# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025

***Presented By***

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY
WATER DISTRICT

EST 1955

PWS ID#: 1510017

## 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 Does My Water Come From?

The Indian Wells Valley Water District serves approximately 35,000 people through approximately 12,500 connections in Ridgecrest and the surrounding areas. Our water supply comes from 11 wells that draw water from the Indian Wells Valley Aquifer. Water is pumped from these wells through transmission lines and booster stations to 12 water storage tanks with a storage capacity of 19 million gallons. From there, water is delivered by gravity through the distribution lines to the customers.

## Source Water Assessment

The California SWRCB requires a source water assessment for all drinking water sources across the state. The purpose of the assessments is to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source to potential contamination and to establish a high, moderate, or low relative susceptibility rating for each source. A high rating indicates the highest susceptibility to contamination.

Assessments for Wells 10, 11, 13, 18, 30, 31, and 33 were conducted in 2001 and 2002 by the SWRCB. The assessment of Well 34 was conducted in 2008, and Wells 9A and 17 were assessed in 2018. The assessment for our newest well, Well 35, was conducted in 2021. All district wells received a susceptibility rating of moderate. The geology of the Indian Wells Valley does not make it possible to locate wells in confined aquifers; therefore, our wells cannot receive the lowest susceptibility rating. Nevertheless, district wells conform to the highest standards and typically received the full number of points possible on the assessment. To view the water assessment reports, contact Justin Thompson, District Engineer, at (760) 375-5086.

## Why Save Water?

Although 80% of the Earth's surface is water, only 1% is suitable for drinking. The rest is either salt water or is permanently frozen, and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.

## Community Participation

You are invited to participate during our board of directors meetings and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the second Monday of each month beginning with closed session at 4:30 p.m., followed by open session at 6:00 p.m., in our boardroom at 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest.

## Important Health Information

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 epa.gov/safewater.

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. 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.

## Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Justin Thompson, District Engineer, at (760) 375-5086.

## 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 be 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.

## 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. The Indian Wells Valley 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 the district at (760) 375-5086. 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. You can find more information about our inventory and a list of those properties with galvanized lines requiring replacement at iwvwd.com/lead-service-line-inventory-lsli.

## Hard vs. Soft Water

Hard water contains higher levels of naturally occurring minerals, primarily calcium and magnesium. These minerals are not harmful to human health and can even contribute beneficial nutrients. However, hard water can cause scale buildup in pipes, appliances, and fixtures. Soft water has lower mineral content and allows soap to lather more easily. It also helps extend the life of water heaters, washing machines, and plumbing fixtures. Hardness levels vary widely depending on local geology and groundwater conditions. Some households choose to install water softeners to reduce scaling and improve appliance efficiency. It is important to note that water hardness is a quality issue, not a safety concern. Both hard and soft water supplied by public water systems meet all health-based drinking water standards.

## 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Arsenic** (ppb) | 2025 | 10 | 0.004 | 1.49 | ND–7.6 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Glass and electronics production wastes |
| **Chlorine** (ppm) | 2025 | [4.0 (as Cl2)] | [4 (as Cl2)] | 0.83 | 0.53–1.17 | No | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment |
| **Fluoride** (ppm) | 2023 | 2.0 | 1 | 0.73 | 0.39–1.4 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| **Gross Alpha Particle Activity** (pCi/L) | 2022-2025 | 15 | (0) | 1.3 | ND–3.6 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Haloacetic Acids [HAA5]** (ppb) | 2025 | 60 | NA | ND | NA | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| **Nitrate [as nitrogen]** (ppm) | 2025 | 10 | 10 | 1.5 | ND–2.1 | No | Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks and sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| **Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs]** (ppb) | 2025 | 80 | NA | 1.5 | ND–3 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |

**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) | 2024 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.23 | ND–0.62 | 0/31 | No | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives |
| **Lead** (ppb) | 2024 | 15 | 0.2 | 0.46 | ND–0.7 | 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) | 2023 | 500 | NS | 76.1 | 19–230 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Seawater influence |
| **Iron** (ppb) | 2023 | 300 | NS | 23.3 | ND–110 | No | Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes |
| **Specific Conductance** (µmho/cm) | 2023 | 1,600 | NS | 538 | 320–980 | No | Substances that form ions when in water; Seawater influence |
| **Sulfate** (ppm) | 2023 | 500 | NS | 41 | 24–53 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes |
| **Total Dissolved Solids** (ppm) | 2023 | 1,000 | NS | 323 | 190–550 | No | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits |

| UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES[1] | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | TYPICAL SOURCE |
| **Bicarbonate** (ppm) | 2023 | 108.1 | 51–150 | NA |
| **Boron**[2] (ppb) | 2023 | 708 | 170–1,800 | NA |
| **Calcium** (ppm) | 2023 | 23.2 | 5.2–39 | NA |
| **Carbonate** (ppm) | 2023 | 9.1 | ND–32 | NA |
| **Hardness, Total [as CaCO3]** (ppm) | 2023 | 74 | 13–130 | NA |
| **Lithium** (ppb) | 2025 | 39.0 | 14.3–133 | NA |
| **Magnesium** (ppm) | 2023 | 3.4 | ND–8.9 | NA |
| **pH** (units) | 2023 | 8.2 | 7.6–8.9 | NA |
| **Potassium** (ppm) | 2023 | 2.1 | 1.0–3.1 | NA |
| **Sodium** (ppm) | 2023 | 89.1 | 42–190 | NA |
| **Total Alkalinity** (ppm) | 2023 | 103.7 | 81–130 | NA |
| **Vanadium** (ppb) | 2023 | 12.4 | ND–45 | NA |

[1] Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.
[2] Concentrations of 1,800, 1,300, and 1,100 ppb were detected in Wells 9A, 11, and 13, respectively, in 2023.

## Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

## 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.

**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).

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

**µmho/cm (micromhos per centimeter):** A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.