

2023 Water Quality Report

Water Quality Report – 2023 | Covering Calendar Year – 2022

Our Promise to You: *Quality. Delivered.*

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is dedicated to providing reliable service and delivering high-quality drinking water to more than 440,000 residents throughout the Reno-Sparks area. In accordance with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Consumer Confidence Rule, I am pleased to present TMWA’s annual Water Quality Report on behalf of our staff and board of directors.

This report, which is based on data collected in the 2022 calendar year, contains information about the source of your drinking water and how it compares to drinking water standards established by the EPA. We are providing this report electronically. If you would like a print copy mailed to you, please call Water Quality & Environmental Permitting Manager Kelli Burgess at (775) 834-8117 or contact her by email at kburgess@tmwa.com.

If you have any general questions about water quality, please call our Water Quality Department at (775) 834-8118. For information on other water topics, go to <https://tmwa.com> to find helpful resources as well as a complete list of the phone numbers for TMWA’s departments. We know water has a direct connection to the quality of life in our community, and we are always ready to hear from you.

Yours in good health,

John Zimmerman, General Manager



What regulations does TMWA water meet?

TMWA adheres to all federal, state, and local water regulations set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency, State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and the Washoe County Health District.

TMWA is required to monitor and meet regulatory standards for more than one hundred contaminants. All water delivered to customers is treated and must adhere to some of the strictest drinking water regulations in the world.

Your water comes from the following wells:

SOURCE NAME	SOURCE WATER TYPE
OLD WASHOE WELL 3	GROUNDWATER
OLD WASHOE WELL 4	GROUNDWATER

Your drinking water is supplied from groundwater sources. We add a disinfectant to protect against microbial contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires states to develop a Source Water Assessment (SWA) for each public water supply that treats and distributes raw source water in order to identify potential contamination sources. The state has completed an assessment of your source water.

MESSAGE FROM THE EPA

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone 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. EPA/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 (800-426-4791).

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater 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 before we treat it 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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture and residential use.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We aim to provide water that meets EPA's regulations. We treat your water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The following tables list all drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2022 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants at current levels does not indicate a potential health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing done January 1–December 31, 2022. Due to the consistent presence of contaminants that do not cause a health concern, the state suggests that not all contaminants be tested for every year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. We can assure you that your water is safe for human consumption.

TESTING RESULTS FOR OLD WASHOE ESTATES PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM

CONTAMINANTS	MCLG OR MRDLG	MCL, TT, OR MRDL	Results	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation?	Typical Source
DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTANT BY-PRODUCTS (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	0.85	0.68	1.05	2022	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	ND	ND	ND	2022	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	NA	80	ND	ND	ND	2022	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	3.8	3.8	3.8	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.048	0.048	0.048	2021	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.47	0.47	0.47	2022	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-Nitrite (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.47	0.47	0.47	2022	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS								
Combined Uranium (ppb)	0	30	4.0	4.0	4.0	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS								
Total Coliform (RTCR)	NA	TT	0	0	0	2021	No	Naturally present in the environment

CONTAMINANTS	MCLG	AL	Result	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL?	Typical Source
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.22	2017	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	ND	2017	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Old Washoe Public Water System is not required to monitor Lead and Copper annually due to the historically low values found during previous sampling events. The data presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with EPA regulations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR 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. TMWA 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 or at <https://epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

VIOLATIONS

This water system had no violations during the 2022 calendar year.

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

In this report you may find terms or abbreviations that may not be familiar. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS	
Term	Definition
ug/L	Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units: Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.
% positive samples/month	Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected
NR	Monitoring not required, but recommended

IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS	
Term	Definition
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 allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfection 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.
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.
MNR	Monitored Not Regulated

WHERE CAN I GET WATER QUALITY DATA?

TMWA's website has a section dedicated to water quality at <https://tmwa.com/quality>, which provides water quality information for different areas of our service territory. We also maintain a neighborhood water quality look-up page at <https://tmwa.com/lookup>. Additional information on our water sources, distribution, and treatment can also be found online. If you have questions or need more information, please contact any of the following staff:

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