

**Cryptosporidium**

Cryptosporidium is a protozoan parasite that is common in surface waters. The oocyst is the transmission stage of the organism. Cryptosporidium is introduced into our source waters via wild animal populations. Although the organism is readily removed by the conventional treatment process utilized at the Canyon Road Water Treatment facility and advanced treatment processes at the Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) Treatment facility, the oocyst is resistant to chemical disinfectants like chlorine. Therefore, the primary reason to test for cryptosporidium is to determine if additional treatment is required. Ingestion of cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection.

In April 2007 the City began a two-year study to determine the average Cryptosporidium concentration in source water entering the Canyon Road Water Treatment facility. The sampling portion of the study was completed in March of 2009. The study was part of the requirements contained in the 2006 USEPA Long-Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. Cryptosporidium was detected in a single untreated sample in each of the following months: December of 2007, September 2008 and October 2008. The highest 12-month consecutive mean for this study was 0.018 oocysts/L. Since the concentration is <0.075 oocysts/L, no additional treatment at the Canyon Road Water Treatment Facility was necessary. The City began a second round of sampling, one sample a month, starting in October 2015 and completed in September 2017. No Cryptosporidium oocysts were detected during the second round of sampling during the October 2015 to September 2017 period, and consequently no additional treatment at the Canyon Road Water Treatment Facility is necessary.



**Source Water Assessment**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) completed a Source Water Assessment of the City's Water Utility, which includes the sources of supply for the SFCU, to determine source water protection areas and inventory contaminant sources. NMED concluded: "The Susceptibility Analysis of the City of Santa Fe water utility reveals that the utility is well maintained and operated, and drinking water sources are generally protected from potential contamination..." The susceptibility rank of the City's system, which includes the sources of supply for the SFCU, is moderately low. A copy of the assessment is available by contacting NMED at 1-877-654-8720.

**Long-Term Supply Sustainability**

The BDD, which includes the Buckman Regional Water Treatment Plant, was constructed and is operated under a cooperative agreement between the City, the County, Las Campanas Water and Sewer Cooperative, and the Club at Las Campanas. The BDD, which came on-line in 2011, has significantly improved the long-term sustainability of the area's water supply and increases the community's resilience under drought conditions. Using treated surface water as our primary supply reduces unsustainable groundwater pumping, which helps ensure groundwater will be available during times of drought.

**Water Conservation Tips**

The estimated average daily water use for SFCU residential customers is 70 gallons per day (gpd). While this is below the national average (100 gpd), water resources in our area are limited and any reduction in consumption helps. Below are low or no cost methods for

As with Cryptosporidium oocysts, no Giardia Lamblia cysts have been detected in the October 2015 to September 2017 time period at the Canyon Road WTP.

Any new water system treating surface water such as BDD is required to monitor Cryptosporidium for 24 consecutive months. At the BDD the untreated raw Rio Grande water Cryptosporidium test results ranged from 0 to 0.4 oocysts/L. BDD began a second round of sampling, one sample a month, starting in October 2015 and ending September 2017. No Cryptosporidium oocysts were detected during the second round of sampling (October 2015 to September 2017, except July 2017 (0.1 oocysts/L), and consequently no additional treatment at the Buckman Regional Water Treatment Facility is necessary.

**Voluntary Monitoring**

In cooperation with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the New Mexico Environment Department, the City currently monitors Buckman Wells 1, 6 and 8 for LANL derived contamination on a quarterly basis. Samples are analyzed for radionuclides, general inorganic chemicals, metals, high explosives and organics. This repeat sampling has occurred during the years 2001 – 2017 and has indicated that Laboratory-derived radionuclides are not present in the Buckman Wells 1, 2, 6 and 8. The results do indicate detectable levels of radionuclides associated with natural sources. These wells are part of the 13 wells that make-up the Buckman Wellfield. When these wells are used, water from these wells is delivered to the Buckman Tank prior to distribution into the system.

reducing water use:

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving to save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

**SANTA FE COUNTY UTILITIES DIVISION**



**West Sector Public Water System**

**2020 Water Quality Report**

**Overview**

Santa Fe County Utilities (SFCU) is pleased to present the 2020 Water Quality Report for the **West Sector** public water system to our customers and the public. A safe and reliable water supply is vital to our community and is one of the primary missions of Santa Fe County.

