

WATER QUALITY

Your Partner

REPORT



Dear Sacramento DOU Customer,

This partner report dives into your drinking water quality. At the Department of Utilities, one of our primary goals is to deliver high quality drinking water to you, our customers. This requires a diverse team of experts that includes certified treatment and distribution operators, laboratory technicians, chemists pluselectricians, machinists and engineers among others.

As your partner, we work around the clock to achieve the highest drinking water quality for you, your family and your community. In this report, we're excited to tell you about our new water quality website. It provides you with current frequently updated drinking water quality information. It's easy to use and will help you understand more about how your water is treated and delivered to you. Please let us know what you think about it. We will be back with our next report soon.

Your Utilities. Your Partner.

Bill Busath, Utilities Director

NEW! Sacramento Launches Pioneering Drinking Water Quality Data Portal



YOUR ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER QUALITY

We heard you! For many years, you've had questions about our water quality—everything from treatment to tap. Like many other agencies, we report our water quality data to customers on an annual basis. That's all changed with the launch of our new Drinking Water Quality Data Portal.

Sacramento's Utilities staff has spent the past few years developing and fine-tuning an innovative water quality data portal and we have officially launched it to our customers. It provides ongoing information to the public and other interested parties about our drinking water.

Visit the below link to learn about the:

- type of monitoring we perform and the data we report
constituents we frequently monitor like chlorine, iron and lead
explanations of scientific and regulatory terminology on the definitions page
hub on the homepage to announce special drinking water quality information

Please visit sacramentowaterquality.com to learn more.



EXPLORE OUR NEW WATER QUALITY WEBSITE  
TO ACCESS UP TO DATE DRINKING WATER QUALITY DATA!

# Where Your Drinking Water Comes From & How it Reaches Your Tap

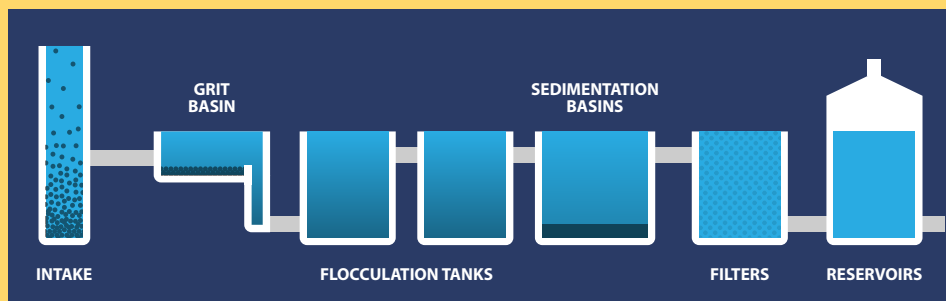
Approximately 80 percent of your water supply is surface water from the Sacramento and American rivers. The remaining 20 percent comes from our system of about 28 groundwater wells.

Groundwater is treated on site at the wells while surface water is treated at the E.A. Fairbairn and Sacramento River Water Treatment plants located on the American and Sacramento

ivers. After it's treated, the high-quality drinking water travels through some of the over 1,700 miles of our pipe network to your home. Our water quality team routinely monitors your water to ensure it meets regulations set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and State Water Resources Control Board, designed to protect public health and ensure aesthetic qualities.



## Get to Know Your Water Treatment Process



A safe, reliable water supply is as close as your tap and our job is to deliver it to you 24/7. This is how we do it:

### Intake

Our intake structures on the Sacramento and American rivers pump water into the grit basin.

### Grit Basin

Sand and other heavy particles settle out in the grit basin; the water then flows from the top of the basin to the next step, flocculation.

### Flocculation Tanks

In the flocculation tanks, coagulants

are added and the water is gently mixed which causes particles to grow large enough to settle.

### Sedimentation Tanks

Next, the water flows into sedimentation basins where particles settle to the bottom. This step removes about 85 percent of the suspended matter from the water. For the next step, filtration, water is collected from the top of the sedimentation basins.

### Filters

Lastly, the water is fed through filters of sand and anthracite (hard coal) and comes out crystal clear.

### Reservoirs

Our treatment plant reservoirs store water until it's needed.

## Contaminants Monitored

The City of Sacramento launched this water quality data portal in order to provide a one-stop source for in-depth data about the high-quality drinking water that we produce for our customers.

As your water provider, we are required to meet stringent drinking water regulations. These requirements are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. Your water is regularly tested at numerous points throughout our service area to insure and demonstrate compliance with these regulations.

