

2021 Water Quality Report



Water Quality Report – 2021 | Covering Calendar Year – 2020

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 is based on data collected in the 2020 calendar year, contains information about the source of your drinking water and how it compares to drinking water standards established by the EPA. If you would like a print copy mailed to you, please call Water Quality & Environmental Permit Supervisor Kelli Burgess at (775) 834-8117 or contact her by email at kburgess@tmwa.com.

If you have any questions about your water quality, please call our Water Quality Department at (775) 834-8118. For information on other water topics, go to www.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,

Mark Foree, 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
WELL 7	GROUNDWATER
WELL 8	GROUNDWATER
WELL 10	GROUNDWATER
WELL 12	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.

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 table on the following page lists all the primary regulated drinking water contaminants that TMWA detected during the 2020 calendar year. 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 January 1 – December 31, 2020. The EPA or the state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because of the consistently low, or non-detect, concentrations of these contaminants.

TESTING RESULTS FOR WEST RENO 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	0.42	0.07	0.74	2020	No	Water additive used to control microbes
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	4.4	1.91	4.4	2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS								
Total Coliform (RTCR)	NA	TT	0	0	0	2020	No	Naturally present in the environment
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS								
Alpha Particles (pCi/L)	0	15	3.4	3.4	3.4	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	7.84	ND	7.84	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits

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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

VIOLATIONS

This water system had no violations during the 2020 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

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.

WHERE CAN I GET WATER QUALITY DATA?

The Water Quality section of our website, www.tmwa.com, provides water quality information for different areas of our service territory. We also maintain a news and information page with fact sheets on water quality issues. 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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