**In 2020, the West Sector's drinking water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water quality Standards.**

The West Sector supplies potable water to users outside of the western boundary of the City of Santa Fe (City) and within the boundary of the Historic Village of Agua Fria. These areas include Las Campanas Estates I & II, Aldea, Tessera, El Prado, La Serena, Los Sueños, Sonrisa, the Northwest Ranches, and the Vista Aurora Subdivision. Water is also provided to the Las Campanas Water and Sewer Cooperative and to the Agua Fria Community Water System.

This report summarizes where the SFCU water supply comes from and how it compares to federal regulatory drinking water standards. As water quality samples are collected periodically throughout the year, this report presents data representative of the water quality during calendar year 2020 or previous years if sampling for a specific contaminant was not required during 2020.

If you have any questions about this report, concerns regarding your water utility, or would like to learn more about the County's plans for the future water supply, please visit our website at: [www.santafecountynm.gov/public\\_works/utilities](http://www.santafecountynm.gov/public_works/utilities) or call us at 505-992-9870.

If you would like to become involved in issues of water supply in our area, you are encouraged to attend meetings of our governing body, the Santa Fe County Commission, which occur on the second and last Tuesday of each month starting at 2:00 pm. Meeting agendas are posted at:

[www.santafecountynm.gov/committees/board\\_of\\_county\\_commissioners\\_bcc](http://www.santafecountynm.gov/committees/board_of_county_commissioners_bcc).

Additionally, the Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee meets every other month at 5:00 pm at the Public Works Complex, 424 NM Hwy 599 Frontage Rd. Agendas and minutes are posted at: <http://www.santafecountynm.gov/committees/wpac>.

**En Español**

Este informe contiene información sobre el agua calidad en el condado de Santa Fe del parte oeste del sistema de agua. Si tiene alguna pregunta o duda sobre este informe, por favor llama a la utilidad del condado de Santa Fe a 505-992-9870.

424 NM SR 599 Santa Fe, NM 87507  
Phone (505) 992-9870 Fax (505) 992-3028  
[www.santafecountynm.gov](http://www.santafecountynm.gov)

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**Sources of Supply**

The sources of water supply for both the County and the City water systems are the same throughout the Santa Fe metropolitan and surrounding areas and include both ground water and surface water. The map below and page 3 illustrate and briefly explain the sources and treatment of the County and City water supply systems.

