

CITY OF MILLBRAE



2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

The City of Millbrae Public Works Department is pleased to present you the 2020 Water Quality Report. Pursuant to federal regulations mandated by the Safe Drinking Water Act, all water consumers are to be provided annual information about their water and its sources.

This report explains the origin of the drinking water supply and the specific treatment(s) it receives by the City of Millbrae, Public Works, Utilities & Operations staff and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC).

The City of Millbrae believes it is in everyone's interest to obtain a high quality and reliable water supply. It is integral to personal health, environmental integrity and community prosperity.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

City of Millbrae	Public Works Department	650-259-2374	www.ci.millbrae.ca.us
SF Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)	Customer Service	415-551-3000	www.sfwater.org
SF Water Resources Control Board	Drinking Water	916-449-5577	www.swrcb.ca.gov
US Environmental Protection USEPA	Safe Drinking Water Hotline	800-429-9791	www.epa.gov
American Water Works Association	AWWA Contact Line	800-926-7337	www.awwa.org

PLEASE USE WATER WISELY

Please see last page of this report for water use guidelines, and water-wise tips and resources.

WATER QUALITY AND YOU

Water quality is extremely important because we cannot survive without a clean and reliable source of it. The City of Millbrae, along with our water supplier, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) are all working simultaneously to ensure that we provide the highest quality of water, educate water consumers and encourage their involvement in relevant decisions. Consumers who familiarize themselves with the basic drinking water information contained in this report will be able to participate more effectively in this decision-making process. Together, we can be a great force to promote programs that will aid us in continuing to deliver water that meets the highest possible standards.

MILLBRAE WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

The Millbrae Water Division conducts a comprehensive water quality assurance program. We collect and report over forty samples a month throughout our system to regularly monitor water quality. We send samples to a state certified laboratory for testing and are pleased to report that all samples have tested negative for coliforms and that the City had zero violations related to any maximum contaminant level (MCL) in the calendar year 2020.

Other water samples are collected periodically to check for levels of lead and copper, disinfection by-products trihalomethanes haloacetic acids (THMs and HAAs) and general physical components as required by state and federal regulations. The City of Millbrae received a waiver of asbestos sampling.

The City of Millbrae continually monitors all five (5) main entry points to our distribution system and also other key points in the distribution system such as tank sites and pump locations. These sites are monitored by our computerized SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system that provides our Water Division managers and continuous automated water quality information.

In addition, the Millbrae Water Division along with the San Mateo County Environmental Health Department administers and manages cross-connection prevention program to eliminate possible contamination to our drinking water through backflow prevention devices. The program includes yearly testing all city-owned backflow devices and monitoring of compliance on privately owned backflow devices.*

**A note to residents and business owners who have backflow prevention devices: State regulations require that all backflow prevention devices be tested annually by a certified inspector.*



WATERSHEDS PROTECTION

SFRWS conducts watershed sanitary surveys for the Hetch Hetchy source annually and for non-Hetch Hetchy surface water sources every five years. The latest sanitary surveys for the non-Hetch Hetchy watersheds were completed in 2021 for the period of 2016-2020. All these surveys together with our stringent watershed protection management activities were completed with support from partner agencies including National Park Service and US Forest Service. The purposes of the surveys are to evaluate the sanitary conditions and water quality of the watersheds and to review results of watershed management activities conducted in the preceding years. Wildlife, stock, and human activities continue to be the potential contamination sources. You may contact the San Francisco District office of the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW) at 510-620-3474 for the review of these reports.

SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS

SFRWS regularly collects and tests water samples from reservoirs and designated sampling points throughout the sources and the transmission system to ensure the water delivered to you meets or exceeds federal and State drinking water standards. In 2020, SFRWS conducted more than 47,200 drinking water tests in the sources and the transmission system. This is in addition to the extensive treatment process control monitoring performed by SFRWS's certified operators and online instruments.

