

runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

3). Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

4). Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, that can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.

5). Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Groundwater from OWS wells contains manganese, a naturally occurring metal which is removed through oxidation and filtration at the OWS Treatment Plant. Manganese was not detected in the filter-effluent during 2022. Lake Casitas has no industrial water runoff and limited urban runoff as few residents still live in the immediate watershed. There is no oil or gas production in our watershed and one rock quarry mine is located in the indirect watershed upstream of the Robles Diversion Canal. Radiological monitoring results for OWS and CMWD sources are below the reporting detection limit.

### Fluoride

Fluoride is not added to the water, but there is some naturally-occurring fluoride in the water. This level was tested at an average of 0.3 mg/L for OWS sources and 0.4 mg/L for CMWD sources during 2022. For more information on fluoride, check the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water's Fluoridation website for information on fluoridation, oral health, and current issues: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml)

### Chlorine/Chloramine Disinfection

All public drinking water must be disinfected to prevent water-borne diseases. The OWS is disinfected through the use of chlorine, while the CMWD water is disinfected by adding chlorine and a small amount of ammonia to form chloramines. The OWS is normally chlorinated, but there may be some occasions when water is fed to the OWS from the CMWD source and is chloraminated. Chloramine disinfection is approved by the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Many United States and Canadian cities have used chloramines for decades to disinfect water. Chloramines reduce the level of unwanted disinfection by-products in our water. Disinfection by-products are formed when chlorine mixes with naturally occurring organic material in water. Currently, regulated disinfection by-products include trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. Chloramines limit the continued formation of these by-products, and chloraminated water has less of a chlorine taste and odor than chlorinated water.

Chloramines do not pose a health hazard to the general population. Chloraminated water is safe for drinking, bathing, cooking and other normal uses. Two specific groups of people, however, do need to take special care with chloraminated water - kidney dialysis patients and tropical fish hobbyists.

Kidney patients are not harmed from drinking, cooking or bathing in chloraminated water. However, there is a problem that needs to be addressed for individuals who are undergoing dialysis treatment on artificial kidney machines. Chloramines must not be present in the water used in dialysis machines. Chloramines can be removed through a filtration system.

Chloramines are toxic to fish and other animals that use

gills to breathe. It is necessary to dechlorinate water used for aquariums and fishponds. The use of a filter system or a dechlorinating agent sold at most pet stores is recommended for fresh and saltwater aquariums and fishponds. Another option is to install a high-quality granular activated carbon (GAC) filter in your home. Contact your local pet store or fish shop for additional assistance.

Chloramines will not affect the chlorine balance in your backyard swimming pool. You still need to add chlorine to retard algae and bacterial growth. Chloramines have no effect on plants, vegetables or fruit trees. For more information on chloramines visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/chloramines-drinking-water>

### Lead and Copper

The latest results from OWS lead and copper testing were below the action levels. CMWD adds a small amount of phosphate to the water from the Lake Casitas source to lower the corrosivity and reduce copper levels, as part of our Corrosion Control plan. 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. CMWD/OWS is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in private 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. Elevated levels of copper can occur when corrosive water causes leaching of copper plumbing.

Additionally, as part of the school lead testing program, four schools in the OWS service area were tested for lead in 2017 and the schools were provided with the testing results.

### Nitrate

Nitrate results from OWS source groundwater and treated water ranged from 4.4 – 6.2 mg/L in 2022. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

### Important Health Information

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. USEPA/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 at 1-800-426-4791.



# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

CMWD's "Ojai Water System"  
ID# CA5610014, 2022 Data

## High Water Quality Standards

Casitas Municipal Water District's (CMWD) Ojai Water System (OWS), strives to meet, or exceed, all USEPA and state standards for safe water. To ensure that you receive the highest quality drinking water, we test beyond what state and federal regulations mandate. This report shows the results of monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2022, which is the most recent testing period required.

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Para más información llame por favor 805-649-2251.**

## How to Get Involved

Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month at the Casitas MWD main office, 1055 Ventura Ave, Oak View, CA 93022. The public open session begins at 5:00 PM. Please refer to meeting agendas for current information on how to participate: [www.casitaswater.org/about-us/board-of-directors](http://www.casitaswater.org/about-us/board-of-directors). For additional details on the subjects outlined here, important updates and notices, and for more information about Casitas Municipal Water District, visit us at our website: [www.casitaswater.org](http://www.casitaswater.org), or call Jordan Switzer, Water Quality Supervisor, at 805-649-2251 Ext. 120.

## Ensuring Tap Water Is Safe to Drink

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration Regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably 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 (1-800-426-4791). Additional information on bottled water is available on California Department of Public Health's website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/Pages/FDBPrograms/FoodSafetyProgram/Water.aspx>

## Do You Know the Source of Your Water?

There are nine potential sources of water for Ojai Water System (OWS). Groundwater is pumped from the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin through seven wells located in the town of Ojai. One new well was added as an approved source for the Ojai Water System in 2022. The groundwater basin is recharged from a collection of local drainage basins, streams and creeks, as well as percolation from rain, agriculture, and domestic use. The water system periodically supplements supplies with treated water from CMWD.

