



# 2022 Drinking Water Quality Report Summary



## Water Quality: A Great Responsibility and Privilege

Water Quality for LADWP is not only a great responsibility, but also a great privilege, one that guides our actions and initiatives. In 2022, we collected more than 26,000 samples and conducted over 220,000 water quality tests. In addition, we maintained continuous, daily operation of field testing, sampling, and lab analysis throughout the COVID-19 emergency declaration. L.A.'s water quality and safety were a constant pillar of our collective health and peace-of-mind during the tumultuous three-year pandemic.

In January of 2022 we also commissioned the Los Angeles Reservoir Ultraviolet Disinfection Plant (LARUVDP), a \$123.8 million, state-of-the-art water treatment facility, completing a 20-year effort to bring our infrastructure into full compliance with state and federal regulations to protect drinking water in reservoirs. You'll find details and more information in this year's full report attesting to the rigorous treatment, testing, and monitoring of L.A.'s drinking water and its compliance with all state and federal drinking water standards.

## A Resilient Water Supply in the Face of Climate Change

Despite the continuation of a severe drought in 2022, Angelenos helped save nearly 6 billion gallons of water while our staff developed and implemented numerous strategies to meet supply demands. Through it all, we continued to invest in infrastructure projects. Among them was the completion of the five-year Tujunga Spreading Grounds Enhancement Project. With the deluge of this last winter, our \$130 million stormwater capture investment paid off with a

harvest of 33 billion gallons of rainfall from October 2022 through March 2023.

Work also continued on Operation NEXT, an ambitious and innovative water supply initiative that will use advanced purified recycled water to make our city less vulnerable to droughts affecting imported water resources. Conservation efforts along with infrastructure investments represent our best hope for a resilient, reliable water-wise future.

## Regulatory Compliance

In 2022, we tested for more than 237 constituents throughout our water system. LADWP received no violations and met all primary drinking water standards in 2022.

## PFAS and Drinking Water in California

Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a group of synthetic (man-made) chemicals that don't breakdown. They include Perfluorooctanoic (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane sulfonic acids (PFOS), which were once used in manufacturing and are suspected carcinogens. Most U.S. manufacturers voluntarily phased out production of PFOS between 2000 and 2002, and PFOA in 2006.

LADWP has continued to monitor our groundwater sources for PFAS since we began testing in 2013 -14. After analyzing hundreds of samples utilizing approved test methods, we have not found any contamination issues in our water supplies. Although PFAS were detected in a few samples from individual wells, no single well represents water provided to our customers. Water from individual wells is blended with water from other wells, and is further diluted by blending with superior volumes of surface water

before entering the distribution system. Customers can be confident that LADWP is providing high-quality drinking water.

## Compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) in Los Angeles

LADWP has a long and successful history of controlling corrosion and minimizing lead exposure to customers. We continued making progress on all our LCR initiatives such as replacing the utility portion of galvanized iron service lines. We continued replacing aging water meters with low lead units. In 2022 alone, we replaced 32,825 meters. In 2018, we completed an inventory of remaining unknown utility-owned services lines. None consisted of lead material.

LADWP most recently conducted LCR residential sampling in 2020. During the sampling program, 100 first draw samples were obtained from customers' homes and the results showed a 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of 5.0 ppb (parts per billion) for lead and 394 ppb for copper. Both values were well below the respective Action Levels of 15 ppb for lead and 1300 ppb for copper. The next sampling will be in 2023.

## Protecting Water Quality at the Source

### Surface Supply:

In 2020, LADWP completed an assessment of the Owens Valley and Mono Basin watersheds that supply the Los Angeles Aqueduct. These sources are most vulnerable to geothermal activities that release naturally occurring arsenic into creeks feeding into the Owens River. Assessments were also completed for the Lower Stone Canyon Reservoir Watershed in 2019 and Encino Reservoir Watershed in 2020. Activities that impact water quality in these watersheds are agricultural, wildlife, and unauthorized use of storage reservoirs. The impact to water quality from these activities is deemed to be minimal. LADWP also regularly monitors for Cryptosporidium and Giardia. Results indicate that their presence is infrequent and remain at very low levels in these watersheds.

### Groundwater Supply:

Assessment of groundwater sources in the San Fernando Basin was updated in 2018. Assessment of sources in the Central and Sylmar Basins was completed in 2019. Wells within these aquifers are most vulnerable to agricultural and manufacturing processes. These water supplies are treated and blended with water from other sources to ensure compliance with drinking water standards.

### Purchased Imported Supplies from MWD:

The most recent surveys for Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) source waters are the Colorado River Watershed Sanitary Survey – 2020 Update, and the State Water Project Watershed Sanitary Survey – 2021 Update. These sources are most vulnerable to watershed-related factors such as recreational activities, stormwater runoff, wastewater discharges, wildlife and fires.

Three out of five MWD treatment plants supply water to the Los Angeles area. MWD tests its water for nearly 400 constituents and performs about 250,000 water quality tests per year on samples gathered from its distribution system. Results from MWD are included in the report on Tables I, II and III.

More information can be found in the full 2022 Water Quality Report available at [www.ladwp.com/waterquality](http://www.ladwp.com/waterquality). For questions about your drinking water, please call our Water Quality Hotline at (213) 367-3182 or email us at [waterqualityoffice@ladwp.com](mailto:waterqualityoffice@ladwp.com).