

Rio Alto Water District 2025 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Information

Water System Name: Rio Alto Water District

Report Date: April 30, 2026

Type of Water Sources in Use: Groundwater Wells

Name and General Location of Sources: Well No. 4, Well No. 5 and Well No. 6, located in Lake California.

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: Source water assessments have been completed for the wells serving the Rio Alto Water District water system. The sources are considered to be the most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants:

- Well No. 4 – Septic Systems
- Well No. 5 – Transportation Corridors
- Well No. 6 – Sewer Collection Systems

A copy of the completed assessments can be viewed at Rio Alto Water District, 22099 River View Drive, Cottonwood, CA 96022.

Time and Place of Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings for Public Participation: Rio Alto Water District Board Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 PM in the District Board Room.

For More Information, Contact: Dean Sherrill, Regulatory Officer at (530) 347-3835

About This Report

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025, and may include earlier monitoring data.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse Rio Alto Water District a (530) 347-3835 para asistirlo en español.

Terms Used in This Report

Term	Definition
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 (U.S. EPA).
Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS)	MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
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.
Action Level (AL)	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
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.
ND	Not detectable at testing limit.
ppm	parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	parts per billion or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)
ppt	parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

Sources of Drinking Water and Contaminants that May Be Present in Source 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 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.

Regulation of Drinking Water and Bottled Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Board 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.

About Your Drinking Water Quality

Drinking Water Contaminants Detected

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

Table 1. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Coliform Bacteria

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of Detections	No. of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
<i>E. coli</i>	2025 0	0	(a)	0	Human and animal fecal waste

(a) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*.

Table 2. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Lead and Copper

Lead and Copper	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90 th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	Range of Results	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	09/10/25	20	ND	0	ND-ND	15	0.2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	09/10/25	20	ND	0	ND – 0.051	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Table 3. Sampling Results for Sodium and Hardness

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	2020-2025	13-16	13-16	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	2020-2025	62.9-89	62.9-89	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

Table 4. Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	2024-2025	2.0-3.0	2.0-3.0	10	4 ppt	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, glass and electronic production wastes
Nitrate (ppm)	2025	0.7-0.9	0.7-0.9	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from

						septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium, Total (ppm)	2024	ND	ND	50	None	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)	2022-2025	4.0-5.8	4.0-5.8	10	0.2	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

Table 5. Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fluoride (ppm)	2020-2025	0.1-0.2	0.1-0.2	2	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2020-2025	180-190	180-190	1000	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Chloride (ppm)	2020-2025	3.0-3.0	3.0-3.0	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2020-2025	1.5-2.0	1.5-2.0	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

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 the 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).

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 advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (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).

Lead-Specific Language: 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. Rio Alto Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but 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 reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Rio Alto Water District at (530) 347-3835. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.