

**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 reducing water use:

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water

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**

For the results of additional voluntary monitoring for the Canyon Road WTP, and the BRWTP, please see the City's Water Quality page at [www.santafenm.gov/water^quality](http://www.santafenm.gov/water^quality). To view voluntary monitoring results, go to the link for "2015 Water Quality Report". Data in the report lists results from voluntary monitoring at entry points into the distribution system associated with BRWTP, and the Canyon Road WTP. Since these samples are collected at the point of entry of water into the City's distribution system, the reported concentrations of contaminants may be further diluted in the distribution system through mixing with water from other City sources.

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  
2023 Water Quality Report**

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**Overview**

Santa Fe County Utilities (SFCU) is pleased to present the 2023 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.



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, and Northwest Ranches residential subdivisions. Potable water is also wholesaled to the Las Campanas Water and Sewer Cooperative. The Agua Fria Community Water System is supplied water for fire protection.

This report summarizes where the SFCU water supply comes from and how it compares to State and federal regulated drinking water standards. As water quality samples are collected periodically throughout the year, this report presents laboratory data analysis representative of the water quality during calendar year 2023 or previous years. During 2023 some specific contaminants were not required to be collected.

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](http://www.santafecountynm.gov/public-works) or call us at 505-992-9870. Or you can email SFCU at [sfcutil@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:sfcutil@santafecountynm.gov)

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:

<https://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: <https://www.santafecountynm.gov/committees/wpac>



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)

**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**

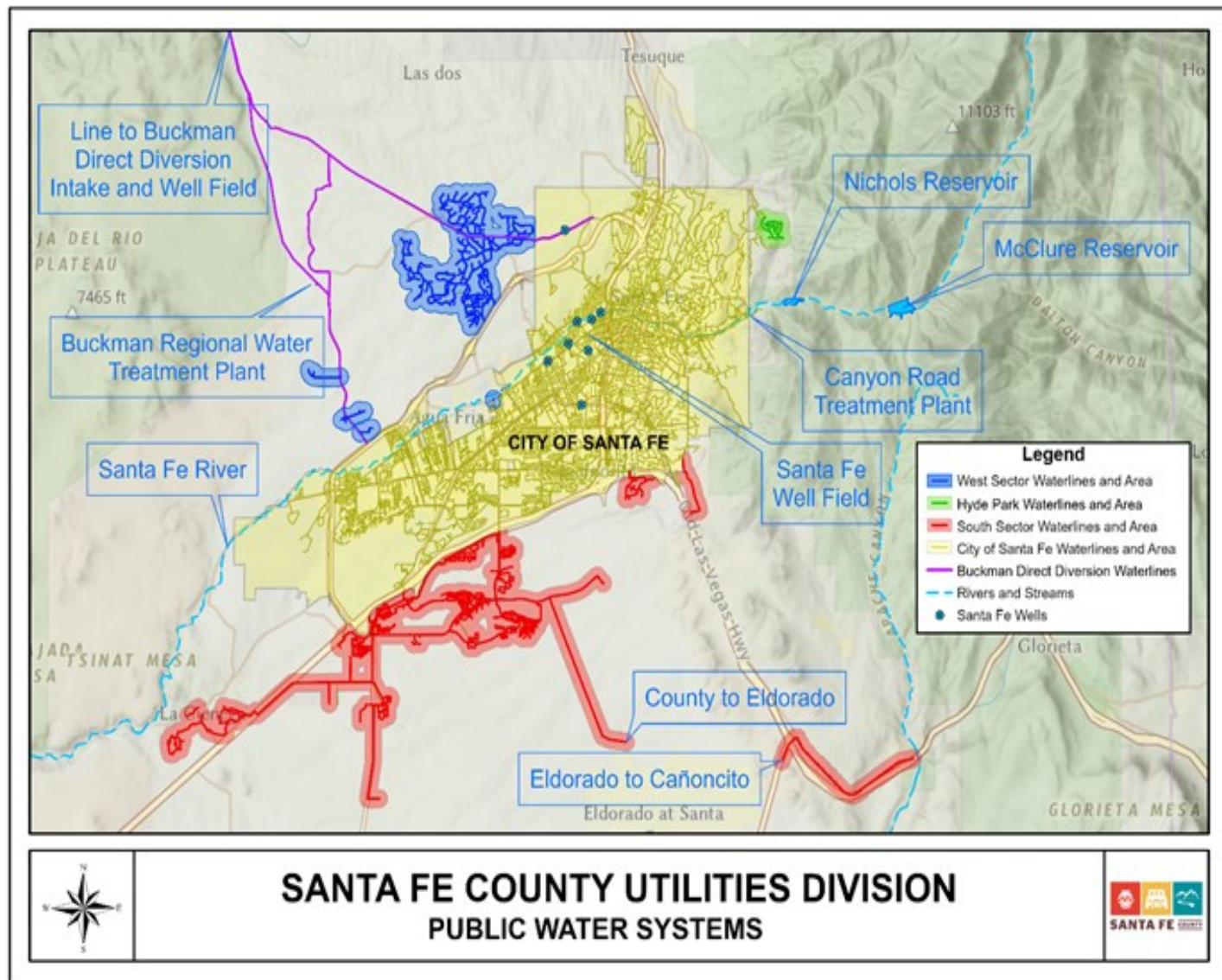
As required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, water quality sampling and analysis are conducted to ensure drinking water quality meets standards. The City is required to test for over 80 contaminants, and the vast majority of these contaminants were not found above detection limits. Table 1 on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

