Sunnyslope Water District

2023 Annual Water Quality Report

Your Sunnyslope Water District produces a Water Quality Report each year to share information on where your drinking water comes from, and how we treat and monitor it for quality and safety. Transparency is part of our regulatory requirements, and we welcome the opportunity to show you how we deliver reliable, high-quality water to your tap. Look inside! > > >

Este informe contiene información importante sobre el agua potable de nuestra comunidad. Traducirlo o hablar con alguien que lo entienda. Para ver esta información en español, por favor visite sunnyslopewater.org, o llame al (831) 637-4670 para obtener ayuda.

Sunnyslope water quality testing

2023 by the numbers

15,152

total tests performed

throughout our water treatment, transmission, and distribution system

105

substances tested;

all health-related contaminants detected were at trace levels, well below legal safety limits

114

locations tested

(homes, schools, treatment plants, fire hydrants, water lines, wells, pump stations, tanks, etc.)

0

Water quality violations in 2023

–and for the last 27 years for both health-related and non-health-related contaminants

Summary: Sunnyslope 2023 Water Quality report

As part of our regulatory requirements, Sunnyslope Water District produces this consumer confidence report to summarize the results of the more than 14,000 water quality tests we conduct annually. We continually test your drinking water to not only meet, but exceed all state and federal standards for quality and safety. ***Sunnyslope had no water quality violations in 2023–or at any time in the last 27 years for either primary (health-related) or secondary (aesthetic taste/smell) contaminants.*** Any health-related contaminants detected were at trace levels, well below the concentrations allowed by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for health and safety.

At Sunnyslope, we are wholeheartedly committed to providing you with safe, reliable, high-quality drinking water. We value our customers and want you to be informed. If you have any questions about this report or your water service, please call us at (831) 637-4670. To view comprehensive water testing results, please visit sunnyslopewater.org. You may also contact the USEPA for information about contaminants, health effects, and the Safe Drinking Water Act at water.epa.gov/drink, or call their Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

Drew Lander, P.E.
General Manager, Sunnyslope Water District

Water supply update: two wet winters bolster reservoirs

Record amounts of rain and snow across the state for the past two winters have replenished reservoirs, lessening drought impacts for now. As a result, in 2024 the Hollister urban area has received 75 percent of our imported surface water allocation for municipal and industrial uses. In 2023, municipalities received a 100 percent allocation after receiving zero percent allocation in 2022, and 25 percent in 2021. San Benito County Water District (SBCWD), our surface water wholesaler, manages the county's imported water contracts, and stores excess allocations in our local San Justo Reservoir so that we can continue providing high-quality drinking water for residents, even in dry years.

Climate change is predicted to bring hotter, dryer, and more frequent droughts, interspersed with years of wet, stormy winters. We saw this during our recent 3-year drought from 2019 to 2022, followed by atmospheric rivers and flooding for the past two years. We are actively planning water storage projects to adapt to these weather swings and ensure our future water supply.

In general, local residents have done a good job at limiting water use during the drought. Although we are not currently experiencing drought conditions, conserving water as a daily lifestyle is still vital if we are to safeguard our drinking water supply, maintain groundwater levels, repair damaged ecosystems, and meet our municipal, agricultural, and industrial water needs during future droughts. *For conservation ideas, please see back page and visit Water Resources Association San Benito County at wrasbc.org.*

Where does my water come from?

Sunnyslope water comes from two sources:

1. Imported surface water

All our surface water originates as snow or rain in the Sierra Nevada range. Runoff enters rivers that flow into the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (the largest estuary on the West Coast), and into 20 reservoirs that are part of the massive Central Valley Project (CVP). The CVP is a complex network of infrastructure that supplies drinking water to two-thirds of Californians as far south as Bakersfield, as well as millions of acres of farmland. The Delta is a crucial ecological and water resource, but its health and sustainability has degraded steadily during 175 years of nonstop human usage. State agencies, environmental groups, and researchers are seeking strategies to restore the overtaxed Delta ecosystem.

From the Delta, water runs through a canal and is pumped into the CVP's San Luis Reservoir, located near Los Banos on Highway 152. Then the water travels via the Pacheco Tunnel and Hollister Conduit to our local Lessalt and West Hills Water Treatment Plants. During normal, non-drought years, approximately 70 percent of water supplied by Sunnyslope is from the San Luis Reservoir. We depend upon this imported water to meet water quality goals and protect the Hollister groundwater supply. Imported surface water reduces demand on our North San Benito Groundwater Basin, and blending it with our local, hard well water greatly improves the quality of our drinking water supply.

