ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

Presented By

Groveland Community Services District

PWS ID#: CA5510009

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.

Where Your Water Comes From

GCSD obtains the majority of its water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Hetch Hetchy reservoir supply by pumping from a deep conveyance tunnel southeast of town, known as the Mountain Tunnel. The water originates in Yosemite National Park as snowmelt from a large pristine watershed in the High Sierra. With controlled human contact and granite-type geology, the mineral content of this water is lower than most bottled water, and the bacterial counts approach zero.

Because of the high quality of our source water, the District obtained a filtration avoidance permit (no filtration process required) on April 22, 1998, and during 2007 and 2008 began using disinfection-by-chloramination and ultraviolet disinfection to kill any pathogens, including Cryptosporidium and Giardia, that may be present in its surface water supply.

The Pall Trailer is known as the Alternative Water Supply (AWS) treatment plant. The AWS was installed in 2008. It is capable of producing 600 gallons per minute of treated water drawn from Pine Mountain Lake. During a tunnel outage or emergency situation, the AWS treatment plant is capable of providing a safe drinking water supply to all GCSD customers.

Drought Resilience Water System Improvements

GCSD substantially completed an $8.545 million Drought Resilience Water System Improvement Program, funded by the California Department of Water Resources, to strengthen long-term water supply reliability, drought readiness, emergency supply redundancy, and fire-flow capacity. The program delivered a new groundwater source, new storage and transmission facilities, additional fire hydrants, and the permanent integration of the District's Alternative Water Supply treatment system. Final project close-out was completed in January 2026.

Public Meetings

You are invited to attend our regularly scheduled board meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Groveland Community Resilience Center, at 18986 Ferretti Road. Groveland Community Services District's (GCSD's) board meetings are an excellent way to learn about water and wastewater issues that directly affect you and everyone in the Groveland, Big Oak Flat, and Pine Mountain Lake areas. Your participation is appreciated. Current information is available online at www.gcsd.org.

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.

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. Environmental Protection Agency (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 on U.S. EPA's website epa.gov/safewater.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact the Chief Plant Operator at (209) 962-7161.

Count On Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water.
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions.
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results.
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry.
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels.
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies.
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. GCSD 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, or 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 GCSD at (209) 962-7161. 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 us at (209) 962-7161 for access to the inventory or information about 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 at (800) 426-4791.

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.

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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	1.90	0.90–2.79	No	Water additive used to control microbes
E. coli (# positive samples)	2025	see footnote[1]	0	21	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Fecal coliform and *E. coli* (# positive samples)	2025	0	(0)	0.1	ND–1.0	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5s] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	65.20	5.06–101.90	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria (Positive samples)	2025	TT	NA	232	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2025	TT	NA	1.8	1.7–1.9	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs][2] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	45.39	15.66–101.34	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity – Finished Water (NTU)	2025	NA	NA	0.30	0.02–0.76	No	NA
Turbidity – Raw Source Water (NTU)	2025	NA	NA	0.22	0.10–0.39	No	NA

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)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.09	ND–0.13	0/20	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0.2	ND	ND–8.70	0/20	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	1.9	ND–5.2	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Seawater influence
Color (Units)	2025	15	NS	10	NA	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2025	300	NS	33	ND–100	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Odor (TON)	2025	3	NA	0.3	ND–1.0	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
pH (Units)	2025	6.5-8.5	NA	6.71	5.82–7.38	No	Naturally occurring
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2025	1,600	NS	45	ND–92	No	Substances that form ions when in water; Seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	500	NS	3.4	ND–6.1	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2025	1,000	NS	27	18–35	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES [3]				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity (ppm)	2025	19	8–31	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2025	4.6	1.1–7.9	NA
Hardness, Total [as CaCO3] (ppm)	2025	15	ND–30	NA
Magnesium (ppm)	2025	0.8	ND–2.5	NA
Potassium (ppm)	2025	0.7	ND–2.0	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2025	2.0	ND–4.9	NA

[1] 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*.

[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 systems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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

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).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

Removal ratio: A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

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.

Source Water Assessment

Our drinking water is supplied by the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System. The source originates in the protected Sierra Nevada watershed within Yosemite National Park. The source is managed under a filtration avoidance determination and is subject to annual watershed sanitary surveys and extensive source water monitoring. A copy of the source water assessment and watershed sanitary survey information is available from the wholesale water supplier upon request.

What's Your Water Footprint?

You may have some understanding about your carbon footprint, but how much do you know about your water footprint? The water footprint of an individual, community, or business is defined as the total volume of fresh water that is used to produce the goods and services that are consumed by the individual or community or produced by the business. For example, 11 gallons of water are needed to irrigate and wash the fruit in one half-gallon container of orange juice. Thirty-seven gallons of water are used to grow, produce, package, and ship the beans in that morning cup of coffee. Two hundred and sixty-four gallons of water are required to produce one quart of milk, and 4,200 gallons of water are required to produce two pounds of beef.

According to the U.S. EPA, the average American uses over 180 gallons of water daily. In fact, in the developed world, one flush of a toilet uses as much water as the average person in the developing world allocates for an entire day's cooking, washing, cleaning, and drinking. The annual American per capita water footprint is about 8,000 cubic feet, twice the global per capita average. With water use increasing sixfold in the past century, our demands for fresh water are rapidly outstripping what the planet can replenish.

To check out your own water footprint, go to watercalculator.org.

About Our Violation

During 2025, the system exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for haloacetic acids (HAA5). The MCL was 60 parts per billion (ppb), calculated as a locational running annual average (LRAA). The exceedance occurred at two sampling locations — Crescent Way in Groveland (62 ppb) and Highway 120 in Big Oak Flat (61 ppb) — with a highest LRAA of 62 ppb. The exceedance occurred while the District operated its alternative water plant during a routine shutdown of the Hetch Hetchy tunnel. That source has higher organic content, which increases the formation of haloacetic acids during disinfection. The District has since returned to its normal source, and follow-up sampling confirmed results below the MCL. The District is also relocating and upgrading the alternative water plant to prevent recurrence. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.