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# Drinking Water Quality Report for Sierra Water System

Pierce County

Water System ID #04643

# 2025

In this report, you will find information about:

## YOUR WATER

Your Water System  
Source Water Protection  
Cross-Connection Control

## TEST RESULTS

Possible Contaminants  
Key Table Definitions  
Lead Information  
Water Quality Table

## WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

The water source for this system is a neighborhood well located in the Sierra development in Buckley. The well is 240 feet deep and capable of pumping 120 gallons per minute.

## HOW IS MY WATER TREATED?

Your water is treated by filtration and disinfection. Filtration removes particles suspended in the source water. Particles typically include clays and silts, natural organic matter, iron and manganese, and microorganisms. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectants to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water.

Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

**We are proud to report that this system meets all state and federal guidelines for regulated contaminants, and is significantly below the EPA's required safety levels.**

## Water Quality Report Information



**Valley Water District** is pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

**Valley Water District** vigilantly safeguards and routinely monitors your drinking water. We are providing this report as a snapshot of water quality monitoring for the calendar year of the report (unless otherwise noted). The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

### How Can I Get Involved?

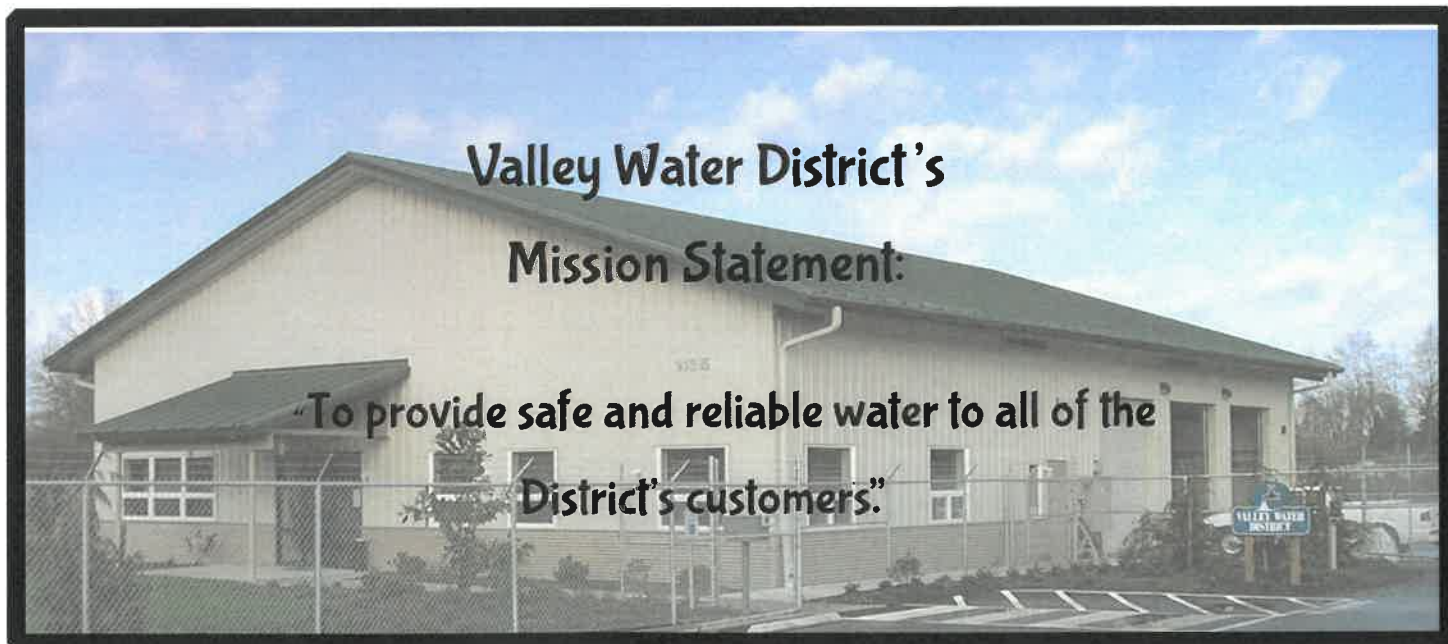
We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you would like to learn more, please attend any regularly scheduled Board Meeting held at the District Office on the first and third Tuesday of each month, at 2:00pm.

### Questions?

If you have any questions about the information in this report, or any concern regarding water quality and the services we deliver every day, please contact the District office at 253-841-9698.

Sean Vance, District Manager ~ Brian Thompson, Operations Manager ~ Email: [service@valleywaterdistrict.com](mailto:service@valleywaterdistrict.com)

**Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense/start](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/start)—saving for great water saving tips!**



## Possible Contaminants

Common sources of drinking water- tap water from a water system or bottled water - include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, springs, and reservoirs (surface water), and wells and springs (groundwater).