Each year, water agencies like the San Benito County Water District (SBCWD) are allocated a percentage of their federally contracted surface water allotment, dependent on rain and snowfall, reservoir levels, regulations to protect water quality and wildlife, and other factors. During wet years, the SBCWD stores excess surface water in our groundwater basin and at the local San Justo Reservoir for future use. Thanks to the intense winter storms in early 2023, our region received a 100 percent surface water allocation last year, a welcome reprieve after receiving zero allocation the year before due to the 3-year drought. As a result, we were able to fill our local San Justo Reservoir and continue recharging our groundwater basin, which still shows effects from the multiple year drought.

2. Local groundwater

Sunnyslope Water District owns and operates five wells which supply approximately 30 percent of our potable water during normal, non-drought years when we receive an adequate allocation of surface water from the CVP. Groundwater is critical to get us through periods of drought, and for economic and environmental sustainability. Imported surface water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta has allowed our local groundwater basin to stabilize from historically low levels in the 1970s, putting us in a much better position than many municipalities that depend solely on surface water. However, the future availability of imported water is uncertain, so it is important that we conserve as much water as possible to maintain our underground aquifer.

Surface water that originated as snow and rain in the Sierra Nevada range flows through our local West Hills Water Treatment Plant. We depend on imported water to meet local water needs, prevent groundwater overdraft, and improve our drinking water quality.

Sunnyslope Water District
Drought Timeline

1974-77 California has driest three-year period in recorded history. Agricultural and municipal water demand causes groundwater overdraft.

1977 Residents approve funding for the San Felipe Project, a pipeline to deliver surface water to the Hollister area from the San Luis Reservoir near Los Banos.

1986 San Justo Reservoir is built three miles southwest of Hollister to store additional water from San Luis Reservoir.

1986-1992 California and the west experiences the longest drought in recorded history (to be eclipsed later).

2007-2017 10-year drought is the longest in California history. CVP reduces water allocations and mandates 20 percent reduction in water use by 2020.

2008 The local Lessalt Water Treatment Plant opens to treat imported surface water.

2014 California passes Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

2015 Statewide 25 percent reduction in water use mandated due to drought.

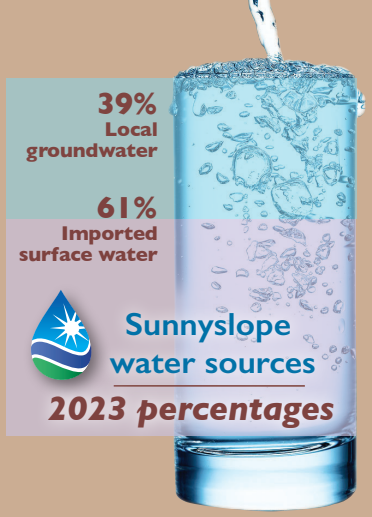
2017 Our region's second water treatment plant, West Hills, begins treating imported water.

2018 State sets more stringent water efficiency goals: reduce per person indoor daily water use to 55 gallons by 2022, and 50 gallons by 2030.

2021 Drought emergency declared. Our county's water allocation is cut by 75 percent. Stage one water restrictions are enacted.

2022 Third year of drought. We receive zero water allocation and mandatory stage two water restrictions are enacted.

2023-2024 Intense winter storms fill reservoirs and cause widespread flooding, underscoring the extreme weather swings of climate change. Water allocations return to normal and conservation mandates are rescinded; regardless, water agencies must plan for inevitable future droughts.



Plant closures impact surface water delivery

Thanks to our last two wet winters, the Hollister region received a 100 percent surface water allocation in 2023, providing needed relief after our zero allocation in 2022, and 25 percent allocation in 2021 due to drought. With this ample supply, Sunnyslope Water was able to deliver a high quality blend of 79 percent surface water and 21 percent groundwater during the 8-month May through December 2023 time period—a significantly higher average than recent non-drought years.

Unfortunately, we were unable to distribute surface water throughout the entire calendar year due to plant closures. The Lessalt Water Treatment Plant was closed for 17 months due to the drought, and reopened in February 2023. In addition, the West Hills plant had to be shut down after a tractor trailer struck a power pole on November 5, 2022, causing a freak power surge that disabled the plant through May 10, 2023.

Due to the overlapping closures, the Hollister urban area had to rely on well water for an approximate 3-month period from November into February. After Lessalt reopened on February 16 we were able to begin delivering surface water again, averaging a 50-50 blend with groundwater for the next three months until West Hills came back online. Due to the closures, our overall average ratio for 2023 was 61 percent surface water to 39 percent groundwater.

Sunnyslope took advantage of the plant closures to update equipment and perform extensive maintenance which cannot be done while the plants are running. Both plants are now operating more efficiently to utilize surface water as much as possible, delivering a very high quality drinking water supply to Hollister residents.