**Source of Supply Water Quality**

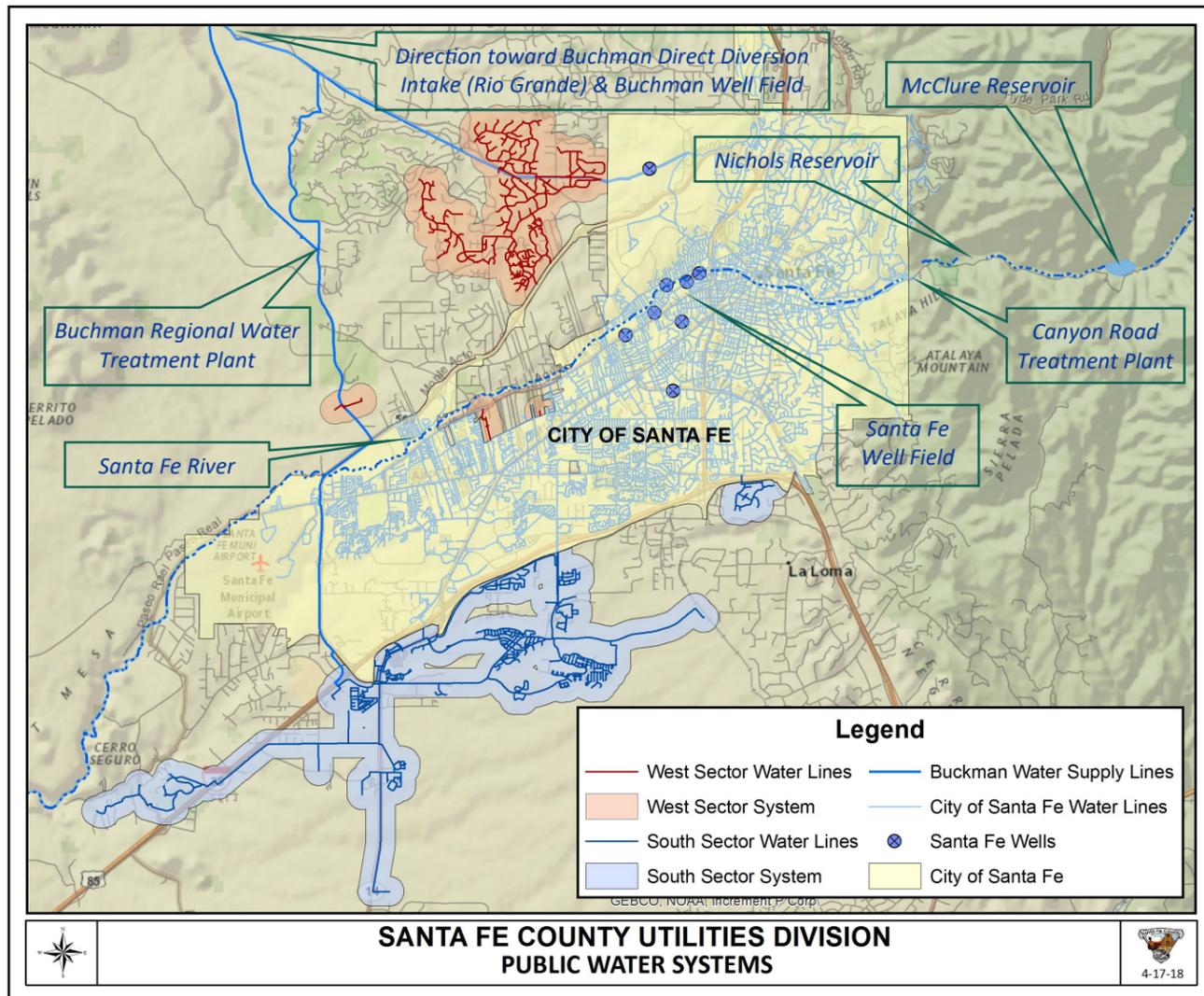
As required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, water quality sampling and analysis are conducted to ensure drinking water quality meets standards. The City is required to test for over 80 contaminants, and the vast majority of these contaminants were not found above detection limits. Table 1 on page 4&5 lists contaminants which:

- have established primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and/or Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) that are regulated, and;

- were detected in testing conducted by the City and New Mexico Environment Department.

The table includes only those constituents found above detection limits during 2020 sampling, or during sampling in previous years if not analyzed during 2020. The EPA requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects have been included later in this report and can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791, or visiting: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.



**TABLE 2—Results of Disinfection By-Product Testing for 2020**

West Sector Disinfection By-Product Results	Units	MCL	MCLG	LRAA (2020)	Range (2020)		Typical Source
					Low	High	
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	60	NA	21	7.69	21.4	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	80	NA	55	29.4	62.8	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

**TABLE 3—Results of Disinfectant Residual Testing for 2020**

West Sector Disinfectant Residual Results	Units	MRDL	MRDLG	Range (2020)		Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High		
Chlorine Residual	ppm	4.0	4	0.5	0.5	No	Water additive used to control microorganisms

**Bromate Testing**

Bromate monitoring is required at the entrance to the distribution system whenever ozone is used to treat drinking water. Buckman Regional Water Treatment Plant (BRWTP) is the only treated water source that supplies ozonated water to the City and County water system. Compliance is based on

the running annual average (RAA) of monthly samples collected from BRWTP finished water. In 2020 the highest RAA was 0.0052 mg/L, which is lower than the 0.010 mg/L MCL (Table 4 below), indicating that the system was in compliance with bromate requirements for all of 2020.

