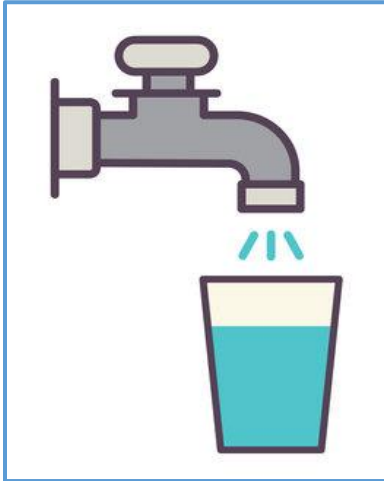




# 2025 Water Quality Report

NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California  
July 2026



## OUR DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Federal and State law requires that NASA Ames Research Center (NASA Ames) make this Consumer Confidence Report every year by July 1st for the previous calendar year concerning the sources and quality of the water provided to our users and customers by our drinking water distribution system.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. For more information, please contact Garrett Turner at 650-279-6443 ([garrett.michael.turner@nasa.gov](mailto:garrett.michael.turner@nasa.gov)), Marcy Christlieb at 650-785-1776 ([marcia.j.christlieb@nasa.gov](mailto:marcia.j.christlieb@nasa.gov)), or Jeanne Sabin at 650-582-7321 ([jeanne.m.sabin@nasa.gov](mailto:jeanne.m.sabin@nasa.gov)).

**En español:** Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Para obtener ayuda en español, comuníquese con Marcy Christlieb at 650-785-1776 ([marcia.j.christlieb@nasa.gov](mailto:marcia.j.christlieb@nasa.gov)), quien coordinará un traductor.

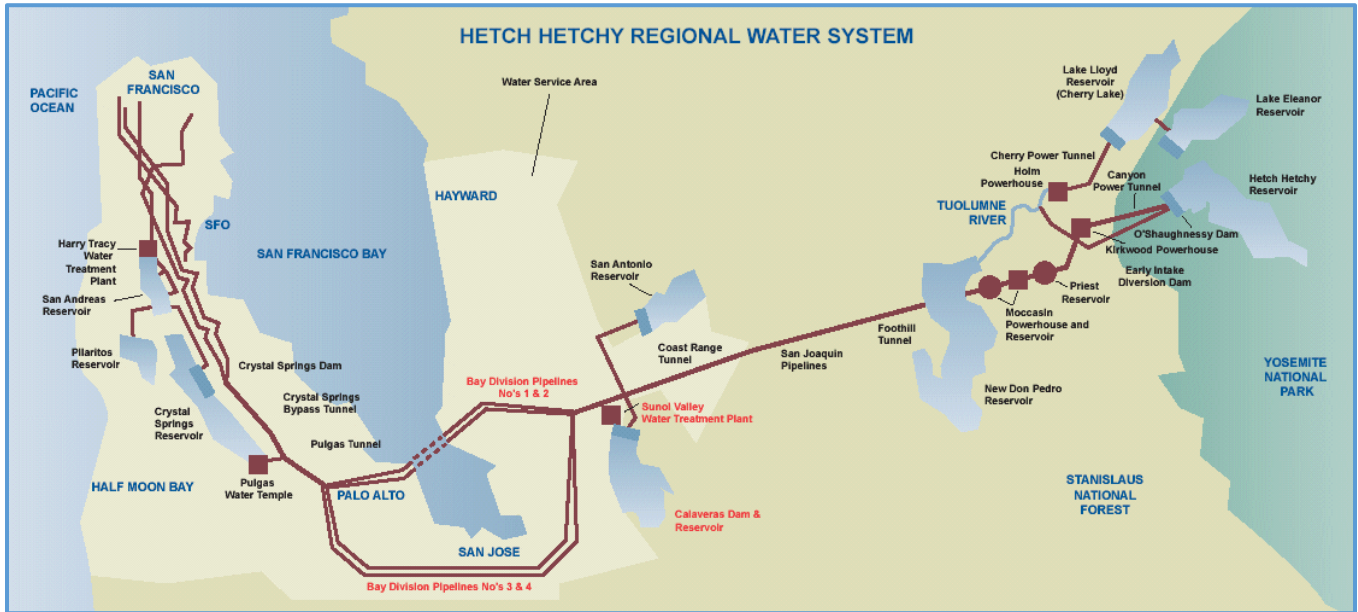
For Calendar Year 2025, the water provided by the distribution system for NASA Ames (which includes Moffett Field) was monitored and analyzed by both the water supplier and NASA Ames Research Center in accordance with Federal and State regulations. This report presents the results of those analyses with the details shown in the table starting on Page 8.

