

# 2014 WATER QUALITY REPORT



43885 South Grimmer Blvd.  
Fremont, CA 94538

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 2  
HAYWARD CA

Dear ACWD Customer:

This report summarizes the results of the thousands of analyses conducted on your drinking water during 2014. I'm pleased to report that your water consistently met or surpassed all federal and state drinking water standards for public health and safety over the course of the year. To learn more about the quality of your drinking water, turn to the following pages:

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**Robert Shaver**  
General Manager

Este reporte contiene información muy importante de su salud y el agua que toma. Tradúzcalo por favor ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Este relatório contém informações importantes sobre sua água potável. Por favor traduza-o ou fale com alguém que entenda o que está escrito.

Mahalaga ang impormasyong ito.  
Mangyaring ipasalin ito.

Dieser Report enthält wichtige Informationen über Ihr Trinkwasser. übersetzen Sie ihn bitte oder sprechen Sie mit jemand, das ihn versteht.

Ce rapport contient de l'information importante concernant votre eau potable. Veuillez le traduire, ou parlez-en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend.

此份有關你的食水報告,內有重要資料和訊息,請找他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

Chi tiết này thật quan trọng.  
Xin nhờ người dịch cho quý vị.

यह सूचना महत्वपूर्ण है ।  
कृपा करके किसी से सका अनुवाद कराएँ ।

このレポートはあなたの飲料水に関する重要な情報が含まれています。  
翻訳するか、レポートの内容を理解できる方に説明してもらってください。

이 안내는 매우 중요합니다.  
본인을 위해 번역인을 사용하십시오.

Данный рапорт содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде. Переведите его или проконсультируйтесь с тем, кто его понимает.

این اطلاعیه شامل اطلاعات مهمی راجع به آب آشامیدنی است. اگر نمیتوانید این اطلاعات را بزبان انگلیسی بخوانید لطفاً کسی که میتواند برای بگیریده تا مطالب را برای شما به فارسی ترجمه کند.

”هذا التقرير يحتوي على معلومات مهمة تتعلق بمياه الشفة (أو الشرب).“

ترجم التقرير، أو تكلم مع شخص يستطيع أن يفهم التقرير.

ਇਸ ਵਿਖੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਵਿਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਪੀਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਪਾਣੀ ਵਾਢੇ ਬਹੁਤ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ  
ਸੂਚਨਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਪੜ੍ਹੋ ਜਾਂ ਜੇ ਸਮਠ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ,  
ਉਸ ਵੇਲੇ ਸਮਠੋ।

# A MESSAGE FROM THE USEPA AND THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD, DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

## A Note about Drinking 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## COMPREHENSIVE WATER QUALITY MONITORING

ACWD works diligently to ensure that your water complies with all state and federal drinking water standards. This is a comprehensive effort that includes monitoring and testing for many types of contaminants that may be present in source water (i.e., water before treatment), including:

- Microbials, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganics, 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 chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, or that may come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Highly trained analysts and certified water treatment plant operators in our state-certified laboratory and satellite laboratories are committed to conducting these tests under a stringent Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) program. Through written procedures, analytical proficiency testing, and detailed record maintenance, the QA/QC program ensures the quality of the analytical data produced by our laboratories. ACWD staff members collect



ACWD staff test your water for more than 180 substances to help ensure your health and safety.

samples daily from our water sources, treatment facilities, and distribution system to ensure only high quality water is delivered to our customers.

## DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT

In response to 1996 federal Safe Drinking Water Act amendments, California was required to implement a Source Water Assessment program. Drinking Water Source Assessments are conducted to determine how vulnerable drinking water sources are to contamination. Assessments have been completed for all of ACWD's water sources.

- The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), which operates the Hetch Hetchy system, completed its assessment in 2000. It was found that SFPUC watersheds are vulnerable to contaminants associated with wildlife and, to a limited extent, human recreational activity. Historically, the levels of contaminants have been very low in the watersheds.
- The South Bay Aqueduct (SBA) source assessment was completed in 2002. This source is most vulnerable to agricultural drainage, wastewater treatment plant discharges, urban runoff, recreational activity, and cattle grazing. In addition, seawater intrusion contributes salt and bromide to the water supply.

## Information for the Immuno-Compromised

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

- ACWD's assessment of local groundwater sources was also completed in 2002. These sources are most vulnerable to existing and historic gas stations, known contaminant plumes, leaking underground storage tanks, dry cleaners, metal plating/finishing/fabricating, and sewer collection.