### HEALTH-BASED STANDARDS

Also known as Primary Standards, these Maximum Contaminant Levels regulate contaminants in drinking water that affect human health.

### AESTHETIC STANDARDS

Also known as Secondary Standards, these Maximum Contaminant Levels address constituents that may adversely affect the taste, odor or appearance of drinking water.

### UNREGULATED

These constituents are not presently regulated by a Maximum Contaminant Level but are required monitoring due to California regulations or the Federal Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, which is used to collect data to inform future drinking water regulations.

### LEAD AND COPPER RULE

The Lead and Copper Rule requires water systems to monitor lead and copper levels at the consumer's tap. Rather than a typical Maximum Contaminant Level, these results are compared to an Action Level, which, if exceeded, requires public notification and action to control corrosion.

Visit our water quality data portal to read recent test results for each constituent and how it relates to state and federal regulation requirements: [sacramentowaterquality.com](http://sacramentowaterquality.com)

# Drinking Water BY THE NUMBERS

**1,727**

miles of  
water  
pipelines

**HUNDREDS**

of water quality  
tests each day

**135,000**

customer  
service  
connections

**2**

water  
treatment  
facilities

**28**

groundwater  
wells

## Water Saving Tips for Changing Seasons

### BE MINDFUL OF WATER USE IN YOUR HOME

Believe it or not, when the weather cools, many customers start using more water inside the home. People take longer showers to warm up, do more dishes during the holidays and cook more meals at home. There are easy solutions to efficiently use less water indoors.



**Save 3-7 gallons of water a minute.**  
Add a timer in your shower and try to keep your shower time to five minutes. Create a playlist of a 5-minute song to help guide you.



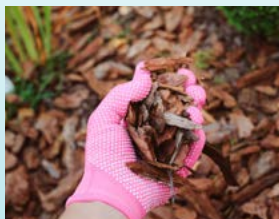
**Save up to 15 gallons a load.**  
Only run your dishwasher when it's full.



**A running faucet can use up to 4 gallons per minute.**  
Throughout the day, reuse your drinking glasses and cups.

### WATER LESS BY CHANGING YOUR LANDSCAPE

Cooler weather is a wonderful time to upgrade your landscape. Make changes to prepare you for a hot summer and save water.



**Add mulch to your garden.** Not only does it kill and prevent weeds but it locks in moisture so you have to water less often.



**Install a drip irrigation system in plant beds and throughout your garden.** A well-designed drip system uses 30 percent less water than sprinklers or using a hose to water your garden. These systems are easy to install yourself and relatively inexpensive!



**Keep an eye out for water runoff onto sidewalks and driveways.** That is an indicator of overwatering. If you notice runoff and adjust your sprinkler system and save around 20 gallons of water a day.

## Drinking Water Quality Regulations

As your water provider, we are required to meet stringent water quality regulations. These regulations are enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board.

## Sacramento's high-quality, reliable drinking water.

Your water meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards.

We meticulously test your water around the clock every day.

We update our water quality web portal regularly and release an annual water quality report.

### Employee Spotlight

Over 455 employees are always working for you, from our customer service staff and field crews to engineers and water quality experts.



#### MEET YOUR PARTNER

### Howard Moreland, Sr.

Plant Operator at Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant

#### What's your primary role?

I serve as plant operator at Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant. My job is to ensure the city's water treatment plant produces safe drinking water. I'm in charge of daily operations such as ordering treatment coagulants for the plant and making sure work around the plant is completed in a timely matter. I also train operators in water operations as well as the safety aspects of the job.

#### What's your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part is working for the residents of Sacramento to ensure our water quality is aesthetically pleasing and meets federal and state drinking water standards. I also enjoy learning new treatment technologies. I regularly attend conferences to ensure I am on top of industry standards.

#### What's the most challenging part of your job?

My most challenging part is during the winter months when water quality changes. During times of excessive amounts of rain, the river becomes very turbid and water becomes difficult to treat. Treatment strategies vary during these times of excessive run off and treatment staff find water treatment most challenging due to these changes. Furthermore, the State Water Resources Control Board regularly modifies regulatory requirements which adds water treatment challenges.

#### What are a few of your past projects?

I've created and implemented a new employee training matrix at Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant. This matrix helps operations staff track new employees training progress throughout their probationary period.

I am currently working with contractors, project managers and consultants on Fairbairn Water Plants filter rehabilitation project. This project replaces aging filter media with new filter media to help ensure we produce high quality drinking water.

### Stay Connected

 [CityofSacramento.org/Utilities](http://CityofSacramento.org/Utilities)

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 (916) 808-5545

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**SACRAMENTO**  
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