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials dissolve in the water.

Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, parasites, and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from various 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. They can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

*In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.*

**VULNERABLE POPULATIONS:** 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. EPA/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 (1-800-426-4791).

### PFAS or "Forever Chemicals" Testing

Many of you have likely seen the news articles or television news stories about the "Forever Chemicals" that may be in the Public Water Systems. The chemicals known as PFAS or PFOA have been detected in many water systems in Washington State. The EPA and Department of Health have established rules for testing and treatment.

The District is happy to announce that we have conducted testing for these contaminants and there was NO DETECTION in any of Valley Water District's water sources. We will continue to test as required by Department of Health and keep you informed of results in the future.

For additional information on PFAS and related contaminants please go to [www.doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas](http://www.doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas)

## Cross-Connection Control Survey

A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system.

Valley Water District is responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system.

If you have any of the devices listed below, please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.



**Do you have one of these at your home or business?**

- Lawn irrigation system
- Pool or hot tub
- Decorative pond or fountain
- Watering trough
- Fire sprinkler system
- Additional source(s) of water on the property



If you do, Washington State law may require that you have a “Backflow Prevention Assembly”. The purpose of this device is to provide “cross connection control” - preventing contaminated water from flowing back into your drinking water - a serious health hazard.

However, even the best Backflow Prevention Assembly can fail because of freezing, debris, improper installation and unapproved plumbing connections. For this reason, the state’s Department of Health requires these devices to be tested annually by a certified backflow assembly tester, with a copy of the test record sent to Valley Water District.

### Customers with a BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY:

#### Consider “Opting In” to our TESTING PROGRAM!

In 2018, the District created a program that allows customers with backflow devices that are required to have annual testing done to “OPT IN” and have the District coordinate with a contractor to perform the test at a significantly reduced rate of \$30 per device (most testers charge \$40-\$90 per device). It’s not too late to opt in if you haven’t yet, you can find the Backflow Testing Agreement on the District website at [www.valleywaterdistrict.com](http://www.valleywaterdistrict.com) under FORMS.

If you are already opted in...no need to worry about future testing. Every year between May and September, the District will automatically have the contractor, Randy Horne with Aqua Backflow Testing, perform the testing for each property that has opted in.



### SOURCE WATER PROTECTION—What you can do to help:

- Ensure that your septic system is properly maintained.
- Use chemical fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, if at all.
- Don’t dump any hazardous waste on the ground or down the drain. This includes motor oil, pesticides, paint, household cleaners, medicines, etc.

### Check the SWAP information for your water system:

The WA State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water has compiled Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data for all community water systems. An interactive map with data for your water system is available at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/swap/index.html>.

## KEY TABLE DEFINITIONS

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**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 allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

**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.

**Minimum Reporting Level (MRL):** Also known as the Method Reporting Limit: The smallest amount of a substance that can be reliably quantitated in sample.

**NA:** Not Applicable

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** a standard to measure water clarity.

**Not Detected (ND):** This compound was analyzed and not detected at a level greater than or equal to the State Detection Reporting Level.

**PPB =** Parts per billion **PPM =** Parts per million **Ug/L =** Microgram per liter

**µmhos/cm =** The basic unit of measurement of conductivity. **mg/L =** milligrams per liter

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

**State Detection Reporting Limit (SDRL):** The minimum reportable detection of an analyte as established by DOH.

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

**Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL, an action level, or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

### Information About Lead...

If present, elevated levels of 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. Valley Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791 or online at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

### Public Notice regarding EPA required Service Line Inventory:

An EPA ruling required every Public Water System to conduct an inventory of all public and private lines to determine if the system had any lead service lines. The District is in compliance with that rule and has submitted the findings that were available with no lead found in any of our systems, however there are many that are considered "Unknown".

See the District website at [www.valleywaterdistrict.com](http://www.valleywaterdistrict.com) and select the Service Line Inventory tab for more details and to see the Service Line Inventory by each system.

## About Monitoring Waivers

### Organic Chemicals Radioactive Contaminants

Drinking water sources are sampled and tested a minimum of every six to nine years for an array of organic chemicals including volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) and synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs), such as herbicides and pesticides. VOCs are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Sampling frequencies for these groups of organic chemicals can vary depending on where the water system is located, whether the source has been granted a monitoring waiver, and whether that have been past detections of any of these organic contaminants.

Monitoring waivers are granted by the DOH and are based on a source's susceptibility rating (risk of contamination), water quality history, and information gathered across the state.

If there were detections or organic contaminants obtained during the most recent round of compliance monitoring, they are shown in the water quality data tables.

### Radioactive Contaminants

Drinking water sources are sampled and tested a minimum of every six years for radioactive contaminants (radium 228 and gross alpha).