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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the SWRCB-DDW 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 & LEAD

Exposure to lead, if present, can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and children who drink water containing lead could have decreases in IQ and attention span and increases in learning and behavior problems.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. There are no known lead service lines in our water distribution system. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing.

You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a

load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to remove lead from drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water you may wish to have your water tested, call 650-259-2374 for lead test. Information about lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

As previously reported in 2018, we completed an inventory of lead user service lines (LUSL) in our system and there are no known pipelines and connectors between water mains and meters made of lead. Our policy is to remove and replace any LUSL promptly if it is discovered during pipeline repair and/or maintenance.



LEAD AND COPPER TAP SAMPLING RESULTS

We conducted the triennial Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) monitoring in 2019, and these tap sampling results are accessible at our website link www.ci.millbrae.ca.us The next round of LCR monitoring will be conducted in 2022.

LEAD TESTING OF DRINKING WATER IN SCHOOLS

Lead testing from Millbrae Schools can found by going to: [Millbrae School District Lead Testing Results](#)

SAN FRANCISCO REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM DRINKING WATER SOURCES AND TREATMENT

SFRWS's major drinking water supply consists of surface water and groundwater that are well protected and carefully managed by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). These sources are diverse in both the origin and the location with the surface water stored in reservoirs located in the Sierra Nevada, Alameda County and San Mateo County, and groundwater stored in a deep aquifer located in the northern part of San Mateo County.

To meet drinking water standards for consumption, all surface water supplies from SFRWS undergo treatment before it is delivered to our customers. Water from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is exempt from state and federal filtration requirements but receives the following treatment: ultraviolet light and chlorine disinfection, pH adjustment for optimum corrosion control, fluoridation for dental health protection, and chloramination for maintaining disinfectant residual and minimizing the formation of regulated disinfection byproducts. Water from local Bay Area reservoirs in Alameda County and San Mateo County is delivered to Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP) and Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant (HTWTP), respectively, and is treated by filtration, disinfection, fluoridation, optimum corrosion control and taste and odor removal processes. In 2020, a small amount of groundwater from



five of the eight recently completed wells was intermittently added to the SFRWS's surface water supply.

WATER QUALITY

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FLUORIDATION AND DENTAL FLUOROSIS

Mandated by State law, water fluoridation is a widely accepted practice proven to be safe and effective for preventing and controlling tooth decay. The fluoride target level in the water is 0.7 milligram per liter (mg/L, or part per million, ppm), consistent with the May 2015 State regulatory guidance on optimal fluoride level. Infants fed formula mixed with water containing fluoride at this level may still have a chance of developing tiny white lines or streaks in their teeth. These marks are referred to as mild to very mild fluorosis, and are often only visible under a microscope. Even in cases where the marks are visible, they do not pose any health risk. The Centers of Disease Control (CDC) considers it safe to use optimally fluoridated water for preparing infant formula. To lessen this chance of dental fluorosis, you may choose to use low-fluoride bottled water to prepare infant formula. Nevertheless, children may still develop dental fluorosis due to fluoride intake from other sources such as food, toothpaste and dental products.

Contact your healthcare provider or SWRCB-DDW if you have concerns about dental fluorosis. For additional information about fluoridation or oral health, visit the SWRCB-

DDW website

www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml, or the CDC website www.cdc.gov/fluoridation.



MONITORING OF PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

PFAS is a group of approximately 5,000 man-made chemicals used in a variety of industries and consumer products. These chemicals are very persistent in the environment and human body. SFRWS conducted a special round of PFAS monitoring of its surface water sources and transmission system in 2019 and five groundwater wells in 2020 in September 2020. The monitoring effort was entirely proactive and voluntary with the objective to identify if SFRWS's water supplies are impacted by PFAS. Using the State's stringent sampling procedures and based on the approved/certified method of analysis for 18 PFAS contaminants, SFRWS confirmed no PFAS was detected in its water sources and transmission system. Considering USEPA's recent development of a newer method of analysis for additional PFAS contaminants, SFRWS intends to conduct another round of monitoring when the new analytical method is available at its contract laboratory. For

additional information about PFAS, visit SWRCB-DDW website waterboards.ca.gov/pfas and/or USEPA website epa.gov/pfas.

