

# COOS BAY-NORTH BEND WATER BOARD

## 2023 Consumer Confidence Report

We are pleased to present the 2023 Consumer Confidence Water Quality 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. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed consumers are important to our success.

### Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board is once again proud to report that our system met all water quality standards for 2023.

### Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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/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 Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

### Where does my water come from?

There are two surface water reservoirs upstream from the Pony Creek Treatment Plant, Upper Pony Creek and Merritt Reservoirs. The larger Upper Pony Creek Reservoir can hold 2 billion gallons of water; and Merritt Reservoir can hold 125 million gallons. A third source of surface water is the Joe Ney Reservoir which can store another 90 million gallons.



Merritt Lake

The Water Board also has the use of a ground water source in the Dunes National Recreation Area in the way of 19 wells. These wells can produce untreated water for industrial needs or up to 1 million gallons per day of treated water for municipal use.

### Source water assessment and its availability

A Source Water Assessment was completed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Department of Health Services to identify the land surface areas (and or subsurface areas) that supply water

to Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board's Pony Creek system. The study also inventoried the potential contaminant sources that may impact the water supply. The study can be reviewed by those interested at the Coos Bay Public Library, North Bend Public Library, or the Water Board Office.



Spillway at Upper Pony Creek

### How can I get involved?

The Directors of the Water Board regularly meet the first and third Thursday of every month. The meetings are held in the Board Room at 2305 Ocean Boulevard at 7:00 am and the public is invited to attend.

**For more information call  
Reshma Parrish at 541-267-3128 or  
visit our website at [www.cbnbh2o.com](http://www.cbnbh2o.com)**

DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS								
(There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Contaminants	MCLG / MRDLG	MCL, TT, MRDL	Your Water Average	Your Water Range High   Low		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (PPB)	N/A	80	27	29	24	2023	No	Disinfection by-product
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (PPB)	N/A	60	18	21	16	2023	No	Disinfection by-product
Total Organic Carbon (PPM)	N/A	TT	1.72	2.3	1.4	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Chlorine Residual Annual Average (PPM)	4	4	2.7	3.6	2.1	2023	No	Used to disinfect water
LRAA for TTHMs = 31 PPB, LRAA for Haloacetic Acids = 21 PPB								
LRAA is the highest running annual average or the highest calculated annual average at a single location.								
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS								
Contaminants	MCLG / MRDLG	MCL, TT, MRDL	Your Water Average	Sample Date		Violation	Typical Source	
Fluoride (PPM)	4	4	0.71	2019		NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Nitrate (PPM)	10	10	0.40	2023		NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water Average	Sample Date		AL Violated		Typical Source
Lead- at consumer taps (PPM)	0	0.015	0.005	2023		NO		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper- at consumer taps (PPM)	1.3	1.3	0.100	2023		NO		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS								
Contaminants	MCLG / MRDLG	MCL, TT, MRDL	Your Water Average	Your Water Range High   Low		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Turbidity [recorded daily] (NTU)	N/A	TT=<0.3 NTU 95% of the time	0.04	0.09	0.02	2023	NO	Soil runoff
Total Coliform (% positive/month)	0	5% in any month	0 out of 480 samples collected in 2023	N/A	N/A	2023	NO	Naturally present in the environment

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING

In 2015 and 2018 Coos Bay - North Bend Water Board conducted monitoring for unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that do not yet have a drinking water standard set by USEPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. Results from our testing are in the table below.

### \*UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS (UCMR)

Contaminants	MCLG / MRDLG	MCL, TT, MRDL	Your Water Average	Your Water Range High   Low		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Chlorate (PPM)	N/A	N/A	0.038	0.040	0.035	2015	NO	Disinfection by-product
Strontium (PPM)	N/A	N/A	0.034	0.040	0.027	2015	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese (PPM)	N/A	N/A	0.013	0.018	0.007	2018	NO	Erosion of natural deposits

Currently, Coos Bay - North Bend Water Board is participating in UCMR 5 testing for PFAS or Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Results will be available in the 2024 Consumer Confidence Report.



Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.
% positive samples/month	% positive samples/month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	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 allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level



## Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 in drinking water sources may include:

- ✚ Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wildlife or septic systems.
- ✚ Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, and farming.
- ✚ Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as farming and forestry activities, stormwater runoff, and home or business uses.
- ✚ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes, and also can come from gas station, stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- ✚ Radioactive contaminants can occur naturally or can 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.



Upper Pony Creek Reservoir

### Additional information for Lead

The U.S. EPA requires all water providers to include in this report important language about lead, regardless of levels occurring in water samples:

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.

Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board cannot control the variety of material used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting in your plumbing for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for two 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 at **[www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)**.

## **Long term enhanced surface water treatment rule**

Beginning in October 2016, the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board has participated in the long term 2 enhanced surface water treatment rule as required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

## **What is the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule?**

The purpose of the long term 2 enhanced surface water treatment rule or LT2ESWTR is to reduce illness associated with the contaminant cryptosporidium and other pathogenic microorganisms that can be found in drinking water. The LT2ESWTR supplements existing regulations by targeting additional cryptosporidium treatment requirements.

## **What are the health risks of cryptosporidium?**

Cryptosporidium can contaminate most surface waters used as drinking water sources; it is resistant to chlorine and other disinfectants. Consuming water with cryptosporidium can cause gastrointestinal illness, which may be severe and even sometimes fatal for people with weakened immune systems including infants, the elderly, and people who have AIDS.

## **Who must comply with this rule?**

This rule applies to all public water systems that use surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water.

## **Requirements of the rule**

Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board concluded the first round of LT2ESWTR in 2011, a second round of monitoring began in 2016. Monitoring requires collection of a source water sample that is tested for cryptosporidium on a monthly basis for two years.

## **Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board cryptosporidium results**

The duration of LT2ESWTR testing was from October 2016 to September 2018. Cryptosporidium was not detected in our routine monthly sampling.



### Water conservation tips

Did you know that the average bay area household uses 4,500 gallons of water per month? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference.

- ✚ Take short showers – a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons of water for a bath.
- ✚ Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- ✚ Use a water efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive, and easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- ✚ Water plants only when necessary.
- ✚ Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Fixing or replacing leaky toilets or faucets with a new more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons.
- ✚ 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.

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



This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water. Please call (541) 267-3128 or email Reshma Parrish at [reshma\\_parrish@cbnbh2o.com](mailto:reshma_parrish@cbnbh2o.com) if you would like a paper copy of this report delivered to your home.

Este informe contiene información importante sobre el origen y la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor llame al (541) 267-3128 o Reshma Parrish en un correo electrónico a: [reshma\\_parrish@cbnbh2o.com](mailto:reshma_parrish@cbnbh2o.com) si desea una copia impresa de este informe, entregado a su hogar.