CMWD water is a blend of ground water and surface water. The surface water comes from Lake Casitas, located near the junction of Highway 150 and Santa Ana Road. The ground water is drawn from the Mira Monte Well, located in Mira Monte. Most of the watershed is federally protected to limit contamination of the lake. For additional protection the watershed is inspected on a regular basis.

The OWS groundwater well sources are considered most vulnerable to one or more of the following possible contaminating activities: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/waste discharge requirements-permitted discharges; low density septic systems; agricultural and irrigation wells. Contaminants associated with these activities have not been detected in the water supply.

The 2021 Watershed Sanitary Survey Update concluded the Lake Casitas Watershed, while protected, is most vulnerable to the following: Wildfire & erosion, sediment transport, unauthorized activities (e.g. illegal dumping & marijuana cultivation), and hazardous spills from boating or traffic accidents. There have not been any associated contaminants detected in exceedance of USEPA or State standards in the water supply, however, the lake is still vulnerable to activities located near this major source of our drinking water. Additional potential sources of contaminants include private sewage disposal systems, livestock and wildlife grazing, limited pesticide and herbicide use, recreational activities and natural gas pipelines.

The CMWD Mira Monte well is considered to be most vulnerable to the use of fertilizers and animal grazing, which raise nitrate levels in the water. In addition, the Mira Monte Well may be vulnerable to activities associated with an urban environment. However, these activities have not resulted in contamination of the well.

For more information, you may review the 2013 and 2022 Source Water Assessments for the seven groundwater wells serving the OWS. For the CMWD sources, the 2021 Watershed Sanitary Survey Update, and the 2002 Mira Monte Well Drinking Water Source Assessment are also available upon request by contacting Jordan Switzer at 805-649-2251 Ext. 120.

## Influences on Your Water Quality

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 human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

1). Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

2). Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater

*Continued on page 4 >*

# Ojai Water System, PWS CA5610014 - Water Quality Summary, 2022 Data

## TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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.

**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 are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the 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.

**Running Annual Average (RAA):** Some MCL's are determined based on the running annual average which is calculated by averaging all sample results within the previous four quarters. Locational running annual average includes results averaged over the previous four quarters for a specific sample site.

**Notification Level (NL):** Health based advisory levels established by the State Board for chemicals in drinking water that lack MCLs.

**Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS):** MCLs, MRDLs and treatment techniques (TT) for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements.

**Public Health Goal (PHG):** 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.

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

**Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS):** MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

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

## Key To Table (ACRONYMS)

NA = Not Applicable or Available  
 ND = None Detected at or above the limits of detection for reporting purposes  
 NL = Notification Level  
 NS = No Sample  
 NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of turbidity)  
 ppm = Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)  
 ppb = Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)  
 RAA = Running Annual Average  
 uS/cm = Micro Siemens per Centimeter (a measure of specific conductance)  
 gpg = Grains per gallon, an alternative unit used to measure hardness  
 US EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency  
 OWS = Ojai Water System  
 CMWD = Casitas Municipal Water District

## Water Quality Table Footnotes:

- Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is a good measure of water quality and filtration performance; 100% of the samples tested for turbidity were below the required TT level of 0.2 NTU and 100% is the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits.
- For systems collecting fewer than 40 samples per month: Two or more total-coliform positive monthly samples is a treatment technique trigger. During 2022, 156 routine distribution system samples for total coliform bacteria testing under the Revised Total Coliform Rule. Total coliform bacteria were not detected in any of these samples.
- Based on the Revised Total Coliform Rule, an E-Coli MCL violation occurs when 1) a routine and associated repeat sample(s) are total coliform-positive and either is E. coli-positive, 2) the system fails to take repeat samples following an E. coli-positive routine sample, or 3) the system fails to analyze a total coliform-positive repeat sample for E. coli. The Ojai Water System did not have any E. coli MCL violations during 2022.
- Highly running annual average and locational running annual averages are used to calculate the MCL / MRDL and include sample results from a previous reporting period, whereas range only includes individual sample results in 2022.
- Water from Casitas Municipal Water District has a small amount of phosphate added to lower corrosivity and reduce copper levels.
- One sample location had an initial detection above the RAL, the location was removed from service, repaired and resampled with a non-detect result.
- The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of these data, though representative, are more than one year old.
- Casitas Municipal Water District source is a blend of treated surface water (Lake Casitas) and groundwater (Mira Monte Well). Samples are representative of blended sample results.
- Mira Monte Well water receives blending treatment with lake Casitas water and when operated, blended water is sampled weekly for nitrates with the resulting nitrate level averaging 0.7 ppm as nitrogen in 2022.