Although ACWD water sources are vulnerable to potentially contaminating activities, our treatment and blending facilities treat your tap water to the strict standards set by federal and state regulatory agencies. Complete assessments may be reviewed at ACWD headquarters located at 43885 South Grimmer Boulevard in Fremont. To have a summary of the assessments sent to you, please call Laura Hidas, Water Production Manager, at (510) 668-6516.



Drinking water source assessments have been completed for all of ACWD's water sources, including groundwater wells.

## 2014 WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

In 2014, the laboratory analysts and water treatment plant operators in ACWD's state-certified laboratories and satellite laboratories analyzed for more than 180 substances in ACWD treated water. In all cases, the water was in compliance with federal and state standards for public health and safety. There are two types of standards ACWD is required to meet:

**Primary Drinking Water Standards** set limits for substances in water that may be harmful to humans if consumed in excess. They include MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**Secondary Drinking Water Standards** deal with aesthetic qualities such as taste and odor which relate to consumer acceptance rather than health factors.

A summary of key results for 2014 is presented in the following tables. Technical terms and abbreviations used in the tables are explained below.

## Definitions

**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.

**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.

**Notification Level (NL):** State Board health-based advisory levels used to provide information to public water systems and others about unregulated contaminants in drinking water. Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the USEPA and the State Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

**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.

**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.

## Abbreviations

**mg/L:** Milligrams per liter (which is equal to parts per million).

**µg/L:** Micrograms per liter (which is equal to parts per billion).

**ppm:** Parts per million (which is equal to milligrams per liter).

**ppb:** Parts per billion (which is equal to micrograms per liter).

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

**µmhos/cm:** Micromhos/centimeter.

**NTU:** Nephelometric turbidity units.

**ND:** The substance could not be found at the minimum amount that can be detected.

**NA:** Not Applicable.

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS													
Parameters	Units	Primary MCL or [MRDL]	{PHG} (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	Treated Surface Water <sup>(1)</sup>		Purchased San Francisco Water <sup>(1)</sup>		Blended Water <sup>(1)</sup>		Desalinated Water <sup>(1)</sup>		Major Sources	
				Range	Average	Range	Average or [Max.]	Range	Average	Range	Average		
Aluminum	ppm	1	{0.6}	ND - 0.12	ND	ND		ND		ND		Erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride (naturally-occurring)	ppm	2	{1}	0.17		ND - 0.8 <sup>(2)</sup>	0.4 <sup>(2)</sup>	0.20 - 0.29	0.26	0.12 - 0.26	0.16	Erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride (treated water) <sup>(3)</sup>	ppm	2	{1}	Average = 0.9 (Range: 0.7 - 1.2)								Water additive that promotes strong teeth	
Bromate	ppb	10	{0.1}	Highest RAA <sup>(4)</sup> = 2.0 (Range of individual detections: ND - 5.4)								Disinfection by-product	
Disinfectant Residual (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>(5)</sup>	ppm	[4]	[4]	Annual Average = 1.9 (Range of individual detections: 0.1 - 2.9)								Disinfectant residual	
Gross Alpha <sup>(6)</sup>	pCi/L	15	{0}	ND - 3.7	ND	ND		ND		ND		Erosion of natural deposits	
5 Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) <sup>(7)</sup>	ppb	60	NA	Highest LRAA = 29 (Range of individual detections: ND - 33) <sup>(8)</sup>								Disinfection by-products	
Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> )	ppm	45	{45}	ND - 5.1	ND	ND		ND - 4.8	ND	2.5 - 3.2	2.9	Runoff from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N)	ppm	10	{10}	ND - 1.1	ND	ND		ND - 1.1	ND	0.56 - 0.73	0.65	Runoff from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits	
Radium-226 <sup>(9)</sup>	pCi/L	NA <sup>(9)</sup>	{0.05}	ND		1.9		ND		ND		Erosion of natural deposits	
Total Coliform <sup>(10)</sup>	%	5 <sup>(11)</sup>	{0}	Highest Monthly Percentage = 0.4% (Range of monthly percentages: 0 - 0.4%)								Naturally present in the environment	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) <sup>(12)</sup>	ppb	80	NA	Highest LRAA = 42 (Range of individual detections: ND - 75) <sup>(8)</sup>								Disinfection by-products	
Turbidity <sup>(13)</sup>	NTU	TT = 0.1 or 0.3 <sup>(14)</sup>	NA	0.03 - 0.26	0.05	NA		NA		NA		Not subject to the turbidity monitoring requirement	Soil runoff
		TT = 5.0 <sup>(15)</sup>	NA	NA		0.2 - 0.6 <sup>(16)</sup>	[2.8] <sup>(17)</sup>						