GROUNDWATER STORAGE AND RECOVERY (GSR) PROJECT

Groundwater is a renewable source of naturally-occurring fresh water that is found in underground and is replenished primarily by rainfall. The use of groundwater helps diversify water sources and makes drinking water supply even more reliable. SFRWS completed installation of eight deep-water wells in its GSR project Phase 1. These wells were tested throughout 2020 and had intermittently delivered water to blend with the surface water supply in the north San Mateo County. For the past decade, SFRWS has collected water quality and quantity data from the Westside Basin aquifer, from which the groundwater was extracted. With extensive monitoring and testing, SFRWS knows that after adding groundwater to its water supplies, it will continue providing our customers with high-quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all regulatory health-based and aesthetic standards set by the SWRCB-DDW and the USEPA.



CONTAMINANTS AND REGULATIONS

Generally, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, oceans, 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. Such substances are called contaminants, and may be present in source water as:

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 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 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, agricultural application and septic systems,

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791, or at www.epa.gov/safewater.

KEY WATER QUALITY TERMS

The following are definitions of key terms referring to standards and goals of water quality noted on the data table.

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.

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 USEPA.

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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

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.

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

Regulatory Action Level: 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.

Turbidity: A water clarity indicator that measures cloudiness of the water, and is also used to indicate the effectiveness of the filtration system. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

Cryptosporidium is a parasitic microbe found in most surface water. SFRWS regularly tests for this waterborne pathogen and found it at very low levels in source water and treated

water in 2020. However, current test methods approved by the USEPA do not distinguish between dead organisms and those capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may produce symptoms of nausea, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.



CITY OF MILLBRAE

WATER QUALITY DATA FOR 2020

The table below lists all 2020 detected drinking water contaminants and the information about their typical sources. Contaminants below detection limits for reporting are not shown, in accord with regulatory guidance. SFRWS holds a SWRCB-DDW monitoring waiver for some contaminants in its surface water supply and therefore the associated monitoring frequencies are less than usual.

In 2020, SFPUC voluntarily conducted monitoring of 18 PFAS contaminants at five (5) GSR wells (F Street, Colma Boulevard, Hickey Boulevard, Millbrae Yard, and Poncetta Drive wells) and all results were non-detect.

City of Millbrae – SFPUC's Groundwater Quality Data for Year 2020

RAW WATER (GSR Groundwater Wells)	DETECTED CONTAMINANTS	Unit	MCL	PHG or (MCLG)	Range	Average	Major Sources in Drinking Water
	INORGANICS⁽²⁾						
	Chromium (VI) ⁽³⁾	ppb	N/A	0.02	5.3 - 30	19	Leaching from natural deposits; waste discharges from electroplating
	Chromium	ppb	50	(100)	ND – 30	19	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from electroplating
	Fluoride	ppm	2.0	1	ND – 0.2	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
	Manganese	ppb	50 (SMCL)	N/A	ND – 25	ND	Leaching from natural deposits
	Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	3-47	13	Landscape of fertilizers and leaked wastewater
	RADIONUCLIDES						
	Gross Alpha Particles ⁽⁴⁾	pCi/L	15	(0)	ND – 5.4	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
	Gross Beta Particles ⁽⁵⁾	pCi/L	50	(0)	ND – 6.2	ND	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
OTHER WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS		Unit	ORL	Range	Average		
	pH	--	N/A	6.9 - 8.2	7.7		
	Strontium	ppb	N/A	138 – 270	221		
	Vanadium	ppb	50 (NL)	4.7 - 7	5.7		

Key:

GSR: Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project, which is designed to supply groundwater to the system in the northern San Mateo County during dry years.