Drinking water at NASA Ames is supplied by the San Francisco Regional Water System (SFRWS), which is owned and operated by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Supplemental sources in Alameda and San Mateo Counties, and deep groundwater in northern San Mateo County, are available but were not used in 2025. These sources are diverse in both the origin and the location with the surface water stored in reservoirs located in the Sierra Nevada, Alameda County, and San Mateo County, as well as groundwater stored in a deep aquifer located in the northern part of San Mateo County.

To meet drinking water standards for consumption, all surface water supplies undergo treatment by the SFRWS before it is delivered. Water from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is exempt from federal and State filtration requirements but receives the following treatment:

- Disinfection using ultraviolet light and chlorine,
- pH adjustment for optimum corrosion control,
- Fluoridation for dental health protection, and
- Chloramination for maintaining disinfectant residual and minimizing the formation of regulated disinfection byproducts.

In 2025, neither the SFRWS's upcountry non-Hetch Hetchy sources nor its groundwater wells were used; however, the SFRWS imported a very small amount (0.38%) of treated water from Valley Water District in April and May.



## Protection of Watersheds

The SFRWS conducts watershed sanitary surveys for its Hetch Hetchy source annually and the non-Hetch Hetchy surface water sources every five years. The most current sanitary surveys for the non-Hetch Hetchy watersheds were completed in 2021. These surveys summarize the following:

- Sanitary conditions of the watersheds
- Water quality of the reservoirs in the watersheds
- The SFRWS's stringent watershed protection activities that are implemented with support from its partner agencies including the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service
- Results of watershed management activities conducted in prior years

Overall, wildfire, wildlife, livestock, and human activities continue to be potential contamination sources. You may contact the San Francisco District Office of the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water at 510-620-3474 for more information.

## Understanding Contaminants in Drinking Water

As water moves through the environment it may pick up natural minerals, or substances from animals or human activity. These are called contaminants, but the presence of a contaminant in drinking water does not necessarily mean the water is unsafe. Federal and state drinking water regulations set safe limits for contaminants to protect public health. For more information, contact the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline via email ([safewater@epa.gov](mailto:safewater@epa.gov)) or the online form at [Contact us about Ground Water and Drinking Water | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/forms/contact-us-about-ground-water-and-drinking-water-0) (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/forms/contact-us-about-ground-water-and-drinking-water-0>).

## Notices of Monitoring and Reporting Violations

No exceedances of drinking water standards were identified in any of the samples collected at NASA Ames in 2025. In the event an exceedance is identified, SFPUC and/or NASA Ames will notify consumers and take corrective actions, which may include, but are not limited to, confirmation sampling, flushing systems, and/or providing alternate sources of drinking water.

The SFPUC is required to notify its customers of a monitoring violation within one year after it learns of the violation. SFPUC notified NASA Ames in 2025 that the San Francisco Regional Water System (SFRWS), which is operated by the SFPUC, failed to monitor for recycled filter backwash water turbidity (very small or microscopic particles in the water) at its Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP) from June 23, 2025, to July 2, 2025. This monitoring violation was the result of equipment failure and was corrected on July 3, 2025, as soon as it became apparent to plant staff. This failure was not an emergency and did not impact water quality and there is nothing that you need to do at this time.

Treated or “backwash” water is used to wash the filters at the treatment plant after they have completed a run cycle. Instead of wasting this backwash water, the SVWTP treats it and then recycles it to the front of the plant where it blends with the source or lake water and then goes through the whole treatment process again. Monitoring at downstream locations at the SVWTP indicated that the plant’s effluent or final product was consistently of very high quality and exceeded all drinking water standards.

The instrument (turbidimeter) that monitors turbidity for the recycled water was not operating during the period mentioned above. The instrument was subsequently repaired and put back into operation on July 3, 2025, and since that time the daily monitoring of recycled filter backwash water turbidity has resumed with no interruption. Operations staff were retrained on monitoring requirements and additional operational and maintenance activities were implemented to prevent a recurrence. If you need more information, please contact the resources listed on the last page of this report.

This information must be shared with people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received the SFRWS’s public notice directly. This notice is provided by NASA Ames on behalf of SFRWS and distributed on or before July 1, 2026, when this CCR is made publicly available.