- shows the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and/or Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) that are regulated, and;

- what were detected in testing conducted by the City, Buckman Regional Water Treatment Plant and the New Mexico Environment Department.

Table 1 includes only those analytes found above detection limits during 2023 sampling, or during sampling in previous years if not analyzed during 2023. 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: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>



**TABLE 2—Results of Disinfection By-Product Testing for 2023**

SFC West Sector	Units	MCL	MCLG	LRAA	Range (2023)		Violation	Typical Source
					Low	High		
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb (ug/L)	60	NA	24	13.8	34.9	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb (ug/L)	80	NA	65	46.5	78.5	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

**TABLE 3—Results of Disinfectant Residual Testing for 2023**

SFC West Sector	Units	MRDL	MRDLG	Range (2023)		Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High		
Chlorine Residual	ppm (mg/L)	4.0	4	0.7	0.9	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 2023 the highest RAA was 2.2 ug/L, which is lower than the 10 ug/L MCL (Table 4 below), indicating that the system was in compliance with bromate requirements for all of 2023.

**TABLE 4— Bromate Monitoring for 2023**

BRWTP	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average LRAA	Monthly Range (2023)		Violation	Typical Source
					Low	High		
Bromate	ppb (ug/L)	10	zero	2.0	1.83	2.2	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 on 9/28/2021. 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 2024 during the period between June 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> and analyzed for lead and copper and the results of those samples will be reported in our 2024 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>

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 house plumbing. SFCU is responsible for providing high quality drinking

**TABLE 5—Results of Lead and Copper Testing for 2021 (Next Analysis 2024)**

SFC West Sector	Units	MCL	MCLG	Your Water (90th percentile)	No. of Samples Exceeding the AL	Sample Dates	Violation	Typical Source
Copper	ppm (mg/L)	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.21	0 of 10	9/28/2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits, corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	ppb (ug/L)	AL = 15	0	1.7	0 of 10	9/28/2021	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

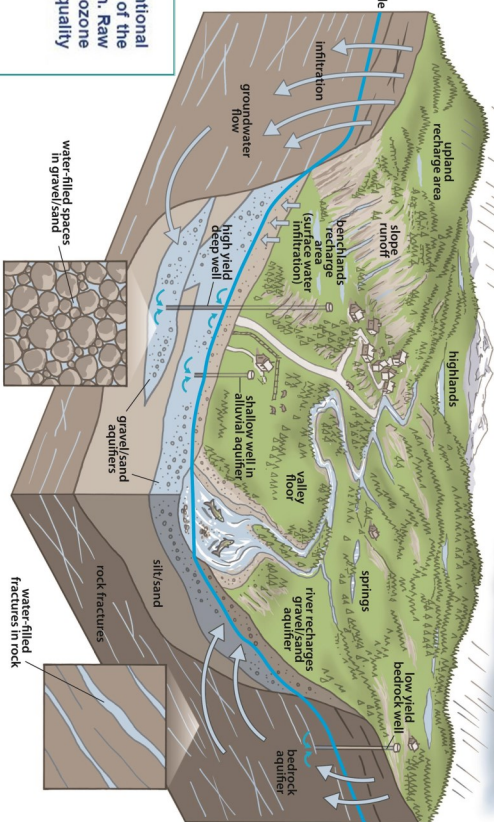
Santa Fe County shares ground and surface water supply sources with the City of Santa Fe. These sources are:

- 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.