Lead and Copper Sampling Program <sup>(18)</sup>	Units	AL <sup>(19)</sup>	{PHG}	Range	90th Percentile Value	Number of Samples Collected	Number of Samples above AL	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Copper <sup>(20)</sup>	ppm	1.3	{0.3}	ND - 0.8	0.5	73	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS											
Parameters	Units	Secondary MCL	Treated Surface Water		Purchased San Francisco Water		Blended Water		Desalinated Water		Major Sources
			Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	
Aluminum	ppm	0.2	ND - 0.12	ND	ND		ND		ND		Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	ppm	500	90 - 176	125	2.8 - 5.5	3.7	46 - 95	61	56 - 64	60	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Specific Conductance	µmhos / cm	1,600	557 - 918	699	39 - 84	55	453 - 649	522	364 - 436	401	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate	ppm	500	34 - 60	43	1.0 - 6.1	2.3	36 - 44	41	18 - 23	21	Naturally-occurring minerals
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1,000	310 - 500	380	20 - 61	34	260 - 360	293	190 - 230	213	Naturally-occurring minerals and metals

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE 3 <sup>(21)</sup>												
Parameters	Units	NL	Treated Surface Water		Purchased San Francisco Water		Blended Water		Desalinated Water		Major Sources	
			Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average		
Chlorate	ppb	800	140 - 480	306	82 - 180	124	140 - 280	198	110 - 200	165	Agricultural defoliant or desiccant; disinfection by-product	
Chlorodifluoromethane	ppb	1000	ND		ND		ND		0.1 - 0.2		0.1	Chlorofluorocarbon; occurs as a gas, and used as a refrigerant
Hexavalent Chromium	ppb	NA <sup>(22)</sup>	0.06 - 0.18	0.11	0.03 - 0.04	0.03	0.08 - 0.28	0.19	0.16 - 0.28	0.20	Erosion of natural deposits; industrial discharges	
Chromium (Total)	ppb	NA <sup>(22)</sup>	ND - 0.45	ND	ND - 0.25	ND	ND - 0.53	0.31	ND - 0.73	0.36	Erosion of natural deposits; industrial discharges	
Molybdenum	ppb	NA	ND - 2.2	1.0	ND		ND		ND		Naturally-occurring element found in ores and present in plants, animals and bacteria	
Strontium	ppb	NA	130 - 290	206	13 - 17	15	190 - 400	333	92 - 160	128	Naturally-occurring element	
Vanadium	ppb	50	ND - 4.4	0.74	ND - 0.21	ND	0.35 - 0.49	0.43	ND - 0.21	ND	Naturally-occurring elemental metal	

OTHER WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS											
Parameters	Units	NL	Treated Surface Water		Purchased San Francisco Water		Blended Water		Desalinated Water		Major Sources
			Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	
Alkalinity	ppm as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	NA	88 - 125	103	ND - 27	ND	118 - 134	130	75 - 94	84	Naturally-occurring minerals
Calcium	ppm	NA	20 - 31	25	3.2 - 6.6	4.2	30 - 43	35	13 - 18	16	Naturally-occurring mineral
Hardness <sup>(23)</sup>	ppm as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	NA	122 - 160	137	8.0 - 26	15	134 - 182	153	66 - 80	74	Naturally-occurring minerals
Magnesium	ppm	NA	15 - 21	17	0.20 - 1.3	0.48	13 - 18	15	6.7 - 8.7	7.7	Naturally-occurring mineral
pH	units	NA	8.0 - 8.5	8.4	9.7 - 9.7	9.7	8.1 - 8.3	8.2	8.7 - 9.0	8.9	Naturally-occurring minerals
Potassium	ppm	NA	2.9 - 5.0	3.7	ND - 0.5	ND	1.2 - 2.3	1.6	0.6 - 0.7	0.7	Naturally-occurring mineral
Sodium	ppm	NA	62 - 127	89	ND		45 - 66	52	52 - 63	59	Naturally-occurring mineral

(1) Refer to the "Distribution System Map" (page 6) to determine the type of water you typically receive based on your location.