**TABLE 4—Results of Disinfectant Residual Testing for 2020**

West Sector	Units	MCL	MCLG	Monthly Range (2020)		Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High		
Bromate	ppm	0.010	zero	0.0045	0.0052	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

**Lead and Copper Testing**

Tests for lead and copper were taken from 10 customer taps located in the West Sector once on 9/13/2018. None of the samples exceeded the action level for lead or copper. The sample results are reported in Table 5 below. Ten samples will next be collected in 2021 during the period between June 1 and September 30 and analyzed for lead and copper and the results of those samples will be reported in our 2022 Water Quality Report.

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 and up to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have its quality 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 (800) 426-4791, or visiting:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

**TABLE 5—Results of Lead and Copper Testing for 2020 (Next Analysis 2021)**

West Sector Lead & Copper Results	Units	MCL	MCLG	Your Water (90th percentile)	No. of Samples Exceeding the AL	Sample Dates	Violation	Typical Source
Copper	ppm	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.7	0 of 10	9/13/2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits, corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	ppb	AL = 15	0	2.0	0 of 10	9/13/2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits, corrosion of household plumbing systems.

**Lead and Copper Action Level**

The lead and copper levels reported are values for the 90th percentile. In this case, 10 samples were collected and the 9th highest sample result represents the 90th percentile.

## SOURCES AND TREATMENTS OF YOUR WATER SUPPLY

### SOURCES OF SUPPLY

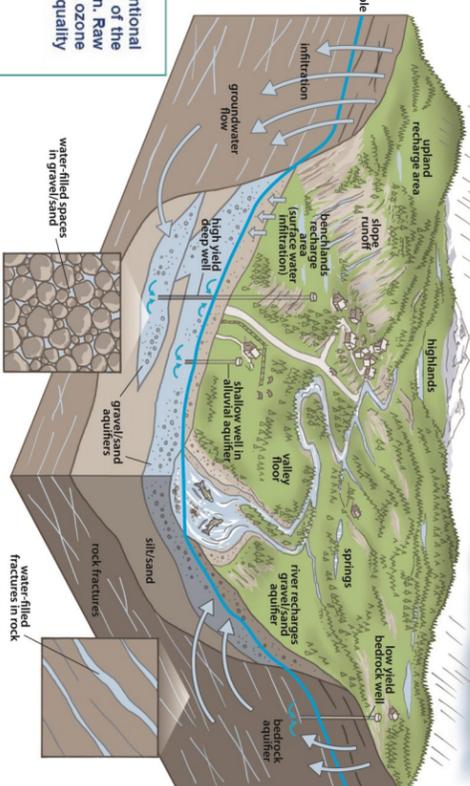
Santa Fe County shares ground and surface water supply sources with the City of Santa Fe. These sources are:

- ground water from wells in the City's Buckman and City well fields, and
- surface water from the Rio Grande and the Santa Fe River.

Ground water from 13 wells in the City's Buckman well field, and 8 wells in the City well field contribute to the Santa Fe County Utility water supply.



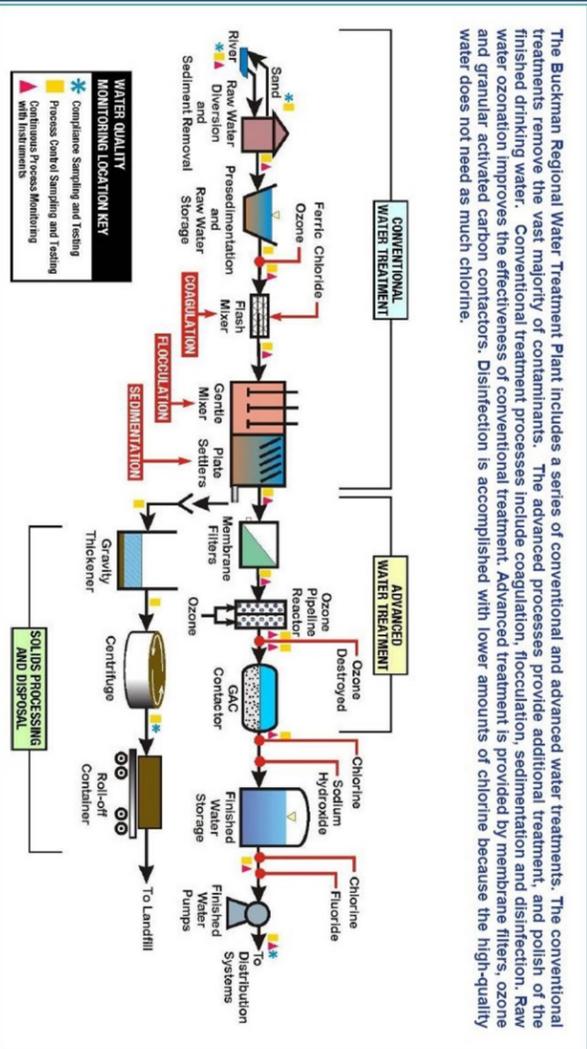
Raw surface water is diverted from the Rio Grande through an intake structure and is conveyed by an 11 mile pipeline to the Buckman Regional Water Treatment Plant where it is treated through an advanced treatment process.



