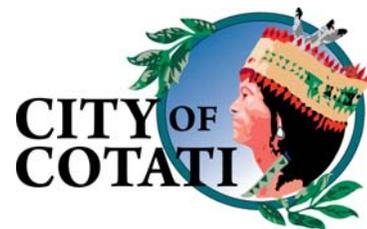


# 2021 Water Quality Report

Water System 4910016



*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

## Your Drinking Water Sources and Treatment

The City of Cotati's (Cotati) drinking water is supplied by Sonoma Water and three local groundwater wells owned by Cotati.

Sonoma Water water owns and operates two Reservoirs: Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma. The Russian River and Eel

quired treatment is for bacterial and pathogen disinfection and pH adjustment. To accomplish this, Sonoma Water treats the water with chlorine for disinfection, and sodium hydroxide to adjust the pH before it is delivered to the various water districts and cities, including Cotati.

The pH adjustment is necessary to comply with federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations on the copper content in drinking water. Raising the pH helps minimize the leaching of copper and other metals from interior home plumbing, which extends the life of piping and also prevents elevated levels of copper in the wastewater, which is expensive to treat.

Cotati receives water from Sonoma Water through two connections to it's transmission pipeline, commonly referred to as the aqueduct, which extends through the city.

In addition to Sonoma Water, Cotati has three groundwater wells within the city limits that it owns and operates. In 2021, approximately 41 percent of the drinking water in Cotati came from the city's groundwater wells. This is 5 percent higher than the prior year as the City increased pumping in response to a requirement to reduce Sonoma Water deliveries by 20 percent from 2020 due to the drought.

Wells 1A and 3 have elevated manganese and iron levels in the raw (untreated water). Both of these com-

pounds are naturally occurring in the groundwater. However, they are of aesthetic concern because they can cause taste, odor and staining issues if left untreated. To address this, Cotati treats the raw water from Wells 1A and 3 by filtering the water. This process reduces the levels in the finished water so that they are no longer an aesthetic concern.

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River watersheds supply the water to fill these reservoirs. The water is released from the reservoirs for environmental, agricultural and urban uses using the Russian River for conveyance. The water is filtered by the sand and gravel beds beneath the river, and the natural filtration removes organic material and turbidity, leaving highly filtered drinking water for over 600,000 residents of Sonoma and Marin counties. The only re-



- Switch to water-saving plants
- Use mulch to retain soil moisture

### Definitions

These terms are used in the table on the following page.

**AL:** Regulatory Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**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 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. Environmental Protection Agency.

**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.

**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 Environmental Protection Agency.

**PDWS:** Primary Drinking Water Standard. MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring, reporting and treatment requirements.

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

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter.

**mg/l:** Milligrams per liter or ppm.

**ug/l:** Micrograms per liter or ppb.

**TON:** Threshold Odor Number.

**uS/cm:** Microsiemens per centimeter.

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

**ND:** Not Detected.

## Water Conservation

Our region is in the third year of drought and short-term as well as long term conservation is important. Water is a precious and limited resource that will continue to come under increasing pressure to meet a variety of competing needs, including a growing population, recreation, agriculture, and preserving our aquatic ecosystems. In addition, it is becoming clear climate change results in fewer but more intense rainfall events and is having a very disruptive impact on our water supply. Please go to the City's website for current information on the drought and the City, regional, and State-wide response.

The City has advanced metering instruments (AMI) and, to help its customers monitor their own water use, hourly water use data and leak alerts are available. **To sign up for this service, please go to <https://cotati.waterinsight.com/index.php/welcome>**

**Sign up for water alerts**

**LEARN MORE**



### Conservation Programs!

Want to save water and money? Sign-up to receive a check for switching your lawn to a drought-tolerant landscape. Visit <http://www.cotaticity.org/> to learn about Cotati's many great options for water conservation. Conservation rebates and water saving tips are located by selecting "Residential Services" then "Water and Sewer Services" then "Water Conservation."