## Fluoridation and Dental Fluorosis

SFPUC treats the water delivered to NASA Ames by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level to help prevent and control tooth decay. SFPUC maintains an average fluoride concentration of 0.2 parts per million (ppm). Contact your healthcare provider or the SWRCB if you have concerns about fluoridation. For additional information about fluoridation or oral health, visit the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s website at <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation>, the SFPUC’s website at <https://sfpuc.gov/TapWater> (<https://www.sfpuc.gov/accounts-services/water-quality/understanding-your-tap-water>), or the SWRCB’s website at [https://waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html](https://waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html).

## Special Health Needs

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 Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome 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 healthcare providers.

The SFRWS regularly tests for *Cryptosporidium*, a waterborne parasitic microbe that may be spread through means other than drinking water. As in the past, this pathogen was found at very low levels in source water and treated water in 2025. Current test methods approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) do not distinguish between dead organisms and those capable of causing disease. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause cryptosporidiosis with symptoms of nausea, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline via email ([safewater@epa.gov](mailto:safewater@epa.gov)) or the online form at [Contact us about Ground Water and Drinking Water | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/forms/contact-us-about-ground-water-and-drinking-water-0) (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/forms/contact-us-about-ground-water-and-drinking-water-0>).

## Drinking Water and Lead

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 and/or flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline via email ([safewater@epa.gov](mailto:safewater@epa.gov)).

Exposure to lead, if present, can cause serious health effects in people of all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

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. NASA Ames 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 Garrett Turner at 650-279-6443 ([garrett.michael.turner@nasa.gov](mailto:garrett.michael.turner@nasa.gov)), Marcy Christlieb at 650-785-1776

([marcia.j.christlieb@nasa.gov](mailto:marcia.j.christlieb@nasa.gov)), or Jeanne Sabin at 650-582-7321 ([jeanne.m.sabin@nasa.gov](mailto:jeanne.m.sabin@nasa.gov)). Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead) (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>).

## Lead Service Line Inventory and Replacement

The NASA Ames water distribution system was verified as having no lead piping supplying buildings in October 2024, with results available here:

<https://environment.arc.nasa.gov/assets/files/2024%20Lead%20Service%20Line%20Inventory.pdf>. NASA Ames continues to evaluate and manage plumbing materials in older infrastructure that may contribute to lead levels at the tap.

Staff, visitors, and tenants are encouraged to run cold water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before drinking or cooking, especially after periods of non-use, to help ensure freshness and reduce the potential for lead or copper exposure from building plumbing. Use of water filters is not required for any NASA building except N200. However, those who choose to use filters should select products that are certified to meet NSF/ANSI drinking water standards.

For residents of Wescoat Housing, questions about interior plumbing or water system components may be directed to housing management (650-965-1754, [Contact Us — Wescoat Village at Moffett Field](#)) (<https://www.wescoatvillage.com/contact>). NASA Ames remains committed to supporting all drinking water users in making informed choices and ensuring water safety across the entire facility.

For more information about lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps to minimize exposure, visit <http://epa.gov/lead> or contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline via email ([safewater@epa.gov](mailto:safewater@epa.gov)) or the online form at [Contact us about Ground Water and Drinking Water | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/forms/contact-us-about-ground-water-and-drinking-water-0) (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/forms/contact-us-about-ground-water-and-drinking-water-0>).

## Lead and Copper Tap Monitoring

Drinking water at NASA Ames meets all federal and state standards for lead and copper. As required by the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule, NASA Ames monitors lead and copper concentrations at indoor taps within selected buildings across the Center every 3 years. The most recent sampling occurred in September 2023 and will be sampled again in 2026. Results confirmed that the 90th percentile values for both lead and copper were below their respective Action Levels, and no regulatory violations occurred. Results are reported in parts per billion (ppb).

- Lead: 10.4 ppb (compared to the Action Level of 15 ppb)
- Copper: 91.6 ppb (compared to the Action Level of 1,300 ppb)

Two buildings with individual sample results above the lead Action Level of 15 ppb were identified: Building M583C and Building N200. These buildings are among the oldest at NASA Ames. Building M583C is currently abandoned and scheduled for demolition. Building N200 remains in use and is equipped with NSF/ANSI-certified lead-removing filters at all drinking water fountains and bottle-filling stations.

