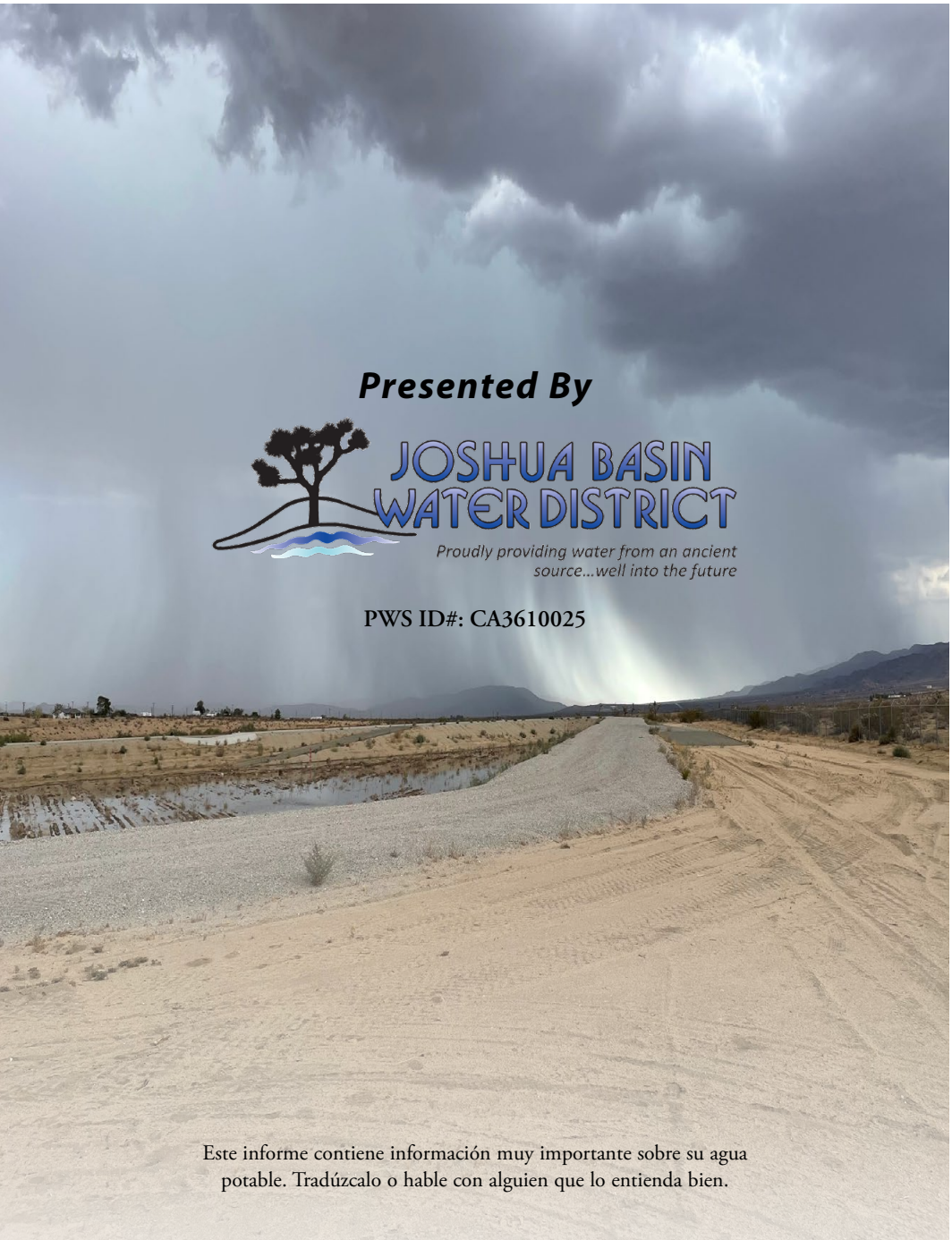
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

Proudly providing water from an ancient source...well into the future

PWS ID#: CA3610025

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Introduction

We are pleased to share this year's annual water quality report, also called a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This report is published every year by July 1, and it shows a snapshot of last year's water quality, including all tests done between January 1 and December 31. In this report, you'll find out where your water comes from, what is in it, and how it matches up with standards set by regulatory agencies. Our goal is to provide safe and reliable drinking water. We work hard to ensure and protect water quality. We want you to know about these efforts because informed customers are the best partners.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Our water comes from wells owned by the district. These wells draw water from two underground sources called aquifers. The two aquifers that supply our water include the Joshua Tree and Copper Mountain groundwater basins. The district actively replenishes aquifers when water is available from the State Water Project, supplied through the Mojave Water Agency. This helps to ensure future sustainability.

Important Health Information

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 deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested or flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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) or epa.gov/safewater.

Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment has been completed for our system. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source to potential contaminant sources. The report includes background information and a relative susceptibility rating of higher, moderate, or lower. It is important to understand that a higher susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality, only the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area. The SWRCB completed two drinking water source assessments for Joshua Basin Water District on August 24, 2001. These assessments examined district Wells 10 and 14 and determined these sources are most vulnerable to high-density residential septic systems.

The district completed a drinking water source assessment for Well 15 in August 2007. This assessment determined that Well 15 is most vulnerable to low-density septic systems.

A drinking water source assessment for Well 17 completed in August 2007 determined that Well 17 is most vulnerable to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/Water Discharge Regulation-permitted discharges.