TABLE OF DETECTED CONSTITUENTS <sup>a</sup>

Constituent	Unit	PHG	MCL	SCWA			City of Cotati Wells	
				Range Detected	Average <sup>b</sup>	Range Detected	Average <sup>b</sup>	
<b>Primary Health Standards (Regulated Constituents with Primary MCLs or MRDLs)</b>								
<b>Disinfection Byproducts <sup>c</sup></b>								
Total Trihalomethanes	ug/l	-	80	3.2 - 13	6.6	10-19	14.5	
Haloacetic Acids	ug/l	-	60	5.1 - 7.5	5.9	3.4-3.6	3.5	
<b>Inorganic</b>								
Arsenic	ug/l	0.004	10	<2	<2	<2-2.7	1.4	
Barium	mg/l	2	1	<0.1	<0.1	0.12-.23	0.19	
Fluoride	mg/l	1	2	<0.1 - 0.1	<0.1	0	0.25	
<b>Nitrate/Nitrite</b>								
Nitrate (as N)	mg/l	10	10	<0.4	<0.4	<0.4-0.62	0.38	
<b>Lead/Copper Rules</b>								
<i>Collected at customers tap</i>								
<i>Samples collected = 23</i>								
<i>Samples exceeding AL = 0</i>								
				90th percentile level detected			90th percentile level detected	
Copper	mg/l	0.3	1.0 (AL)	<0.05	-	<0.05	<0.050 - 0.72	0.11
Lead	ug/l	0.2	15 (AL)	<5.0	-	<5.0	<0.0050	
Trichloropropane	ug/l	0.0007	0.005	ND	ND	ND	ND	
<b>Secondary Aesthetic Standards (Regulated Constituents with Secondary MCLs)</b>								
Chloride	mg/l	-	500	5.5 - 11.0	6.7	48 - 62	55	
Color	Units	-	15	<3.0 - 4.0	<3.0	5	5	
Iron	ug/l	-	300	<100	<100	<100 - 380	61	
Manganese	ug/l	-	50	<20	<20	<20	<20	
Odor - Threshold	TON	-	3	<1	<1	<1.0	<1.0	
Specific Conductance	uS/crr	-	1600	210 - 260	230	450 - 480	465	
Sulfate	mg/l	-	500	11 - 17	13.0	8.4 - 33.0	20.7	
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	-	1000	130 - 160	148	310	310	
Turbidity	NTU	-	5	0.019 - 2.0	0.031	0.1 - 0.20	0.15	
<b>Additional Unregulated Constituents</b>								
Bicarbonate as HCO <sub>3</sub>	mg/l	-	-	93 - 110	106	150 - 180	170	
Calcium	mg/l	-	-	19 - 25	22	20 - 44	32	

## Source Water Assessment

All community drinking water systems are required to have source water assessments conducted to evaluate vulnerability to contamination. In March of 2003, the California Department of Health Services conducted a source water assessment of Cotati's groundwater wells. No contamination has ever been found, but the assessment identified the following vulnerabilities to potential sources of contamination:

- **Well 1A:** Considered most vulnerable to potential leakage from sewer collection systems and confirmed leaking underground storage tanks.
- **Well 2:** Considered most vulnerable to potential leakage from sewer collection systems.
- **Well 3:** Considered most vulnerable to confirmed leaking underground storage tanks.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at:

Drinking Water Field Operations Branch  
50 D Street, Suite 200  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

You may also view a summary of the assessment at:

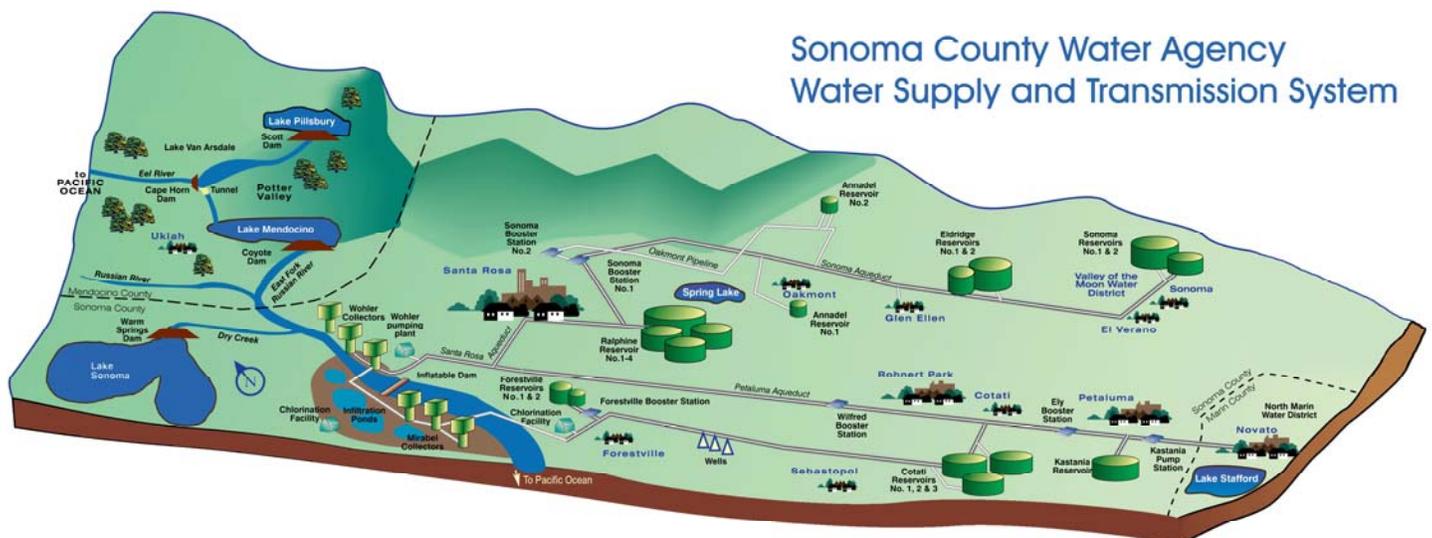
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/DWSAP.aspx>