How is my water treated?

Highly qualified Sunnyslope Water staff continually test water throughout our entire purification and distribution system to ensure water quality and safety. We also regularly send water samples to independent offsite labs to verify our treatment processes. Certified operators at our two water treatment plants closely monitor and record every stage of treatment, and document findings over time. Sensors and instruments constantly measure water properties such as pH, oxidation, temperature, total organic carbon, and many more parameters. Sensors connected to our SCADA electronic operating system allow operators to continuously control every aspect of the plant.

At the **Lessalt Water Treatment Plant,** untreated surface water first passes through special sand filters that remove iron and manganese. Water then flows through activated carbon filters to remove microscopic organic contaminants. After that, microfilters remove remaining microscopic particles, and pH is adjusted to improve taste and prevent pipeline corrosion. As a final safety measure, we slightly chlorinate the water to eliminate any remaining bacteria and viruses.

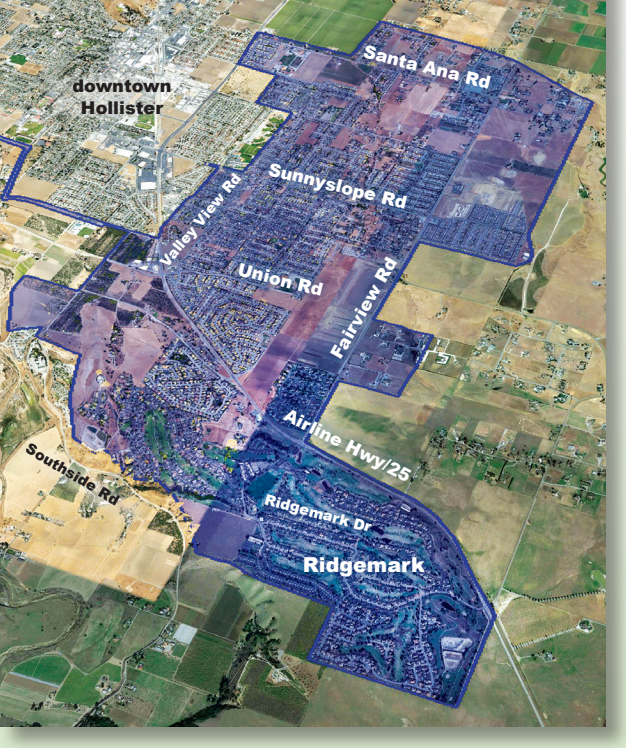
At the **West Hills Water Treatment Plant,** carbon removes microscopic organic materials in our imported surface water, which is then chemically treated to separate out particles in a settling tank. Water subsequently enters a sand filter which captures bacteria and microscopic particles. Technicians then adjust pH levels and chlorinate the water as a final safeguard.

Unlike surface water from rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, **groundwater** from Sunnyslope's five wells is naturally clean, and requires no treatment except for slight chlorination. Soil filters out pollutants as water percolates down to the aquifer. To ensure water quality, every day we perform chlorine residual tests at every well and at 15 different sampling stations throughout the distribution system. Naturally hard groundwater is blended with softer surface water to improve taste and aesthetics.

How hard is my water?

Hard water used to be an issue in the Hollister area when our water came solely from local wells, but that changed as our two local treatment plants began delivering mostly surface water imported from the San Luis Reservoir (the Lessalt plant began operating in 2008, and West Hills came online in 2017). During equipment failures, or when drought decreases or eliminates our surface water allocations, Sunnyslope has to use more groundwater to make up the deficit, which increases water hardness

Sunnyslope Maintenance Operator Adan Cervantes checks equipment accuracy at one of Sunnyslope's five wells. Our region relies on groundwater to meet our water needs, especially during drought or when our surface water treatment plants are offline.



Sunnyslope Water service area

Sunnyslope provides potable water to the eastern half of Hollister, including Ridgemark and some urban parts of San Benito County–about half the local population, or 7,500 households. We are also working to consolidate three local water providers (Tres Pinos Water District, Best Road Mutual Water Company, and the Stonegate water system) into our system by 2026, which will keep fees lower by spreading costs over more customers. Sunnyslope also supplies treated surface water to the City of Hollister Water Utility, which maintains its own distribution system and customer base.

temporarily. Thankfully, the local San Justo Reservoir provides stored surface water to mitigate water hardness during drought.

When our county receives normal surface water allocations, Sunnyslope's water hardness ranges between 150-180 ppm, or 8.7 to 10.4 grains per gallon–about the same hardness found in other water districts across California. Water hardness above 180 ppm can cause scale on faucets and appliances.