These results do not indicate a systemic issue in the NASA Ames drinking water system. They reflect isolated conditions in aging building plumbing. The water supplied by SFPUC does not contain lead or copper. However, small amounts of these metals may leach into water through corrosion of building plumbing or fixtures.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: Is NASA Ames drinking water safe?**

**A:** The drinking water delivered to NASA Ames meets or exceeds state and federal health standards. NASA Ames monitors the quality of water throughout its distribution system and works closely with its water supplier and regulatory agencies to ensure continued compliance and safety.

### **Q: Why is my water yellow or brown?**

**A:** The most common reason for discolored water is the plumbing (pipes, valves). When water is not circulated regularly (unused over weekends), it can pick up color from the pipes. Distribution mains can also accumulate small amounts of sediment that settles out. When NASA Ames opens hydrants, this sediment can become re-suspended. Let the water run for a few minutes until the water runs clear.

### **Q: Is bottled water safer than tap water?**

**A:** Not necessarily. Tap water provided at NASA Ames is subject to strict federal and state quality regulations. Bottled water is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), while tap water is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Both must meet safety standards, but bottled water is often chosen for taste or convenience, not for increased safety.

### **Q: Can I use bottled water if I choose?**

**A:** Yes. Individuals who prefer bottled water for taste, convenience, or other personal reasons may choose to purchase and use it. However, NASA Ames cannot provide or fund bottled water services as the drinking water meets all regulatory health standards. For federal staff, purchases using public funds are restricted to emergency or health-related exceptions.

### **Q: Part of NASA Ames Research Center is located above a groundwater contamination plume. Does any of this groundwater enter the drinking water system?**

**A:** NASA Ames does not use groundwater as a drinking water source and contamination cannot enter the drinking water system. Drinking water is supplied by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), which delivers treated surface water from protected sources outside the region. There are no physical connections between the contaminated groundwater and the drinking water distribution system. The drinking water distribution system piping is constantly kept at high pressures (60 to 120 psi), which prevents groundwater from passively entering the drinking water piping. In addition, drinking water piping is made of material which does not allow groundwater contamination to permeate into the drinking water.

### **Q: What can I do if I have a water quality question or concern?**

**A:** If you notice changes in water color, taste, odor, or pressure, or have any other water quality concern, please submit a service request or trouble call through the online portal at <https://nasa.sharepoint.com/sites/arc-j-jcm/SitePages/TroubleCall.aspx> or through your Facility Service Manager (FSM) or building representative. For urgent questions or follow-up, contact Garrett Turner at 650-279-6443 ([garrett.michael.turner@nasa.gov](mailto:garrett.michael.turner@nasa.gov)),

Marcy Christlieb at 650-785-1776 ([marcia.j.christlieb@nasa.gov](mailto:marcia.j.christlieb@nasa.gov)), or Jeanne Sabin at 650-582-7321 ([jeanne.m.sabin@nasa.gov](mailto:jeanne.m.sabin@nasa.gov)).

## Key Water Quality Terms

- **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.
- **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 USEPA.
- **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 (SMCLs):** Guidelines for contaminants in drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor.
- **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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS):** MCLs, MRDLs, and TT for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Turbidity:** A water clarity indicator that measures the cloudiness of the water and is also used to indicate the effectiveness of a filtration system.

## Your Water Quality Data for 2025

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Unless indicated otherwise, the tables at the end of this Report list contaminants detected in our drinking water monitored in 2025. Information about their typical sources is also included. The SFRWS holds monitoring waivers approved by the SWRCB for some contaminants in the surface water; therefore, they are monitored less than once a year.

# 2025 Water Quality Report

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

## NASA Ames Research Center - Water Quality Data for Year 2025 <sup>(1)</sup>

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS	Unit	MCL/TT	PHG or (MCLG)	Range or Level Found	Average or [Max]	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
<b>TURBIDITY</b>						
Unfiltered Hetch Hetchy Water	NTU	5	N/A	0.3 - 0.5 <sup>(2)</sup>	[3.4]	Soil runoff
Filtered Water from Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP)	NTU	TT = Max 1	N/A	-	[0.3]	Soil runoff
	-	TT = Min 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	N/A	100%	-	Soil runoff
<b>DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRECURSOR</b>						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	8.7 - 65	36.7 <sup>(3)</sup>	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Five Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	3.0 - 50.1	30.6 <sup>(3)</sup>	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>						
<i>E. coli</i> <sup>(4)</sup>	-	0 PS	(0)	-	0	Human or animal fecal waste
<b>INORGANICS</b>						
Chromium (VI)	ppb	10	0.02	ND - 0.1	0.1	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride <sup>(5)</sup> (raw water)	ppm	2.0	1	ND - 0.9	0.3	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth
Nitrate (as N)	ppm	10	10	ND - 0.4	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (including free chlorine and chloramine)	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4	0 - 3.34	1.98	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

