



## ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT 2024

## REPORTE DE SISTEMA DE AGUA— 2024

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

Dear Gonzales Resident:

The City of Gonzales is committed to providing a safe, reliable supply of excellent quality drinking water that meets Federal and State regulations. This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of water that we provided in 2024. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to State standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are the best allies. The City encourages public interest and participation in decisions affecting the community's drinking water supply. Our City Council meets at 6:00 P.M. on the first and third Monday of each month at 117 Fourth Street in the City Council Chambers. The City of Gonzales will take any steps necessary to ensure that your water will continue to meet safe drinking water standards.

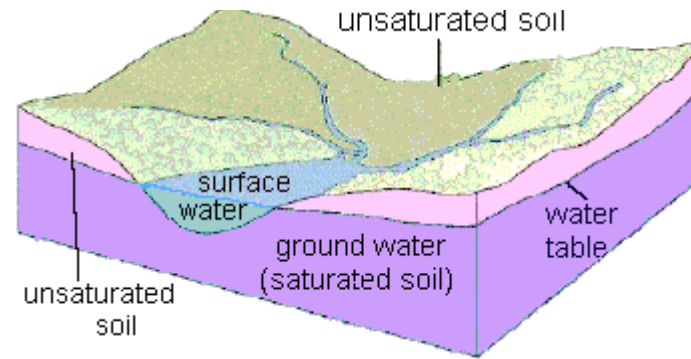
Sincerely,  
Carmen Gil  
City Manager

The California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, requires water agencies to annually notify their customers of the constituents or elements in their drinking water. This is not the result of punitive action, nor is it indicative of any violation of treatment practices. It is strictly a mandated public information service legislated to keep you informed each year of the facts about your drinking water.

### Water System

The City of Gonzales derives its water supply from ground-water sources within the Salinas Valley groundwater basin. About 530,000 acre-feet of

water per year are pumped from the Salinas Valley groundwater basin, 95% of which is used for irrigated agriculture. The remaining 5% are used for municipal and industrial purposes, serving a population of approximately 150,000 people. The city currently operates 4 deep-water wells located throughout the city. After the water comes out of these wells, we treat it with chlorine for disinfection to protect against microbial contaminants



### System Improvement

To meet the needs of our customers the City of Gonzales is continually developing and improving our water system. There are 7 million gallons of storage capacity. Gonzales have computer-controlled pumps to better monitor their system operations. Well 7 replaces Well No. 3 at 201 C St. and is online.

### Water Quality - A National Priority



The safety of public water supplies has received much attention in recent years. The City of Gonzales customers should know that our water supply is safe and meets all drinking water standards. Gonzales drinking water comes from groundwater pumped by 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.

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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791).

*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.*

*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 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, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also 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.*

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

California drinking water regulations require that water delivered by public water systems be, at all times, pure, wholesome and potable, as required by the federal and state Safe Drinking Water Acts. To accomplish this mandate, domestic water must meet strict standards, as provided in the California Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations.

SUMMARY OF WATER QUALITY DATA FOR THE YEAR 2024							
PRIMARY STANDARDS – MANDATED HEALTH RELATED STANDARDS							
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Highest No. of Detections			MCL	PHG	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
E. coli	N	0			(a)	0	Human and animal fecal waste
(a) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is <i>E. coli</i> -positive, or system fails to take repeat samples following <i>E. coli</i> -positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for <i>E. coli</i> .							
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Ave Level Detected*	Result Range	Units	MCL	PHG	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants*							
Fluoride	N	0.15	0.10 - 0.25	mg/L	2.0	1.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as N)**	N	3.48	0.6 – 8.3	mg/L	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	N	2	<2-2	ug/L	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium, Hexavalent **	N	2.7	1.3 – 4.4	Ug/L	10	0.02	Erosion of natural deposits; transformation of naturally occurring trivalent chromium to hexavalent chromium by natural processes and human activities such as discharges from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities.
Radioactive Contaminants^							
Gross Alpha Activity	N	4.46	3.48 – 6.66	pCi/L	15	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	N	2.90	2.1-3.7	pCi/L	20	0.43	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226	N	0.60	0.04 –1.07	pCi/L	5	0.05	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228	N	0.43	0.06 –0.70	pCi/L	5	0.019	Erosion of natural deposits
Secondary Standards* - Aesthetic Standards							
Chloride	N	34	11 – 55	mg/L	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; sea water influence
Color	N	<2	<2	Units	15	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Langlier Index (Corrosivity)	N	0.29	0.08-0.52				
Hardness	N	223	146-329	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Generally found in ground and surface water. Divide these numbers by 17.1 to get grains/gallon.
Iron	N	129	<100-287	ug/L	300	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese	N	<20	<20	ug/L	50	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor—Threshold	N	1	1	TON	3	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials
pH	N	7.3	7.1 - 7.4	Units	N/A	N/A	Inherent characteristic of water.
Sodium	N	35	19-65	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Generally found in ground and surface water; seawater influence
Specific Conductance	N	609	398-790	uS/cm	1,600	N/A	Substances that form natural deposits; sea water influence
Sulfate	N	107	63-158	mg/L	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids	N	406	255-560	mg/L	1,000	N/A	Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Turbidity	N	0.61	0.05 – 1.9	NTU	5	N/A	Soil runoff
Disinfection Byproducts and Disinfectant Residuals							
Haloacetic Acids	N	ND	ND	ug/L	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs – Total Trihalomethanes	N	ND	ND	ug/L	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Residual Chlorine	N	0.49	0.0 – 2.09	mg/L	MRDL 4 as Cl <sub>2</sub>	MRDLG 4 as Cl <sub>2</sub>	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Lead and Copper***	# Of Samples Collected	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Level	# Of Sites Exceeding AL	Units	Action Level (AL)	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead	20	<1	0	ug/L	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	20	0.14	0	mg/L	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

