

# 2023 Water Quality Report

Data collected for 2022 calendar year

## 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](mailto:kburgess@tmwa.com).

Information in this report reinforces TMWA's standing among the nation's leaders in water quality—a distinction recognized by the Partnership for Safe Water. The Partnership ranks TMWA's Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant among the highest-performing water treatment plants in the country for individual filter performance. While we appreciate this recognition, it simply reflects what has always been our priority: maintaining and improving our water system's infrastructure for the safety of our customers and ensuring that the water delivered to you is of exceptional quality.

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



### A great source combined with a great team makes for a high-quality product.

Lake Tahoe, famous for its clarity and quality, and the Truckee River system are our region's primary sources of drinking water. However, no matter how clear and pure a water source is, it still takes highly skilled and trained scientists, engineers, and operators to supply, treat, and deliver high-quality drinking water to customers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. TMWA currently has three surface water treatment facilities. While it varies year-over-year, TMWA typically uses 3 to 9 percent of the total flow of the Truckee River to meet our customers' needs. The Truckee River provides more than 80 percent of TMWA's annual customer demand; the remainder is filled by groundwater located within our service area.

### 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.

### About TMWA

*TMWA is a not-for-profit, community-owned water utility overseen by elected officials from Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County. TMWA employs a highly skilled team that ensures the treatment, delivery, and availability of high-quality drinking water around the clock for more than 440,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows.*

## TEST RESULTS: 2022 WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all the primary regulated drinking water contaminants that TMWA detected during the 2022 calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented

in this table are from testing done during the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

CONTAMINANTS	MCLG OR MRDLG	MCL, TT, OR MRDL	Result	System Weighted Average	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation?	Typical Source	
<b>DISINFECTANTS &amp; DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)</b>										
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	1.01	NA	0.13	1.48	2022	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	26	NA	ND	34	2022	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
THMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	NA	80	37	NA	ND	58	2022	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>										
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	1.0	0.00036	ND	1.0	2022	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.	
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	6.7	0.02605	ND	14.6	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.103	0.02057	0.011	0.103	2022	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	7.7	0.01830	ND	7.7	2022	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits	
Mercury (ppb)	2	2	0.22	0.00014	ND	0.22	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland	
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	7.0	0.11275	ND	7.0	2022	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrate-Nitrite (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	7.0	0.11275	ND	7.0	2022	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	2.8	0.00185	ND	2.8	2022	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines	
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS</b>										
Total Coliform (RTCR)	NA	TT	0	NA	0	0	2022	No	Naturally present in the environment	
Turbidity (NTU)	100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3 NTU. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.088 NTU. Any measurement in excess of 1 NTU is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								No	Soil runoff
<b>RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS</b>										
Alpha Particles (pCi/L)	0	15	9.6	0.03338	ND	9.6	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	0	5	0.7	0.00073	ND	0.7	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	0	5	0.8	0.00065	ND	0.8			Erosion of natural deposits	
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.8	0.00065	ND	0.8	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Combined Uranium (ppb)	0	30	5.9	0.03229	ND	5.9	2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
<b>VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>										
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	0.88	0.00036	ND	0.88	2022	No	Discharge from chemical factories	
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	1.6	0.00400	ND	1.6	2022	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories	
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	3.2	0.00246	ND	3.2	2022	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners	

CONTAMINANTS	MCLG	Action Level	Your Water	Sample Date	# of Samples Exceeding Action Level	Exceeds Action Level?	Typical Source
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.134	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	ND	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### VIOLATIONS

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

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS			
Term	Definition	Term	Definition
ug/L	Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water	% positive samples/month	Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive
ppm	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)	NA	Not applicable
ppb	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)	ND	Not detected
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.	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.
Variations 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.

NOTES: SYSTEM WEIGHTED AVERAGE: The 2023 Water Quality Report is mandated by the EPA to give our consumers the **highest** recorded value of any constituent detected from all sources in 2022. However, most groundwater wells, where most of our reported constituents were detected, are only used when system demands are at their peak—during the summer months. The “system weighted average” value is based on the percentage of total production and highest compliance value recorded for the year. In this way, we not only report the highest value detected in our system for any constituent but also give you an idea of how little that groundwater is used when compared with the total water produced from our two surface water plants. This report will also allow us to give you a more meaningful representation of the water you receive, rather than just a highest detected value for a well that may only operate one day a week.

Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)/ARSENIC/THM/HAA/ANTIMONY: Compliance for these constituents is determined by calculating the running annual average. Sampling is conducted on either a daily or quarterly basis at designated locations. A corresponding quarterly average is determined from these samples, and the running annual average is calculated by using the four most recent quarterly averages. A single sample may show that an individual result is over the MCL, but the compliance value remains below it. All water meets all local, state, and federal standards and is safe to drink.

## HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT WATER QUALITY

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ARSENIC

Although your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels. EPA standards balance the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

### ADDITIONAL WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products. These by-products include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these by-products in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, nervous system effects, and may increase the risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing HAAs in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

## TREATMENT PROCESS FOCUSES ON HEALTH

The water delivered to your tap meets all US EPA and State of Nevada drinking water health standards. It undergoes a multistage treatment process and is rigorously tested daily. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people—such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly individuals, and infants—can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about their drinking water.

The EPA/CDC has guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants. More information about these and other contaminants and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. We test for *Cryptosporidium* biweekly in both our source water and treated water. TMWA routinely monitors our source water and finished water for *Cryptosporidium*. No *Cryptosporidium* oocysts were detected in the finished water sampled from the Chalk Bluff and Glendale Water Treatment Facilities.

### WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Some people who drink water containing antimony well in excess of the MCL over many years, experience increases in blood cholesterol and decreases in blood sugar.

Nitrate concentration in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm poses a health risk for infants younger than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

### WATER TREATMENT PLANT FILTER LOADING RATE

After satisfactory demonstration, TMWA has been granted approval by the State of Nevada Bureau of Safe Drinking Water to operate the Glendale Water Treatment Plant at the accelerated filter loading rate up to 7.5 gallons per minute (gpm)/square foot and the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant at up to 8.5 gpm/square foot under the conditions that while operating at the accelerated filter loading rate, no individual filter at either plant may exceed 0.2 NTU, and the Chalk Bluff combined filter turbidity may not exceed 0.2 NTU.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled) 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 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
- 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, or farming
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, including agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production or mining activities

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide the same protection for public health.

### REQUIRED CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR) STATEMENT ADDRESSING LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

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 thirty 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 on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at <https://epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND ITS AVAILABILITY

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act was amended in 1996 and requires states to develop and implement source water assessment programs to analyze existing and potential threats to the quality of public drinking water. A summary of TMWA's susceptibility to potential sources of contamination was initially provided by Nevada in 2003. The summary of this source water assessment was first included in the TMWA 2004 Water Quality Report. Information pertaining to the initial findings of the source water assessment is available for viewing in person at the offices of the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, 901 South Stewart St., Ste. 4001, Carson City, NV 89701.

If you do not have on-line access and would like to view in person at the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, appointments are suggested; please call (775) 687-9521. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Fleish Dam

### 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 data 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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