Footnotes:

- (1) In 2020, a total of 14.7 million gallons of groundwater from five GSR wells was intermittently delivered to the system during start-up tests. Due to the low percentage (0.02%) of contribution to the total system water supply, the overall water quality changes attributed to the GSR supply was insignificant.
- (2) The concentration ranges and averages for these contaminants are in the raw groundwater prior to blending, which is approved by the SWRCB-DDW as a treatment for groundwater. They are not representative of the blended water in the distribution system.
- (3) Chromium (VI) is currently regulated by the SWRCB-DDW under a MCL of 50 ppb for total chromium.
- (4) The detection of Gross Alpha Particles was only at Colma Boulevard Well in the first sample collected in July 2020; it was non-detect in the following quarterly sample collected in October 2020.
- (5) The one-time detection of Gross Beta Particles was at Colma Boulevard Well in October 2020.



City of Millbrae – Water Quality Data for Year 2020⁽¹⁾

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS	Unit	MCL	PHG or (MCLG)	Range or Level Found	Average or [Max]	Major Sources in Drinking Water
TURBIDITY						
Unfiltered Hetch Hetchy Water	NTU	5	N/A	0.2 – 0.5 ⁽²⁾	[1.3]	Soil runoff
Filtered Water from Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP)	NTU	1 ⁽³⁾	N/A	-	[0.4]	Soil runoff
	-	Min 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU ⁽³⁾	N/A	99.8% - 100%	-	Soil runoff
Filtered Water from Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant (HTWTP)	NTU	1 ⁽³⁾	N/A	-	[0.1]	Soil runoff
	-	Min 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU ⁽³⁾	N/A	100%	-	Soil runoff
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRECURSOR						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	12.1	33.5	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	4.1 – 40.2	23.1	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (5)	ppm	TT	N/A	1.7 – 3.4	2.9	Various natural and man-made sources
MICROBIOLOGICAL						
Total Coliform ⁽⁶⁾	-	NoP ≤ 5.0% of Monthly samples	(0)	-	n/a	Naturally present in the environment
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	cyst/L	TT	(0)	0 – 0.05	0.01	Naturally present in the environment
INORGANICS						
Fluoride (source water) ⁽⁷⁾	ppm	2.0	1	ND – 0.7	0.3 ⁽⁸⁾	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth
Chloramine (as chlorine)	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4	1-3.5	2.3	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

LEAD AND COPPER	Unit	AL	PHG	Range	90th Percentile	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Copper	ppb	1300	300	0-55 mg/l	48 mg/l	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems
Lead	ppb	15	0.2	0-25.5 ug/l	5.3 ug/l	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems

OTHER WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS	Unit	ORL	Range	Average
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	ppm	N/A	6.7 -138	55
Calcium (as Ca)	ppm	N/A	2.9 – 22	12
Chlorate ^(1 2)	ppb	800 (NL)	67 – 480	240
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	ppm	N/A	8.0 – 79	45
Magnesium	ppm	N/A	0.2 – 6.8	4.0
pH	-	N/A	8.6 – 9.8	9.3
Potassium	ppm	N/A	0.3 – 1.3	0.8
Silica	ppm	N/A	2.8 – 7	4.8
Sodium	ppm	N/A	2.4 - 22	14
Strontium	ppb	N/A	14 - 242	110

KEY	
< / ≤	= Less than / less than or equal to
AL	= Action Level
Max	= Maximum
Min	= Minimum
N/A	= Not Available
ND	= Non-detect
NL	= Notification Level
NoP	= Number of Coliform-Positive Sample
NTU	= Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
ORL	= Other Regulatory Level
pCi/L	= picocurie per liter
ppb	= part per billion
ppm	= pert per million
µS/cm	= microSiemens/centimeter

Footnotes:

- (1) All results met State and Federal drinking water health standards
- (2) These are monthly average turbidity values measured every 4 hours daily.
- (3) There is no turbidity MCL for filtered water. The limits are based on the TT requirements for filtration systems.
- (4) This is the highest locational running annual average value.
- (5) Total organic carbon is a precursor for disinfection byproduct formation. The TT requirement applies to the filtered water from the SVWTP only.
- (6) The SWRCB recommend an optimal fluoride of 0.7 ppm be maintained in the treated water. In 2020, the range and average of the fluoride levels were 0.6 ppm - 0.9 ppm and 0.7 ppm, respectively.
- (7) Natural fluoride in the Hetch Hetchy source was ND. Elevated fluoride levels in raw water for the SVWTP and HTWTP were attributed to the transfer of fluoridated Hetch Hetchy water into the local reservoirs.
- (8) This is the highest running annual average value.
- (9) The most recent Lead and Copper Rule monitoring was in 2019. 2 of 30 site samples collected at consumer taps had copper concentrations above the AL.
- (10) The most recent Lead and Copper Rule monitoring was in 2019. 0 of 30 site samples collected at consumer taps had lead concentrations above the AL.
- (11) The detected chlorate in the treated water is degradation product of sodium hypochlorite used by the SFRWS for water disinfection.

Note: Additional water quality data may be obtained by calling the City of Millbrae Utilities & Operations at 650-259-2374.

This report contains important information about our drinking water. Please contact Public Works Department Utilities & Operations at 650-259-2374 for assistance.

Este informe contiene información importante sobre nuestra agua potable. Por Favor Comuníquese con el departamento de las Obras Públicas al 650-259-2374 para ayuda en español.

本報告包含有關我們自來水的重要信息。請致電 650-259-2374 聯系公共工程部尋求幫助。

WATER CONSERVATION

PLEASE USE WATER WISELY

Please continue to conserve water by following the guidelines and the water saving tips below. California is prone to droughts, and we all need to do our part and conserve water!

For more information on free resources and workshops, guidelines and more, please visit www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation

Millbrae Water Use Guidelines

Refer to the City's Municipal Code for additional regulations

- Use of water is not allowed which results in flooding or runoff in gutters, driveways, or streets
- Hoses used for any purpose must be fitted with shut off nozzles
- Repair leaks right away
- Place covers over swimming pools to reduce water lost to evaporation



WATER SAVING TIPS & RESOURCES

- Install a low flow showerhead and take 5 minutes or less shower. Free showerheads and timers are available.
- Catch water in a watering can or bucket while waiting for water to get hot.
- Replace your toilet with high-efficiency model or place a water displacement bag in each toilet tank. Free displacement bags are available.
- Fix all leaky toilets, faucets and pipes. Install low flow faucet aerators in the kitchen and bathroom. Free low, flow aerators are available.
- Scrape plates and run the garbage disposal less frequently. Compost food scraps instead.
- Turn off water while brushing your teeth and shaving.
- Run only full loads in dishwashers and clothes washers. Replace these appliances with water efficient machines.
- Water lawn and landscaping between 6:00 pm through 10:00 am. Be sure not over water landscape. Check and adjust sprinkler heads seasonally. Plant drought-tolerant and native plants. Instant rebates are available for smart irrigation controllers. <https://bawsca.rachio.com>
- Convert lawns into water-wise landscaping by planting native and drought tolerant plants! The benefits of replacing lawns include reducing outdoor water use and beautifying your landscape. Rebates are available for Lawn Be Gone! <https://www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/departments-services/public-works/water-conservation>
- Use a carwash facility or use a bucket of water and one short rinse to wash your car; wash on a permeable surface (grass or gravel).
- Sweep (never hose) driveways patios and sidewalks.

Pick up free water saving devices at City Hall's Public Works counter

Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM*

(* City Hall may be temporarily closed due to COVID-19. Please call before coming.)

Showerheads, faucet aerators, shower timers, toilet leak tablets, and water-wise and garden landscaping guides. Rebates are available for rain barrels and cisterns smart irrigation controllers and Lawn Be Gone!

For more information and tips, visit www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation or call 650-259-2444

Also visit: <http://saveourwater.com>