\* Wells 4 & 5 tested in 2023, Well 6 in 2024, Well 7 in 2022 and unless otherwise noted. \*\*All Wells tested 2024 \*\*\*Lead & Copper in the distribution system monitored in 2024. ^ Analysis done in 2024 for Wells 4 and 5, 2023 for Well 6, and 2022 for Well 7.

Key To Table		
N/A: Not Applicable	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level
ND: Not Detectable at testing limit	pCi/l: Pico curies per liter (a measure of radiation)	PHG: Public Health Goal
ug/L: micrograms per liter or parts per billion	TON: Threshold Odor Number	MRDL(G): Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (Goal)
mg/L: milligrams per liter or parts per million	MFL: Million Fibers per Liter, with a fiber length greater than 10 micrometers	

Additional information about the content of this report (and additional copies) can be obtained by calling Gonzales City Hall at (831) 675-5000.

This regulation includes primary and secondary maximum contaminant levels (MCL) and monitoring frequencies for specified microbiological, chemical and radionuclide contaminants. Primary contaminants are those, which may have an adverse health effect. Secondary contaminants are those, which may adversely affect the aesthetic quality of the drinking water. The regulation includes the provisions adopted by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. The state has direct enforcement responsibility for all public water systems with 200 or more service connections.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes monitoring requirements and maximum contaminant levels. As the EPA develops new standards, California will amend state regulations, which establish water quality requirements for local water supplies. This report includes the respective public health goal (PHG), or the federal maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for chemicals that do not yet have a PHG.

**Water Quality Data**

The table above lists the drinking water contaminants detected during the 2024 calendar year. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to the Board's regulations. The California Department of Public Health's Food and Drug Branch regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for the public. 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1-December 31, 2024. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than a year old.

*Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L 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 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiency. If you are caring for an infant or pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for a short period of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity.*

**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.

- **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.

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

- **Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS):** MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

- **Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have

- **Variances and Exemptions:** Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

*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. City of Gonzales 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.*

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. One Level 1 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take three corrective actions, and we completed three of these actions.

During the past year, in August, the City failed to complete all the required assessments on time. The City received a violation from the California State Regional Waterboard. The required documentation was corrected by the date given by the Regional Board.

In 2024, the City completed the Lead and Copper inventory. All city owned pipes that were possibly lead have been replaced. There are 128 homes with galvanized pies that should be replaced. You may call City Hall for information regarding the lead and copper inventory.

The City of Gonzales tests on a regular basis for Lead and Copper, according to Lead and Copper Rule. In 2024, 21 samples were collected and found to be within state limits. No schools in our District have requested Lead and Copper sampling this year.

A source water assessment was conducted for Well 4 and Well 5 in July of 2001 and Well 6 in October 2003. Well 7 source was tested before it went online in 2021. No contaminants have been detected in the water supply; however the source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities: (NOTE: the most vulnerable activities can be found in your assessment on the vulnerability summary page)

In August of 2024 the city had two coliform positive tests. A level I assessment was performed. Tests were repeated and were negative.

Chemical/petroleum processing/storage  
Historic gas stations  
Septic system – high density

A completed copy of the assessment may be viewed at:

Gonzales City Hall  
P.O. Box 647  
Gonzales, CA 93926

**Source Water Protection Tips for Consumers**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.

- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Gonzales has several cleanup events that are listed on the community calendar. These prevent pollution of groundwater. ([www.ci.gonzales.ca.us/calendar.php](http://www.ci.gonzales.ca.us/calendar.php))



### **Water Conservation Tips for Consumers**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take shorter showers – a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Install water-efficient showerheads. They are inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaking toilets and faucets. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation. Gonzales has only two days a week permitted for outdoor irrigation, Wednesdays, and Sundays.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

Contact city staff at (831) 675-5000 with any questions on the water supply.

Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.