These contaminants can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

If there were any detections obtained during the most recent round of compliance monitoring, they are shown in the water quality data tables.



## Water Quality Data Table Introduction

**Your water is tested for more than 150 contaminants for which state and federal standards have been set.**

**Tables 1 & 2** list all primary contaminants that were detected at or above the state detection reporting limit (SDRL), along with their respective MCLs. Primary MCLs (primary standards) protect public health by limiting the levels of these contaminants in drinking water.

**Table 3** (if applicable) lists secondary contaminants of interest to many consumers, as well as any unregulated contaminant detections. Secondary contaminants can mainly affect the aesthetic properties of water (taste, odor, and appearance). Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to help EPA determine their occurrence in drinking water and potential need for future regulation.

# Water Quality Testing Results for 2025

## Sierra Water System

**Table 1: PRIMARY CONTAMINANTS:**

Contaminants	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation?	Typical Source
					Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products (Distribution System)</b>									
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	NA	60	4	NA	NA	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trihalomethanes, Total	ppb	NA	80	9.98	NA	NA	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Volatile Organic Compounds (Regulated - Source Monitoring)</b>									
Total Trihalomethane	ppb	80	80	12.92	NA	NA	2024	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

**Table 2: LEAD AND COPPER TESTING (2024):**

Samples were collected at customer kitchen or bathroom taps in 10 homes. The number of homes sampled is based on population served by the water system. This testing is done every three years and the most recent sample data is from 2024.

Contaminants	90% of taps sampled must be below AL	90% of taps sampled were at or below this level	MCLG	# of Samples Exceeding AL	Violation?	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3 AL	0.672	1.3	0 of 10	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	15 AL	1.85	0	0 of 10	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

**PFAS or "Forever Chemicals" Testing Information - Tested on 12/11/25 (NO DETECTIONS)**

Many of you have likely seen the news articles or television news stories about the "Forever Chemicals" that may be in the Public Water Systems. The chemicals known as PFAS or PFOA have been detected in many water systems in Washington State. The EPA and Department of Health have established rules for testing and treatment.

The District is happy to announce that we have conducted testing for these contaminants in the Sierra system and there was NO DETECTION found. We will continue to test as required by Department of Health and keep you informed of results in the future.

For additional information on PFAS and related contaminants please go to <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas>

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR Table 3: Secondary Contaminants**

## 2025 Water Quality Report Sierra Water System

**Table 3: SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS:** The samples below were taken mainly to monitor the aesthetic qualities of your drinking water, such as color, taste, and odor.

Analytes	Results	MCL	EPA Regulated Secondary	State Regulated	Year Sampled	Typical Source
Manganese (ppm)	0.01	0.05	Yes	No	2025	Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral that is present in soils, rocks, and sediment. Manganese in your water can also stain your laundry and create a brownish-black or black stain on your toilet, shower, bathtub, or sink. Manganese can make your water look, smell, or taste bad.
Chloride (ppm)	4.8	250	Yes	No	2021	Chloride occurs naturally in groundwater but is found in greater concentrations where seawater and run-off from road salts (salts used to de-ice icy roads) can make their way into water sources.
Sulfate (ppm)	4	250	Yes	No	2021	Sulfate is one of the major dissolved components of rain. As water moves through soil and rock formations that contain sulfate minerals, some of the sulfate dissolves into the groundwater.
Sodium* (ppm)	6.5	NA	No	Yes	2021	In drinking water, sodium can occur naturally or be the result of road salt applications, water treatment chemicals or ion-exchange water softening units.
Nickel (ppm)	6.5	NA	No	Yes	2021	Nickel is a naturally occurring metal and can be found in various rocks and minerals.
Hardness** (ppm)	94	NA	No	Yes	2021	As your water moves through soil and rock, it dissolves very small amounts of minerals and holds them in solution. Calcium and magnesium dissolved in water are the two most common minerals that make water "hard." The degree of hardness becomes greater as the calcium and magnesium content increases and is related to the concentration of multivalent cations dissolved in the water.
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	180.5	700	No	Yes	2021	Conductivity is a measure of water's capability to pass electrical flow. This ability is directly related to the concentration of ions in the water. These conductive ions come from dissolved salts and inorganic materials such as alkalis, chlorides, sulfides and carbonate compounds. Compounds that dissolve into ions are also known as electrolytes. The more ions that are present, the higher the conductivity of water. Likewise, the fewer ions that are in the water, the less conductive it is.

\*Sodium: The EPA recommends 20 ppm sodium as a level of concern for consumers who must restrict their dietary intake.

\*\*Hardness: When reading hardness value, 0-75 ppm is considered "soft" water, 75-150 ppm "moderately hard", 150-300 ppm is "hard", and > 300 ppm is "very hard".