

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2018

*Presented By*



## Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all required testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2018. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Public Works Director Michael James at (661) 746-5002.

## Important Health Information

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 ppm may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health-care provider.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease



Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

## Water Treatment Process

The only water treatment currently required of the city's water supply is disinfection by chlorination for microbiological contaminants. We test our water regularly for coliform bacteria and it is detected occasionally, but its detection is normally remedied by adjusting the chlorine dosage.

The substance 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP) has been detected in ground water within the Central Valley for several years, and urban suppliers, like the city, are now having to install treatment systems to remove the contaminant. Treatment by the city will consist of pumping ground water through vessels loaded with granulated carbon that remove TCP before the water enters city pipelines. The state is requiring that TCP be reduced to non-detectable levels by 2020 and the city will be able to meet this requirement.



Please go to [www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/123TCP.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/123TCP.shtml) if you would like to learn more about 1,2,3-TCP.

## Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Shafter was initially completed by the State of California Department of Health Services in September 1999 and updated by the City in 2009. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the City of Public Works Department, located at 336 Pacific Avenue. You may request a summary of the assessment by contacting the department at (661) 746-5002.

## About Our Violation

In preparation of the state's enforcement of a new requirement to reduce TCP-1,2,3 to non-detectable levels, the city has routinely tested all of its wells for the contaminant. Detections over the past several months have required that we send public notifications that detail our levels, health effects, and the city's corrective action plan. The city's plan is 100 percent funded and expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

## Substances That Could Be in 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 (U.S. EPA) 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. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or can result from urban storm-water 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 storm-water runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and which can also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Community Participation

The City Council of the City of Shafter meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers located at City Hall, 336 Pacific Avenue, to discuss and take action on various matters that affect the community. Water quality, conservation, and system improvements are usually on their agenda. Public input is appreciated and is taken into consideration before any formal actions are taken.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.) 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The source of Shafter's drinking water is an underground aquifer that is pumped to the surface by a system of ground-water wells. The aquifer is replenished through the natural runoff from the Sierra Nevada Mountains, as well as through seepage from the many irrigation canals that import water into the area from other regions of the state.

The City of Shafter owns and operates your domestic water supply and distribution systems. These systems operate as one of the enterprises under the city's umbrella. The water system within the core city has six active ground-water wells, five above-ground water storage tanks with booster pumps, and approximately 100 miles of water distribution lines. Distribution is defined as the combination of tanks, water mains, and booster pumps necessary to deliver water to our customers.

## Test Results

Our water is tested as required by the State to determine if it meets safe drinking water standards. Through this report, the City is only required to report actual detections of contaminants and constituents, but we can provide a complete list of our analytical tests and results upon request.

Please note we are not required to test annually for certain contaminants and constituents, primarily because their levels should not significantly change from one year to the next. In these cases, we are reporting data from the most recent sampling date.

The City completed the 4th stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests for unregulated contaminants. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if the U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to further improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Arsenic</b> (ppb)	2018	10	0.004	4.2	0-9.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
<b>Barium</b> (ppm)	2018	1	2	0.026	0.00-0.09	No	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Chlorine</b> (ppm)	2018	[4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	[4 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]	1.2	0.2-2	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
<b>Chromium [Total]</b> (ppb)	2018	50	(100)	0	0-0	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Dibromochloropropane [DBCP]</b> (ppt)	2018	200	1.7	27	0-80	No	Banned nematocide that may still be present in soils due to runoff/leaching from former use on soybeans, cotton, vineyards, tomatoes, and tree fruit
<b>Fluoride</b> (ppm)	2018	2	1	0.11	0-0.30	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Gross Alpha Particle Activity</b> (pCi/L)	2018	15	(0)	3.53	1.10-3.90	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Haloacetic Acids-Stage 2</b> (ppb)	2018	60	NA	1.19	0-4.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Hexavalent Chromium<sup>1</sup></b> (ppb)	2015	10	0.02	0.97	0-0.97	No	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Nitrate [as nitrogen]</b> (ppm)	2018	10	10	6.38	0-10.0	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Selenium</b> (ppb)	2018	50	30	0.65	0-3.90	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
<b>TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]-Stage 2</b> (ppb)	2018	80	NA	9.06	0-38	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Total Coliform Bacteria [Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule]</b> (Positive samples)	2018	TT	NA	1	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Turbidity<sup>2</sup></b> (NTU)	2018	TT	NA	0.5	0.16-1.10	No	Soil runoff
<b>Uranium</b> (pCi/L)	2015	20	0.43	1.8	0-1.8	No	Erosion of natural deposits

### Tap Water Samples Collected for Copper and Lead Analyses from Sample Sites throughout the Community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2018	1.3	0.3	0.011	0/40	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2018	15	0.2	0	0/40	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharge from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

### SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2018	500	NS	91.50	36–200	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2018	500	NS	194.67	14.90–380	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

### UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES <sup>3</sup>

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bicarbonate [HCO <sub>3</sub> ] (ppm)	2018	38	27–50	Leaching from natural deposits
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2018	1.438	1.0–4.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform (ppb)	2018	5.44	1.0–21.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Calcium (ppm)	2018	56	4–104	Leaching from natural deposits
Chromium VI [Hexavalent Chromium] (ppb)	2015	0.97	0–0.97	Naturally occurring
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2018	3.0	1.0–12.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Magnesium (ppm)	2018	0.05	0–0.30	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (Units)	2018	8.13	7.00–9.30	Inherent characteristic of water
Potassium (ppm)	2018	1.7	0–3.0	Leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2018	104.50	44–250	Leaching from natural deposits
Total Alkalinity [as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ] (ppm)	2018	30.50	23–40	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Hardness [as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ] (ppm)	2018	138.81	9.98–259	Erosion of natural deposits
Trichloropropane [1,2,3-TCP] (ppt)	2018	62	0–269	TCP-1,2,3 detections in the Central Valley are being attributed to past use of soil fumigants to battle nematodes

<sup>1</sup> There is currently no MCL for hexavalent chromium. The previous MCL of 10 ppb was withdrawn on September 11, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

<sup>3</sup> Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**AL (Regulatory Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average):** The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as the highest LRAAs.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

**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 are set by the U.S. EPA.

**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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**NS:** No standard.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**PHG (Public Health Goal):** 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 EPA.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**ppt (parts per trillion):** One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.