Water in the Santa Fe River is dammed above Upper Canyon Road and stored in the Nichols and McClure Reservoirs prior to treatment through conventional processes at the City's Canyon Road Water Treatment Plant.



From these sources clean, potable water is distributed through a vast network of waterlines to you.



The Buckman Regional Water Treatment Plant includes a series of conventional and advanced water treatments. The conventional treatments remove the vast majority of contaminants. The advanced processes provide additional treatment, and polish of the finished drinking water. Conventional treatment processes include coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and disinfection. Raw water ozonation improves the effectiveness of conventional treatment. Advanced treatment is provided by membrane filters, ozone and granular activated carbon contactors. Disinfection is accomplished with lower amounts of chlorine because the high-quality water does not need as much chlorine.

water supply met this standard throughout 2020 (please see Table 1, pages 4&5, of this document for the levels of arsenic measured in 2020—varying locations). Arsenic occurs naturally in the earth's rock crust. When arsenic-containing rocks, minerals, and soil erode, they release arsenic into ground water. While our drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The EPA standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. 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 is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

### Nitrates

The SFCU's drinking water supply meets the federal drinking water standard of 10 ppm for nitrates. Nitrates have been detected in some of the City Wells up to 7 parts per million (ppm). Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome which is a potentially fatal blood disorder in which there is a reduction in the oxygen carrying capacity of blood. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should seek advice from your health care provider concerning nitrate in drinking water.

### Microbial and Disinfection By-products Rule

The Microbial and Disinfection By-products Rule is a set of interrelated regulations that address risks from microbial pathogens and disinfection by-products (DBPs). The Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products Rule (DBPR) focuses on public health protection by limiting exposure to known carcinogenic DBPs, specifically total trihalomethanes (TTHM) and five haloacetic acids (HAA5), which can form in water through disinfectants (e.g. chlorine) used to control microbial pathogens. In 2020, the West Sector had one compliance sampling location for TTHM and a separate location for HAA5. Each of these locations was sampled once each quarter throughout the year. The average of analytical results for DBPs at a given location during the previous four quarterly samples is called the locational running annual average (LRAA). The LRAA for each location must be below the MCL (60 ppb for HAA5 and 80 ppb for TTHM). Based upon the samples that were collected, the West Sector's water met the MCL standards. The results are presented in Table 2.

### Disinfectant Residual Testing

The Stage 2 DBPR also regulates the maximum residual for disinfectants, including chlorine. Disinfectants are added to control microorganisms as part of treatment and to maintain microbiological water quality throughout the distribution system and up to your tap. The West Sector uses free chlorine as a disinfectant. For 2020, sampling was performed at 24 monitoring locations each month. The results are shown in Table 3.

### Why Are There Contaminants In Drinking Water?

The sources of all drinking water (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 or suspends naturally occurring and man-made substances. These substances can include:

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

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals that may be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming;

Pesticides and herbicides, that may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm-water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems; and

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring, man-made from nuclear facilities and atmospheric deposition from former above-ground testing, or be the result of oil and gas production, and mining activities.

