11, 2017.

ppt = parts-per-trillion; **ppb** = parts-per-billion; **ppm** = parts-per-million; **pCi/L** = picoCuries per liter; **ND** = not detected; **n/a** = not applicable; **NR** = not required to be tested; **NL** = Notification Level; **<** = average is less than the detection limit for reporting purposes;
MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; **(MCLG)** = federal MCL Goal; **PHG** = California Public Health Goal; **µmho/cm** = micromho per centimeter;
TT = Treatment Technique; **RAA** = Highest Running Annual Average; **NTU** = nephelometric turbidity units

Turbidity – combined filter effluent	Treatment Technique	Turbidity Measurements	TT Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Baker Water Treatment Plant	1) Highest single turbidity measurement	0.1 NTU	0.03	No	Soil Run-Off
	2) Percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	No	Soil Run-Off
Metropolitan Water District Diemer Filtration Plant	1) Highest single turbidity measurement	0.3 NTU	0.03	No	Soil Run-Off
	2) Percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	No	Soil Run-Off

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, an indication of particulate matter, some of which might include harmful microorganisms.
 Low turbidity in treated surface water is a good indicator of effective filtration. Filtration is called a "treatment technique" (TT).
 A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water that are difficult and sometimes impossible to measure directly.

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring at Entry Points to the Distribution System

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Local and Imported	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Bromide (ppm)	n/a	n/a	0.20	0.025 – 0.72	2020
Germanium, Total (ppb)	n/a	n/a	<0.3	ND – 0.8	2020
Manganese, Total (ppb)	MCL = 50***	n/a	0.88	ND – 2.7	2020
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	n/a	n/a	1.2	0.06 – 6.5	2020

***Total manganese is regulated with a secondary MCL of 50 ppb to maintain aesthetic quality (color). Total manganese was also included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.

2021 Irvine Ranch Water District Distribution System Water Quality

Disinfection Byproducts	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	33***	11.6 – 35.4	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	13***	2.4 – 17.1	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4.0 / 4)	1.8	ND – 5.5	No	Disinfectant Added for Treatment
Aesthetic Quality					
Color (color units)	15*	<3	ND – 60	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	<0.1	ND – 7.2	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	<1	ND – 60	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Other					
Fluoride (mg/L)	2/0.8**	0.54	ND – 0.86	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits, Water Treatment

Twelve locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids; 60 locations are tested monthly for color and odor, and weekly for chlorine residual and turbidity.

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; **MRDLG** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard

**MCL/Optimum Level for our climate

***Highest running annual average at any individual sample location.

Bacterial Quality	MCL	MCLG	Highest Monthly % Positive Samples	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	5%	0	0.4%	No	Naturally Present in the Environment
Heterotrophic Plate Count Bacteria	5%	n/a	0.3%	No	Naturally Present in the Environment

No more than 5% of the monthly samples may be positive for total coliform bacteria. The occurrence of 2 consecutive total coliform positive samples, one of which contains fecal coliform/*E.coli*, constitutes an acute MCL violation.

A system is in non-compliance if more than 5% of samples collected in a given month have Heterotrophic Plate Counts greater than 500 colony forming units per milliliter and no detectable chlorine residual.

Lead and Copper Action Levels at Residential Taps

	Action Level (AL)	Public Health Goal (PHG)	90 th Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding AL / Number of Sites	AL Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.291	0/67	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	<5	0/67	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing

The most recent lead and copper at-the-tap samples were collected from 67 residences in 2019.

Lead was detected in 2 homes and copper was detected in 46 homes, but none of the samples for lead and copper exceeded the respective regulatory Action Level (AL).

A regulatory Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded in more than 10% of samples, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

No schools requested testing for lead in 2021.

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring in the Distribution System

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG (MCLG)	Average Local and Imported	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Germanium, Total (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.82	ND – 1.1	2020
Manganese, Total (ppb)	MCL = 50*	n/a	1.6	0.8 – 2.2	2020
Bromochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	3.9	1.5 – 13	2019
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.3	0.6 – 3.8	2019
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.0	0.4 – 2.5	2019
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	2.5	0.9 – 7.0	2019
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	(0)	4.9	1.7 – 25	2019
Monobromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.3	ND – 1.2	2019
Monochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	(70)	0.2	ND – 3.8	2019
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	(20)	1.3	ND – 10	2019

*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard

Chart legend

What are water quality standards?

Drinking water standards established by U.S. EPA and DDW set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **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.
- **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.
- **Secondary MCLs** are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

What is a water quality goal?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, U.S. EPA and DDW have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

- **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 U.S. EPA.
- **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.
- **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.