WATER CLARITY	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG. (MCLG)	LAKE CASITAS TREATED WATER				SAMPLE SOURCE & YEAR TESTED		SOURCE OF CONSTITUENT
			FILTER EFFLUENT		RANGE		Filter Effluent		
Direct Filtration	Treatment technique (TT)	NA	Highest Value = 0.07		0.01-0.07		2022		Soil runoff
Filter Effluent Turbidity <sup>a</sup> (NTU)	TT < 1 NTU	NA	100% of turbidity measurements were < 0.2 NTU				2022		
	95% < 0.2 NTU	NA	100% = lowest monthly % of samples meeting turbidity limits				2022		
OWS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM									
MICROBIOLOGICAL	MCL	(MCLG)	HIGHEST POSITIVE SAMPLES		NUMBER OF MONTHS IN VIOLATION		Distribution System		
Total Coliform Bacteria <sup>b</sup>	(More than 1 positive per month) <sup>b</sup>	(0)	0 / Month		0		2022		Naturally present in the environment
E. Coli <sup>c</sup>	Revised Total Coliform Rule: E. coli MCL <sup>c</sup>	(0)	0 / Year		0		2022		Human and Animal Fecal Waste
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	MCL	PHG, (MCLG)	OJAI WATER SYSTEM		CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM <sup>h</sup>		OWS	CMWD	
			AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE			
Barium (ppm)	1	2	ND	NA	0.11	NA	2022	2022	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	50	(100)	12	NA	ND	NA	2022	2022	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2	1	0.3	NA	0.4	NA	2022	2022	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate as N (ppm)	10	10	5.3	4.4 - 6.2	0.7 <sup>i</sup>	0.5 - 0.8 <sup>i</sup>	2022	2022	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from tanks and sewerage; erosion from natural products
DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS	RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE (RAA) MCL OR [MRDL]	PHG or [MRDLG]	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM				Distribution System		
			HIGHEST [RAA]/LOCATIONAL RAA		INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE RANGE				
Chlorine as Cl <sub>2</sub> (ppm)	[4.0]	[4.0]	[1.2] <sup>d</sup>		0.4 - 1.9		2022		Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	NA	49 <sup>d</sup>		6 - 70		2022		By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic acids (ppb)	60	NA	26 <sup>d</sup>		0 - 53		2022		By-product of drinking water disinfection
LEAD AND COPPER	Regulatory Action Level (RAL)	PHG	# of samples collected	Homes above RAL	Level detected at 90th percentile		Individual Taps <sup>g</sup>		
Lead (ppb) <sup>e</sup>	15	0.2	21	0	ND		2020		Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural products
Copper (ppm) <sup>e</sup>	1.3	0.3	21	0	0.4		2020		Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead School (ppb)	15	0.2	Number of schools requesting lead sampling = 4; Sample locations = 15; Locations above RAL = 0 <sup>f</sup>				2017		Internal corrosion of end-user plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural products

## Secondary Aesthetic Standards

CONSTITUENTS	State MCL	PHG	OJAI WATER SYSTEM TREATED		CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT <sup>h</sup>		Year Tested		SOURCE OF CONSTITUENT
			AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	OWS	CMWD	
Apparent Color (color units)	15	NA	ND	NA	5	NA	2022	2022	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1000	NA	670	NA	450	NA	2022	2022	Run-off/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (uS/cm)	1600	NA	1080	NA	725	NA	2022	2022	Substances that form ions in water; seawater influence
Chloride (ppm)	500	NA	58	NA	26	NA	2022	2022	Run-off/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	500	NA	216	NA	189	NA	2022	2022	Run-off/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

## Additional Constituents

ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENTS	SECONDARY MCL	PHG (NL)	OJAI WATER SYSTEM TREATED		CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT <sup>h</sup>		Year Tested		SOURCE OF CONSTITUENT
			AVERAGE	RANGE	AVERAGE	RANGE	OWS	CMWD	
Alkalinity - Total as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	NA	NA	210	NA	150	NA	2022	2022	A measure of the capacity to neutralize acid
Boron (ppb)	NA	(1000)	200	NA	200	NA	2022	2022	A measure of the capacity to neutralize acid
Calcium (ppm)	NA	NA	96	NA	68	NA	2022	2022	A naturally-occurring element
Corrosivity (Langlier Index) <sup>a</sup>	Noncorrosive (US EPA)	NA	0.20	NA	0.05	NA	2022	2022	Indicator of corrosion. A positive Langlier Index indicates the water is non-corrosive
Hardness - Total as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	NA	NA	338 (19.8 grains/gal)	NA	285 (16.6 grains/gal)	NA	2022	2022	"Hardness" is the sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium. The cations are usually naturally occurring.
Magnesium (ppm)	NA	NA	24	NA	28	NA	2022	2022	A naturally-occurring element
pH (pH standard units)	6.5-8.5 (US EPA)	NA	7.4	NA	7.5	NA	2022	2022	A measure of acidity or alkalinity
Potassium (ppm)	NA	NA	2	NA	4	NA	2022	2022	A naturally-occurring element
Sodium (ppm)	NA	NA	54	NA	34	NA	2022	2022	"Sodium" refers to the salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring.
Vanadium (ppb)	NA	(50)	4	NA	3	NA	2022	2022	A naturally-occurring element