## Water Supply Update

As this goes to print, Lake Sonoma is exactly where it was this time last year and Lake Mendocino is about 14 thousand acre-feet above where it was this time last year. The early storm in October, another storm in December and mild weather and even some rainfall in April and May have all helped with the water supply situation for the Russian River watershed as well as ongoing water conservation. A recent drought resiliency study conducted by Sonoma Water states these storms had a significant impact on reducing the region’s vulnerability to water shortages this summer. Regarding State regulations, this summer looks to be a carbon copy of last year with a call for a twenty percent reduction in Sonoma Water deliveries compared to 2020. Last year, Cotati exceeded the 20 percent reduction goal with a combination of increased groundwater pumping and a 10 percent reduction in water use by its customers. Last year the City imposed a 20 percent voluntary conservation stage and intends to keep it in place unless required by the State to have mandatory restrictions. Urban customers continue to lock in long term water saving measures with a 38 percent reduction in per capita water use, from 160 to 100 gallons per person per day, from 1997 to the present day. This represents a significant permanent efficient use of water that urban customers continue to improve upon.

The trend for increased water use efficiency is to continue with further refining new development standards, conjunctive use of water, and exploring ways to utilize alternative water sources, such as rainwater, greywater, and reclaimed water. Conjunctive use is the use of surface water in the winter when it’s available and use of groundwater in the summer when surface water needs to be preserved. The recently formed Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) has submitted a 20 year Groundwater Sustainability Plan to the State with measures identified to maintain the sustainable operations of the basin. Although initially funded by primarily municipalities, the GSA has imposed groundwater regulatory fees on groundwater users and is implementing it’s plan to remain sustainable. For more information on the GSA, including the makeup of the Board and Advisory Committee, please visit [santarosaplainingroundwater.org](http://santarosaplainingroundwater.org).

The City is here to help our customers better understand and have confidence in our water supply, and reduce water waste. If you have any questions or comments about the City’s water supply, please call the City at 665.3638. It is important to remember the water supply situation across the State is dependent on specific water system circumstances, and the Russian River watershed is largely independent from the rest of the State. Please stay tuned for information and water saving directives from your local water supplier.



## Description and Origin of Drinking Water Contaminants

*This Information Applies to All Sources of Drinking 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, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that 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, that 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, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Department of Health Services (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800.426.4791) or find it on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-information>.

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. The City 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 drinking 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## 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. Guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants, prepared by USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC), are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800.426.4791).

**Mayor**

Mark Landman

**Vice-Mayor**

Susan Harvey

**Council Members**

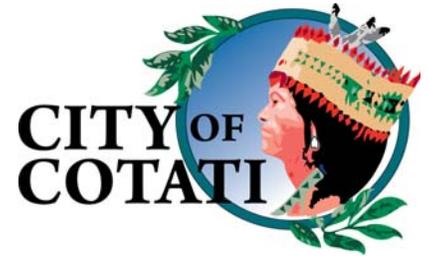
Ben Ford

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**City Manager**

Damien O'Bid



**2021 Water Quality Report**

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## How to Participate

To participate in decisions about your water system, you can attend the City Council meetings, which occur on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers at 201 West Sierra Avenue, Cotati.

For more information about this report or for other questions about your water, please contact Craig Scott, Director of Public Works/City Engineer at 665.3620.