How are contaminants measured?

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. Contaminants are measured in:

- Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- Parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

Source water assessments

Imported (MWD) water assessment

Every five years, MWD is required by DDW to examine possible sources of drinking water contamination in its State Water Project and Colorado River source waters.

The most recent surveys for MWD's source waters are the Colorado River Watershed Sanitary Survey - 2020 update, and the State Water Project Watershed Sanitary Survey - 2016 update. Both source waters are exposed to stormwater runoff, recreational activities, wastewater discharges, wildlife, fires, and other watershed-related factors that could affect water quality.

Water from the Colorado River is considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. Water supplies from Northern California's State Water Project are most vulnerable to contamination from urban/stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater.

U.S. EPA also requires MWD to complete one Source Water Assessment that uses information collected in the watershed sanitary surveys. MWD completed its SWA in December 2002. The SWA is used to evaluate the vulnerability of water sources to contamination and helps determine whether more protective measures are needed.

A copy of the most recent summary of either Watershed Sanitary Survey or the SWA can be obtained by calling MWD at 800-CALL-MWD (800-225-5693).



(IRWD) Baker Water Treatment Plant water assessment

The Baker Water Treatment Plant receives untreated surface water from MWD (see MWD water assessment above) and untreated surface water from Santiago Reservoir. The surface water assessment of Santiago Reservoir is provided by Serrano Water District, which also uses source water from Santiago Reservoir.

The most recent sanitary survey for Santiago Reservoir was updated in 2019. Water supplies from Santiago Reservoir are most vulnerable to septic systems and wildfires. The Source Water Assessment for Santiago Reservoir was completed in April 2001. The assessment was conducted for the Serrano Water District by Boyle Engineering Corporation with assistance from the Serrano Water District staff.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the IRWD Water Quality Department, 3512 Michelson Drive, Irvine. You may request a summary of the assessment by writing to District Secretary, Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California 92618.

Groundwater assessment

An assessment of the groundwater sources in the Lake Forest service area of IRWD was completed in December 2002. This groundwater is considered most vulnerable to contamination from dry cleaners and sewer collection systems.

An assessment of the groundwater sources in the Dyer

Road Well Field was completed in July 2003. This groundwater is considered most vulnerable to contamination from gas stations, historic gas stations, metal plating/finishing/fabrication facilities, military installations and plastics/synthetics producers.

An assessment of the groundwater sources in the Wells 21-22 Desalter Project was completed in May 2009. This groundwater is considered most vulnerable to contamination from sewer collection systems, automobile (gas stations), historic gas stations and underground storage tanks (confirmed leaking tanks).

An assessment of the groundwater sources in the Irvine Desalter Project was completed in March 2006. This groundwater is considered most vulnerable to contamination from crop irrigation and fertilizers.

An assessment of the groundwater source in the Orange Park Acres service area of IRWD was completed in March 2003. This groundwater is considered most vulnerable to contamination from sewer collection systems.

An assessment of the groundwater in the Santiago Canyon service area of IRWD was completed in January 2003. There have been no contaminants detected in the water supply, however the source is still considered vulnerable to contamination from historical mining operations.

Copies of the complete assessments may be viewed at the IRWD Water Quality Department, 3512 Michelson Drive, Irvine. You may request a summary of the assessments by writing to District Secretary, Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California 92618.



Statewide drought conditions call for making the most of the water we use — IRWD can help

This is the driest year to date in California, based on records going back 128 years. In response, the governor has urged everyone to do their part to use less water. Irvine Ranch Water District's water supply is in good shape, but water reliability is precariously uncertain in other regions of the state, and we should all pitch in to help.

Start outdoors

Your yard can be the biggest source of water waste—and offers the greatest opportunity to be more water-efficient. For lots of ideas, visit IRWD.com/drought. Or (if you are viewing a digital copy of this report) click the links below.



Landscape:

- Beautify your yard with water-wise plants
- Read *The Dirt*, IRWD's quarterly electronic gardening newsletter
- Watch The Shed Show



Design:

- Check out our helpful tips for landscape design
- Plant a sustainable garden
- Hydrozone



Irrigation:

- Types of systems
- Money-saving rebates
- Watering guide



Planting tips:

- Planting workshops
- Healthy soil
- Benefits of mulch

Get water-saving tips customized for your home

Take the guesswork out of saving water with the IRWD WaterInsight Program. Register for free at IRWD.waterinsight.com and receive water savings recommendations specific to your household.