(2) Fluoride in purchased San Francisco water includes both naturally-occurring fluoride and fluoride added by San Francisco to the regional supply upstream of ACWD.

(3) ACWD treats your water by adding fluoride to the naturally-occurring level in order to help prevent dental caries in consumers. The fluoride levels in treated water are maintained within a range of 0.8 - 1.4 ppm, as required by State regulations.

(4) Compliance is based on a running annual average (RAA) of 12 monthly samples.

(5) Disinfectant residual in the distribution system consists of combined chlorine (chloramines); results are reported as Total Combined Chlorine.

(6) Due to consistently low sampling results, the State Board approved reduced gross alpha and radium-226 monitoring frequency to once every 6 years. Results reported here were collected in 2012.

(7) Five Haloacetic Acids is the sum of monochloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, and dibromoacetic acid.

(8) Compliance is based on locational running annual average (LRAA) of distribution samples collected in 4 quarters.

(9) No MCL exists for radium-226 only, but the MCL for combined radium-226 and radium-228 is 5 pCi/L. Results reported for radium-228 were ND in 2012.

(10) Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. 'Positive' or 'negative' results indicate a presence or absence of biological activity in a sample.

(11) The percent of monthly samples that are Total Coliform-positive shall not exceed 5%.

(12) Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform.

(13) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. It is used to indicate water quality and filtration effectiveness. Turbidity is measured in NTUs.

(14) Treatment Technique (TT) performance standard: 0.1 NTU for filtered water in 95% of the measurements from MSJWTP taken at 15-minute intervals each month and shall not exceed 1.0 NTU at any time. 0.3 NTU for filtered water in 95% of the measurements from WTP2 taken at 15-minute intervals each month and shall not exceed 1.0 NTU at any time. The treated surface water met these standards 100% of the time during 2014.

(15) Treatment Technique performance standard: 5 NTU for unfiltered water. The purchased SFPUC water met this standard 100% of the time during 2014.

(16) Purchased SFPUC water turbidity is measured every 4 hours. These are monthly average turbidity values.

(17) The highest turbidity of the unfiltered water in 2014 was 2.8 NTU.

(18) In compliance with federal Lead and Copper Program requirements, 1 liter samples are taken by consumers from within their homes after a 6 to 8 hour stagnation period.

(19) Compliance is based on 90th percentile values, which should be less than the action level (AL).

(20) Due to consistently low sampling results, the State Board approved reduced lead and copper monitoring frequency to once every 3 years. Results reported here were collected by ACWD in 2012. In 2012 the 90th percentile lead value was ND.

(21) A federal rule that requires monitoring for contaminants that don't have drinking water standards set by USEPA. Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

(22) The State Board has established the MCL for Total Chromium at 50 ppb and for Hexavalent Chromium at 10 ppb.

(23) For customers who want to know their hardness value in grains per gallon (gpg), divide the provided hardness value by 17.1.

## A NOTE ABOUT LEAD FROM THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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. Alameda County Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## CLEANING WATER LINES TO IMPROVE YOUR DRINKING WATER QUALITY

In January 2015, ACWD restored its Water Main Cleaning Program which removes accumulated sediment, such as rust deposits and sand that can affect water color and taste, from water mains. The program was suspended in 2014 due to the drought but was restored to address customer concerns regarding water quality.

Main cleaning is accomplished by opening fire hydrants and other pipeline outlets, which increases the velocity through the water pipeline and causes scale and sediments to be dislodged. This sediment can then be removed from the distribution system through the open fire hydrant. During main cleaning, ACWD staff closely monitor the process to ensure that the solids are not released to the environment and runoff is minimized. It is estimated that the 2015 program requires less than 0.1 percent of ACWD's annual water production.

ACWD remains committed to continuous water conservation measures with a steadfast focus on the drought; however, the flushing of water lines is necessary to mitigate sediment buildup, improve water quality, and is required by the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water. The District has evaluated recapturing options for the discharge but unfortunately, in most cases, it is not technically feasible.

The cleaning of water lines occurs annually between January and mid-May in Fremont, Newark, and Union City. To learn more about the Water Main Cleaning Program please visit [www.acwd.org/maincleaning](http://www.acwd.org/maincleaning).

## LEAD AND COPPER TRIENNIAL SAMPLING

On June 7, 1991, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) to control lead and copper in drinking water. Per the LCR, ACWD must collect first-draw samples at the taps in homes/buildings within Fremont, Newark, and Union City every three years.