A drinking water source assessment for Well 16 completed in September 2010 determined that Well 16 is most vulnerable to high- and low-density septic systems and airport maintenance and fueling areas.

A copy of this report is available by contacting the district at (760) 366-8438. A summary of the assessment may be requested by contacting the district's sanitary engineer from the SWRCB at (909) 383-5184 or (909) 383-4745 (fax). A copy of each source's complete assessment may be viewed at the Joshua Basin Water District office or the State Water Board, Government Center, Fourth Floor, 464 West Fourth Street, Suite 437, San Bernardino.

Community Participation

You are invited to attend our board of directors, committee, or Citizens Advisory Council meetings. You can attend these meetings at 61750 Chollita Road, Joshua Tree. To learn more about these meetings or our district, please visit jbwd.com.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or if you have any questions about your drinking water, please call Sarah Johnson, General Manager, at (760) 366-8438.

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.

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

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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. 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).

Lead in Home Plumbing

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Joshua Basin Water District is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure it is used properly.

Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact Joshua Basin Water District at (760) 366-8438. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. Please contact the district at (760) 366-8438 if you would like more information about the lead service inventory or lead sampling that has been completed.

Regulatory Notices and Water Quality Updates

Chromium VI (Hexavalent Chromium)

Chromium (hexavalent) was detected at levels that exceed the state Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). While a water system of our size is not considered in violation of the MCL until after October 1, 2027, we are working to address this exceedance and comply with the MCL. To learn more, please visit: https://www.jbwd.com/chromium-6-information-page.

Well 15 Nitrate Monitoring Update

In 2025, the District did not complete the required annual nitrate monitoring for Well 15. Well 15 was taken offline in March 2025 for repairs and remained out of service for the rest of the year. No water from this source was served to customers after the well was taken offline. Because the required annual nitrate sample was not collected in 2025, State regulations require the District to notify customers of a monitoring violation. This means nitrate levels from this source were not verified for the 2025 monitoring period. Before returning Well 15 to service in March 2026, the District collected nitrate samples and confirmed levels were well below the drinking water standard. There is nothing you need to do. The District remains committed to completing all required monitoring on schedule.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2023	10	0.004	2.2	ND–4.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	0.92	0.83–0.98	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chromium, Total (ppb)	2023	50	(100)	24.0	12.0–37.0	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	2.0	1	0.66	0.46–0.83	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2024	15	(0)	3.38	2.46–4.30	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2025	10	0.2	23.05	11.0–41.0	No[1]	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
Nitrate [as nitrate] (ppm)	2025	45	45	3.4	2.2–6.6	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	11.7	3.4–20.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

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.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

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.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

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).

µmho/cm (micromhos per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2025	1.3	0.3	0.12	0.01–0.12	TBD/TBD	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0.2	9.6	ND–17	TBD/TBD	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; 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)	2023	500	NS	13	7–17	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (units)	2023	15	NS	ND	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Manganese (ppb)	2023	50	NS	ND	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	2023	1,600	NS	335	240–490	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	500	NS	54.3	14.0–130.0	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2023	500	NA	162	130–180	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2023	5	NS	0.3	ND–3.2	No	Soil runoff
Zinc (ppm)	2023	5.0	NS	ND	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [2]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2025	3.45	3.4–3.5	NA
Bromoform (ppb)	2025	4.8	1.1–8.5	NA
Chloroform (ppb)	2025	0.55	ND–1.1	NA
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2025	4.15	1.3–7.0	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2023	45.25	37.0–60.0	NA

[1] Hexavalent chromium was detected at levels exceeding the MCL. While a water system of our size is not considered in violation of the hexavalent chromium MCL until after October 1, 2027, we are working to address this exceedance and comply with the MCL. Specifically, we are researching the best available water treatment technologies to remove hexavalent chromium from our water sources.

[2] Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

Why We Test So Often

Drinking water is one of the most closely monitored resources in the United States. Water systems regularly test for bacteria, disinfectants, metals, organic chemicals, radioactive substances, and many other contaminants. Some tests are performed daily, while others are conducted weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, depending on regulatory requirements and system size. Microbiological testing for bacteria such as coliforms ensures that disinfection is working properly. Turbidity monitoring confirms effective filtration. Chemical testing verifies that treatment processes remain optimized. All certified laboratories must meet strict quality assurance requirements to ensure accurate results. When results approach regulatory limits, corrective actions are taken immediately.

Benefits of Chlorination

Disinfection, a chemical process used to control disease-causing microorganisms by killing or inactivating them, is unquestionably the most important step in drinking water treatment. By far, the most common method of disinfection in North America is chlorination.

Before communities began routinely treating drinking water with chlorine (starting with Chicago and Jersey City in 1908), cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis A killed thousands of U.S. residents annually. Drinking water chlorination and filtration have helped to virtually eliminate these diseases in the U.S. Significant strides in public health are directly linked to the adoption of drinking water chlorination. In fact, the filtration of drinking water and the use of chlorine are probably the most significant public health advancements in human history.

How chlorination works:

- Potent Germicide Reduction of many disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water to almost immeasurable levels.
- Taste and Odor Reduction of many disagreeable tastes and odors from foul-smelling algae secretions, sulfides, and decaying vegetation.
- Biological Growth Elimination of slime bacteria, molds, and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains, and in storage tanks.
- Chemical Removal of hydrogen sulfide (which has a rotten egg odor), ammonia, and other nitrogenous compounds that have unpleasant tastes and hinder disinfection. It also helps to remove iron and manganese from raw water.