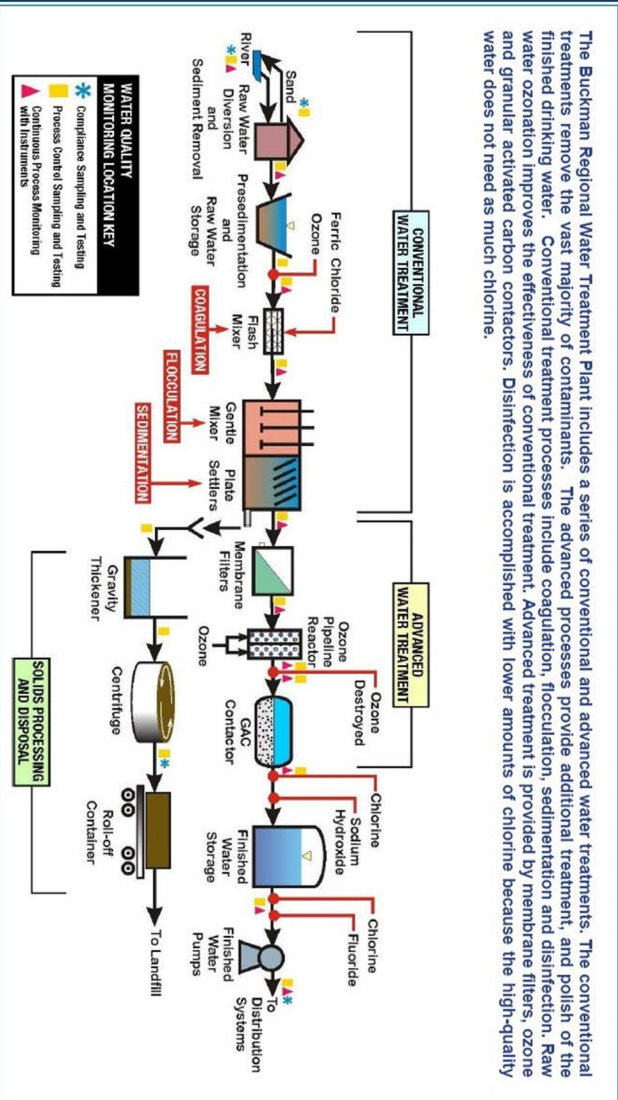
Raw surface water is diverted from the Rio Grande through an intake structure and is conveyed by an 11 mile pipeline to the Buckman Regional Water Treatment Plant where it is treated through an advanced treatment process.



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.

measured in 2023 - 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 5.4 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 total haloacetic acids (HAA5), which can form in water through disinfectants (e.g. chlorine) used to control microbial pathogens. In 2023, the West Sector had one compliance sampling location for TTHM and one compliance location for HAA5. These locations were 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 2023, sampling was performed at 9 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 water supply met this standard throughout 2023 (please see Table 1, pages 4&5, of this document for the levels of arsenic

**TABLE 1—2023 Santa Fe County West Sector Water Quality, Regulated Compliance Monitoring**

Contaminant	Units	MCL	MCLG	City Well Field <sup>a</sup>	Sample Year	10 MG Tank <sup>b</sup>	Sample Year	Canyon Rd. WTP	Sample Year	Buckman RWTP	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants<sup>c</sup> (VOCs)</b>													
Dichloromethane	ppb	5	0	ND	2020	0.7 (0-1.3)	2020	ND	2023	ND	2023	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	2023	ND	2023	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	0.025	2020	0.006	2023	0.048	2023	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	2023	0.3	2023	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 (0.52 - 5.4)	2023	0.51	2023	ND	2023	ND	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion from natural deposits
Selenium	ppm	0.05	0.05	0.004 (ND - 0.004)	2020	ND	2020	ND	2023	ND	2023	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
<b>Radionuclide Contaminants<sup>c</sup></b>													
Gross Alpha Emitters <sup>d</sup>	pCi/L	15	0	0.9	2020	0.9	2020	ND	2020	0.9	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta/Photon Emitters	pCi/L	50 <sup>e</sup>	NA	1.2	2020	2.8	2020	ND	2020	3.9	2021	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Combined Radium 226/228	pCi/L	5	0	0.67	2020	0.04	2020	0.08	2020	0.03	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	ppb	30	0	1	2020	2	2020	ND	2020	2	2021	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	0.31	2023	.09	2023	No	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly % meeting limits)	NTU	TT = % <0.3 NTU	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	100%	2023	100%	2023	No	Soil Runoff
Total Organic Carbon (removal ratio)	NA	TT <sup>f</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.25 <sup>g</sup> (1.25 - 1.32)	2023	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Notes:</b> a. City wellfield: Torreon, St. Michaels, Agua Fria, Osage, Alto & Ferguson. b. Buckman Well 1-13 and Northwest Well. c. The Range represents the highest and lowest values within Compliance. d. Gross Alpha Emitters excluding Radon and Uranium. e. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles. f. Alternative compliance criteria used to meet TOC removal requirements (running annual average of TOC removal ratio must be >1 each month) g. Minimum monthly running annual average (RAA) of TOC removal ratio for each month during 2023. The monthly ratio must not be less than 1.0 in accordance with 40 CFR 141.135								<b>Key to Units, Terms and Abbreviations</b> 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). µg/L: Number of micrograms of substance per liter of water. mg/L: Number of milligrams of substance per liter of water. TT: A Treatment Technique standard was set instead of an Maximum Contaminant Level.				<b>Monitoring and Reporting of Compliance Data Violations:</b> In 2023, there were no monitoring or reporting violations for the SFC West Sector, Public Water System.	