**Intentionally added substances:** Water from all four supply sources for the SFCU water supply is disinfected with chlorine to protect against waterborne pathogens. To protect consumers' teeth, fluoride may also be added at levels generally recommended by public health professionals.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, state and federal regulations limit the amount of certain contaminants allowed 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.

### Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as individuals 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. Health care providers should advise you about certain risks associated with tap water if you have an immune compromising condition. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### Specific Contaminants:

#### Arsenic

The drinking water standard for arsenic is 10 ppb. The SFCU's

**TABLE 1—2020 West Sector Water Quality**

Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	City Well Field <sup>e</sup>	Sample Year	Buckman Tank f	Sample Year	Canyon Road WTP	Sample Year	Buckman RWTP	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs)</b>													
Dichloromethane	ppb	5	0	ND	2020	0.7	2020	ND	2020	ND	2020	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants <sup>c</sup></b>													
Arsenic	ppb	10	0	1.9 (1.1 - 1.9)	2020	1.8	2020	ND	2020	ND	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.6 (0.2 - 0.6)	2020	0.03	2020	0.008	2020	0.04	2020	No	Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.2 (ND - 0.2)	2020	0.39	2020	ND	2020	0.37	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [as N]	ppm	10	10	5.4 (2.5 - 5.4)	20220	ND	2020	ND	2020	ND	2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion from natural deposits
Selenium	ppb	50	50	0.004 (ND -0.004)	2020	ND	2020	ND	2020	ND	2020	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
<b>Radioactive Contaminants <sup>c</sup></b>													
Gross Alpha Emitters <sup>d</sup>	pCi/L	15	0	0.9 (0.2 - 0.8)	2017-2020	0.9	2020	ND	2020	ND	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta/Photon Emitters	pCi/L	50 <sup>a</sup>	NA	1.4 (ND - 1.4)	2017-2020	2.8	2020	ND	2020	2.7	2020	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Radium 226/228	pCi/L	5	0	0.8 (0.4 - 0.75)	2017-2020	0.04	2020	ND	ND	0.25	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	ppb	30	0	1	2017-2020	2	2020	ND	ND	2	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits;
<b>Surface Water Contaminants <sup>c</sup></b>													
Turbidity (highest single measurement)	NTU	TT = 1.0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.26	2020	0.26	2020	No	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly % meeting limits)	NTU	TT = % <0.3 NTU	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	100%	2020	100%	2020	No	Soil Runoff
Total Organic Carbon (removal ratio) (TOC) - TREATED	NA	TT <sup>b</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.0 <sup>g</sup> (1.0 - 1.8)	2020	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment

**Notes:**

- a. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.
- b. Alternative compliance criteria used to meet TOC removal requirements (running annual average of TOC removal ratio must be >1 each month)
- c. The range represents the highest and low values within the Compliance Period indicated, if more than one sample was collected.
- d. Gross Alpha Emitters excluding Radon and Uranium
- e. City wellfield: Alto, Agua Fria, Ferguson, Osage, Santa Fe, St. Mikes & Torreon.
- f. Buckman Wells 1-13 and Northwest Well.
- g. Running annual average (RAA) of TOC removal ratio for each month during 2020 - minimum ratio was 1.2 (as per 40 CFR 141.135 (c) 2006)

**Key to Units, Terms and Abbreviations**

- NA: Not Applicable
- ND: Not Detected
- NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)
- pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- TT: A Treatment Technique standard was set instead of an Maximum Contaminant Level

**Monitoring and Reporting of Compliance Data Violations**

- (1) Water quality report Adequacy/Availability/Content 10/01/2019 - 03/31/2020
  - Corrected by revising the contents in the water quality report and submitted to New Mexico Environment Department, Drinking Water Bureau for approval.
- (2) Water quality report 07/01/2020 - 2020 Was not submitted in a timely manor
  - Corrected by completing a water quality report and submitted to New Mexico Environment Department, Drinking Water Bureau for approval.
- (3) Public Notice Rule Linked to Violation 02/22/2018 - 2020
  - Please see attachments Public Notice
- (4) Monitoring, Routine, Minor (RTCR) 08/01/2020 - 08/31/2020
  - Corrected by collection bacterial samples in September 2020 with negative results