ACWD will be fulfilling its LCR requirements during the summer of 2015 and is always looking for eligible single-family homes to expand its sample pool. If you think your single-family home meets the following requirements and would like to participate in the LCR sampling program, please contact our LCR Tap Sampling Team at (510) 668-6599 or [TapSampling@acwd.com](mailto:TapSampling@acwd.com).

Single-Family Home Requirements:

- Home has copper pipes with lead solder installed **after** 1982
- **OR** home contains lead pipes

## HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM DATA EXPLAINED

In 2014, ACWD complied with two regulations requiring the monitoring of hexavalent chromium (Chromium-6) in our treated water. The State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (State Board) finalized a first-in-the-nation Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 µg/L. ACWD began quarterly monitoring of our treated water in July 2014 and is pleased to report that none of these samples had detections of Chromium-6 above the State Board-mandated reporting limit of 1 µg/L. Since none of these results were above the reporting limit established by the State Board, they are not shown in the "Primary Drinking Water Standards" section of our Data Table.

The second regulation requiring the monitoring of Chromium-6 in our treated water is the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). In this regulation, the USEPA set a reporting limit of 0.03 µg/L for Chromium-6, which is significantly lower than the reporting limit set by the State Board. ACWD monitored nine locations between one to four times each during 2014. These results are presented in the Data Table under the "Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule" section and vary between 0.03 µg/L to 0.28 µg/L.

Regardless of the reporting limit used, all sample results were at least 10 times less than California's MCL of 10 µg/L.

## THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT CONTINUES: WATER SUPPLY AND QUALITY CHALLENGES PERSIST

As California faces its fourth year of drought, water agencies throughout the state continue to grapple with the challenges created by reduced water supplies. To compound issues, water year 2013/14 was the driest locally in 144 years of recorded history and many of California's reservoirs are at critically low levels.

ACWD's comprehensive Integrated Resources Plan is essential in forecasting water supplies, especially during a drought. If one supply is at a deficit, others may be increased to mitigate reductions and meet our demands. Although the District utilizes diverse supplies – local and imported water – reduced flows, warm water temperatures, and concerns of salinity intrusion come into play when water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is used to offset needs.

The drought has resulted in adverse effects to the water quality of the Delta. ACWD customers, therefore, may experience changes in the taste, smell and hardness of their water. Although a nuisance, these aesthetics do not impact the safety of your water and it remains safe to drink, meeting all state and federal water quality standards, as shown in the Data Table.

We thank you for your conservation efforts as we strive to provide you with high quality drinking water during this historic drought.

Note that ACWD's Water Shortage Emergency remains in effect and we ask that our customers continue to reduce water use by 20 percent from 2013 levels.

To learn more about the drought, conservation, mandatory water use restrictions, and to view a list of frequently asked questions, please visit our Drought Resource Center at [www.acwd.org](http://www.acwd.org).

# Where Our Water Comes From

ACWD supplies water to the Tri-City area from four sources.

- **Treated surface water** is imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and/or Lake Del Valle via the South Bay Aqueduct. This water is purified at our surface water treatment plants and then delivered to customers living in central and south Fremont.

