ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By

QUARTZ HILL
WATER DISTRICT
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Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

From the General Manager:

Access to clean and safe drinking water remains a challenge for many communities around the world. The quality of water used for drinking, cooking, and agriculture has a direct impact on public health and overall well-being. At Quartz Hill Water District (QHWD), we take this responsibility seriously and have a long-standing commitment to providing safe, clean, and reliable water to our customers.

Our dedication is backed by a rigorous and proactive water testing program. This includes monthly physical sampling and weekly bacteriological testing throughout our distribution system. These procedures are key components of our strategy to ensure that only the highest-quality water reaches our customers. While this report highlights specific data, additional parameters were tested and found to be below laboratory detection limits. All testing is conducted by a state-certified laboratory in full compliance with SWRCB drinking water standards.

QHWD remains focused on long-term water supply planning and conservation efforts. We continue to implement key elements of our strategic plan, including the purchase of surplus surface water from our state water contractor, Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK), and securing annual water allocations through the Antelope Valley water master. These measures are part of our broader commitment to preserving groundwater—one of Antelope Valley's most vital resources—for future generations.

Water Sources and System Overview

QHWD uses two sources of water: groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is drawn from 10 wells owned and operated by the district. These wells range in depth from 500 to 600 feet and are monitored daily to maintain the highest quality standards. In 2025 groundwater accounted for 40 percent of the district's total water supply.

Our second water source is treated surface water provided by AVEK's Quartz Hill Treatment Plant. This source contributed 60 percent of the total water used by the district in 2025 and was delivered via two interconnection points within our system.

We remain dedicated to ensuring that every drop of water meets stringent quality standards while safeguarding our limited water resources for the future. If you have any questions about your Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), please don't hesitate to contact our office at (661) 943-3170.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the SWAP, our water system had a susceptibility rating of medium. If you would like to review the SWAP, please feel free to contact our office at (661) 943-3170 during regular business hours.

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.

Community Participation

We welcome input from our ratepayers. The board of directors meets in our boardroom on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The public is always welcome to attend board meetings. This information is also printed and posted on the agenda, which can be found on our website at qhwd.org/board-meetings.

QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Brent Byrne, General Manager, at (661) 943-3170. The Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) water quality report is also available upon request.

BY THE NUMBERS

82 The average number of gallons of water an American uses per day.

27% The percent of household water use attributable to toilets.

700 The average number of gallons that a household can save each year with water-efficient fixtures.

50-100 The typical design lifespan of underground drinking water pipes, in years.

<1% The percent of Earth's water that is readily available as fresh drinking water.

Important Health Information

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million (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.

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.

Hexavalent Chromium

Hexavalent chromium was detected at levels that exceed the maximum containment level (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. As part of our continued commitment to ensuring a safe, reliable, and sustainable water supply, we are moving forward with the acquisition of additional properties for the development of new groundwater wells and water treatment facilities. These acquisitions are a strategic component of our long-term infrastructure plan and necessary to meet current and future demand, address regional water quality challenges, and improve system resiliency.

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)	2025	10	0.004	6.3	2–24[1]	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Glass and electronics production wastes
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	0.72	0.30–2.00	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Chromium, Total (ppb)	2025	50	(100)	12	NA	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	2.0	1	0.48	0.45–0.52	No	Naturally occurring
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2024	15	(0)	6.4	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	14.04	6.3–19.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2025	10	20	12	11–13	Yes	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	2025	10	10	4.00	0.94–8.4	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks and sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	2025	6	1	1.5	NA	No	Inorganic chemical used in solid rocket propellant, fireworks, explosives, flares, matches, and a variety of industries; Historic aerospace or other industrial operations that used or use, store, or dispose of perchlorate and its salts
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	2025	5	0.05	0.02	-0.038–0.07	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2024	5	0.019	1.18	0.52–2.04	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80[2]	NA	60.03	17.1–110.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	0.27	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (pCi/L)	2024	20	0.43	6.6	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits

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	0.27	ND-0.75	0/31	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0.2	ND	NA	0/31	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)	2025	500	NS	26	17–34	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Seawater influence
Odor, Threshold (TON)	2025	3	NS	1	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2025	1,600	NS	443.3	390–480	No	Substances that form ions when in water; Seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	500	NS	41.3	34–48	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2025	1,000	NS	263.3	250–280	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [3]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3-Oxaundecane-1-Sulfonic Acid [11Cl-PF3OUdS] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorodecanesulfonic Acid [8:2FTS] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [4:2FTS] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [6:2FTS] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
4,8-Dioxa-3H-Perfluorononanoic Acid [ADONA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-Oxanonane-1-Sulfonic Acid [9Cl-PF3ONS] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Alkalinity (ppm)	2025	133.3	130–140	NA
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2025	63.3	60–67	NA
Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid [HFPO-DA/GenX] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Lithium (ppb)	2025	16.4	12.2–28.1	NA
N-Ethyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid [NEtFOSAA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
N-Methyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic Acid [NMeFOSAA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Nonafluoro-3,6-Dioxaheptanoic Acid [NFDHA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluoro(2-ethoxyethane)sulfonic Acid [PFEESA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluoro-3-Methoxypropanoic Acid [PFMPA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluoro-4-Methoxybutanoic Acid [PFMBA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluorodecanoic Acid [PFDA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluorododecanoic Acid [PFDoA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluoroheptanesulfonic Acid [PFHpS] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid [PFHpA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluorononanoic Acid [PFNA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluoropentanesulfonic Acid [PFPeS] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluoropentanoic Acid [PFPeA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [3] (CONTINUED)				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid [PFTA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluorotridecanoic Acid [PFTrDA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Perfluoroundecanoic Acid [PFUnA] (ppb)	2025	ND	NA	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2025	71.6	62–78	NA
Vanadium (ppb)	2025	13.4	4.2–18	NA

[1] While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

[2] Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

[3] Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB 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.

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.

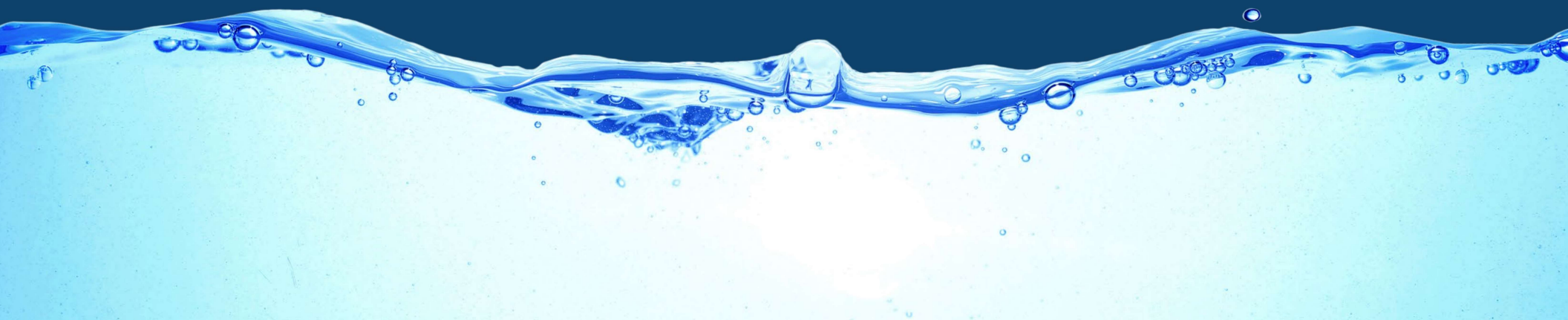
ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

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

TON (Threshold Odor Number): A measure of odor in water.

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

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



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. Quartz Hill 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. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling does not remove lead from water.

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 in your water and wish to have it tested, contact Quartz Hill Water District General Manager Brent Byrne at (661) 943-3170. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Lead in Home Plumbing - Service Line Inventory
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. We are happy to report that our distribution system has no lead or galvanized requiring replacement service lines. The service line inventory is available upon request. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

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, 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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which 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; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which 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 the 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 (800) 426-4791.

Reporting UCMR5 Data

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 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 to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is 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 Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.