# 2025 Water Quality Report

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

CONSTITUENTS WITH SECONDARY STANDARDS	Unit	SMCL	PHG	Range	Average	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Chloride	ppm	500	N/A	<3 - 11	5.4	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Iron	ppb	300	N/A	<6 - 36	18	Leaching from natural deposits
Manganese	ppb	50	N/A	<2 - 2.7	<2	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	N/A	32 - 346	189	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate	ppm	500	N/A	1 - 45	23	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	N/A	24 - 197	111	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	NTU	5	N/A	<0.1 - 0.3	0.1	Soil runoff

LEAD AND COPPER	Unit	RAL	PHG	Range	90th Percentile	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Copper	ppb	1300	300	2.8 - 130 <sup>(6)</sup>	91.6	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems
Lead	ppb	15	0.2	ND - 27 <sup>(7)</sup>	10.42	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems

NON-REGULATED WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS	Unit	ORL	Range	Average
Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	ppm	N/A	8 - 131	61
Bromide	ppb	N/A	21 - 71	46
Boron	ppb	1000 (NL)	3.1 - 29	16
Calcium (as Ca)	ppm	N/A	<20 - 281	88
Chlorate <sup>(8)</sup>	ppb	800 (NL)	0 - 0.05	0.01
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	cyst/L	N/A	8.1 - 112	60
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	ppm	N/A	0.2 - 10	5.1
Magnesium	ppm	N/A	7.06 - 9.6	8.27
pH	-	N/A	5.3 - 7.8	6.6
Silica	ppm	N/A	3.1 - 29	16
Sodium	ppm	N/A	1.4 - 3.1	2.1
Total Organic Carbon <sup>(9)</sup>	ppm	N/A	8 - 131	61

KEY	
< / ≤	= less than / less than or equal to
Max	= Maximum
Min	= Minimum
N/A	= Not Available
ND	= Non-Detect
NL	= Notification Level
NTU	= Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
ORL	= Other Regulatory Level
ppb	= part per billion
ppm	= part per million
PS	= Number of Positive Sample
RAL	= Regulatory Action Level
µS/cm	= microSiemens/centimeter

## FOOTNOTES:

- (1) All results met State and Federal drinking water health standards.
- (2) These are monthly average turbidity values measured every 4 hours daily at Tesla Treatment Facilities.
- (3) This is the highest locational running annual average value.
- (4) This is the highest running annual average value.
- (5) Natural fluoride in the Hetch Hetchy water was ND. Elevated fluoride levels in raw water at the SVWTP were attributed to the transfer of the fluoridated Hetch Hetchy water into San Antonio Reservoir. The fluoride level in our treated water ranged from 0.5 ppm to 0.8 ppm with an average of 0.2 ppm.
- (6) The most recent Lead and Copper Rule monitoring was in 2023. Zero (0) of 22 site samples collected at consumer taps had copper concentrations above the regulatory Action Level.
- (7) The most recent Lead and Copper Rule monitoring was in 2023. Two (2) of 22 site samples collected at consumer taps had lead concentrations above the regulatory Action Level. See Page 5 of this Water Quality Report.
- (8) The detected chlorate in the treated water is a degradation product of sodium hypochlorite used by the SFRWS for water disinfection.
- (9) The range and average values of the total organic carbon were from operational monitoring results at Alameda East and SVWTP effluent.

Additional water quality data may be obtained by contacting **NASA Ames Environmental Services Division**  
[Garrett Turner at 650-279-6443 ([garrett.michael.turner@nasa.gov](mailto:garrett.michael.turner@nasa.gov)), Marcy Christlieb at 650-785-1776 ([marcia.j.christlieb@nasa.gov](mailto:marcia.j.christlieb@nasa.gov)), or Jeanne Sabin  
at 650-582-7321 ([jeanne.m.sabin@nasa.gov](mailto:jeanne.m.sabin@nasa.gov))].