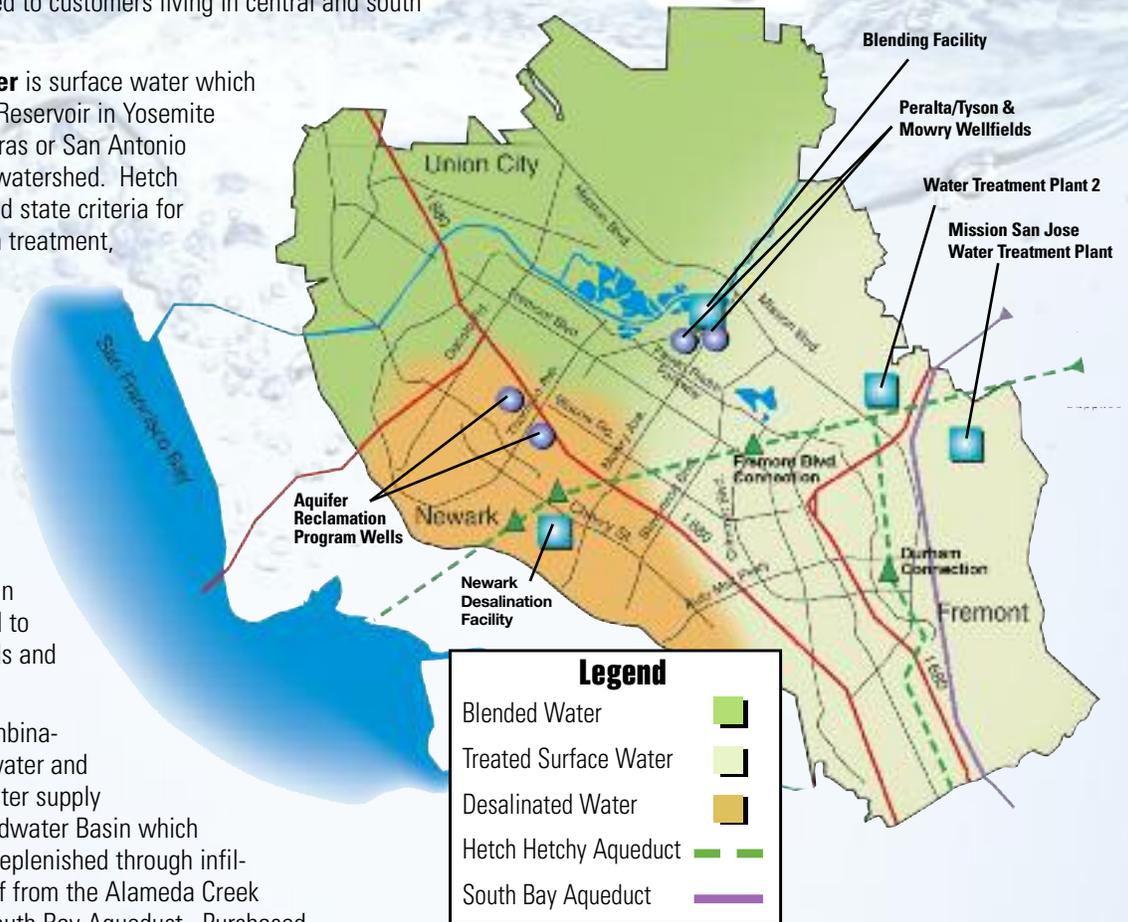
- **Purchased San Francisco water** is surface water which originates in either Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park, or locally in Calaveras or San Antonio Reservoirs in the Alameda Creek watershed. Hetch Hetchy water meets all federal and state criteria for watershed protection, disinfection treatment, bacteriological quality, and operational standards and has thus been granted a filtration exemption by the USEPA and the State Board. Water from the local reservoirs is treated by SFPUC at a water treatment plant. Water from the San Francisco system is normally delivered through Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct connections in Fremont. Additional connections in Fremont and Newark may be used to meet peak summer water demands and in times of emergency.

- **Blended water** consists of a combination of purchased San Francisco water and local groundwater. The groundwater supply comes from the Niles Cone Groundwater Basin which underlies the Tri-City area and is replenished through infiltration from local rainwater, runoff from the Alameda Creek watershed, and water from the South Bay Aqueduct. Purchased San Francisco water is blended with Peralta/Tyson and Mowry Wellfield water at our Blending Facility and is delivered to customers living in north Fremont, Union City, and parts of Newark.

- **Desalted or desalinated water** is produced at the Newark Desalination Facility (NDF) from brackish (slightly salty) local groundwater. The desalinated water produced by the NDF is blended with Aquifer Reclamation Program well water to achieve a more balanced mineral content before being delivered to customers living in Newark.

## Typical Distribution System Map

Your location in the Tri-City area determines the type of water you receive.



## Your Views Are Welcome

Meetings of ACWD's Board of Directors typically begin at 6:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month and are open to the public. Meetings are held in the ACWD Board Room at the District's headquarters at 43885 South Grimmer Boulevard in Fremont. Further information regarding the Board meeting schedule can be found on our website at [www.acwd.org/board](http://www.acwd.org/board).

If you have any questions or need any more information about the quality of your water, please let us know. We would also appreciate any comments you have about this report. We can be reached by phone at (510) 668-4200, fax (510) 770-1793, on the Internet at [www.acwd.org](http://www.acwd.org), or by mail at: Alameda County Water District, P.O. Box 5110, Fremont, CA 94537. Laura Hidas, Water Production Manager, can be reached at (510) 668-6516.

## 2014 Water Quality Report

A publication of the Alameda County Water District

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