Sometimes dissolved manganese can cause water to have a slight tint. This water is perfectly safe to drink, but you can call the Sunnyslope Water office to report it and find out when the issue will be resolved. Do not waste water by trying to flush your lines, which will only bring more tinted water into your home. Check again in an hour or so and the problem should be corrected.

What causes water to have an odor, or appear tinted?

For health and safety, water treatment includes chlorination as a final step to kill any remaining bacteria and viruses. If you detect a chlorine smell and want to remove it you can let the water stand in an open container for five minutes, install an undersink filter, or use a water filter pitcher. Other unpleasant odors can come from garbage disposals or dry drain traps under unused sinks. Unplug and clean the garbage disposal, or run water to fill your drain trap. To clean drains, pour one cup of baking soda down the pipe followed by one cup of vinegar. When bubbling stops, slowly pour in boiling water.

On rare occasions, tap water can temporarily have a slight yellow or brown tint, noticeable in a white tub or sink. The color is usually from small amounts of dissolved iron and manganese, which is harmless. Water can also look tinted when pipe sediment becomes suspended during high-velocity flow. This can happen during water main flushing or firefighting activities. Tinted water is perfectly safe to drink. If you find it bothersome, please do not try to flush your lines as that will only waste water and bring more tinted water into your home. Wait an hour or so, and then check the tap closest to the main line in the street–the problem will most likely be corrected.

Water can also look cloudy or milky due to dissolved air bubbles in the pressurized system–this clears quickly as bubbles dissipate. *If you have any concerns about your water, please don't hesitate to call us at (831) 637-4670.*

Sunnyslope Water 2023

By the numbers

22 *employees...*

...provided water service to **26,000** *customers*

...maintained and operated **2** *treatment plants,* **5** *wells, and* **85** *miles of buried water mains*

...exercised **334** *of total 2,750 water valves*

...replaced **244** *of total 7,500 water meters*

...flushed **315** *of total 1,000 fire hydrants*

...responded to **127** *water emergency calls*

*Typical sources key

1. Decay of natural and man-made deposits
2. Erosion of natural deposits
3. Runoff and leaching from fertilizers and septic tanks
4. Naturally occurring organic materials
5. Soil runoff
6. Substances that form ions when in water
7. Naturally present in the environment
8. Human and animal fecal waste
9. Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
10. Internal corrosion of household plumbing
11. Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

Definitions

CU – Colorimetric units are used to measure the concentration of colored compounds in solutions

Haloacetic Acids/ Trihalomethanes Chemical byproducts of chlorination as chlorine breaks down organic substances.

MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level The highest amount of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the MCL Goal or Public Health Goal as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect water appearance, taste, and odor.

MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal The amount of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety and are set by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Micromho Unit of electrical conductance.

NA – Non-Applicable Category is not applicable in this situation.

ND – Non-Detects Laboratory analysis did not detect a contaminant at the reporting limit.

90th percentile In 90 percent of sites tested, results were less than or equal to the level listed.

NL – Notification Level The amount of a contaminant which triggers treatment or other requirements.

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit A measure of the cloudiness of water. Water in excess of 5 NTU has cloudiness just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L – Picocuries per liter A measure of the radioactivity in water.

PHG – Public Health Goal The amount of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The California Environmental Protection Agency sets PHGs rather than the USEPA.

ppb – Parts per billion One per 1,000,000,000, a measurement of concentration on a weight or volume basis. One part per billion concentration is equivalent to one drop of ink in a 14,000-gallon swimming pool.

ppm – Parts per million One per 1,000,000, a measurement of concentration on a weight or volume basis. One part per million concentration is equivalent to four drops of ink in a 55-gallon drum.

Trihalomethanes/ Haloacetic Acids Chemical by-products of chlorination as chlorine breaks down organic substances.

2023 Sunnyslope Water testing results

Sunnyslope Water tests regularly for 105 contaminants and substances. For brevity, this table does not include undetected substances, or those that were found in negligible trace amounts. We continually test for primary regulated contaminants which affect health, as well as secondary substances that affect aesthetics but do not impact safety. Unless otherwise noted, results shown are averages of tests completed from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. To read the table, start with "Substance tested" on the left and read across. "MCL" is the highest level allowed for the substance, and "PHG/MCLG" is the goal level. The range for groundwater and surface water shows the lowest and highest amounts measured. "Typical sources" tells where substances originate. The "Violations" column shows that Sunnyslope has no water quality violations; in fact, we greatly exceed government requirements for all substances.

Substance tested	Unit of measurement	MCL (max. allowed)	PHG or MCLG	Groundwater Average	Groundwater Range	Surface water Average	Surface water Range	Violations	Typical sources*
Disinfection by-products and residuals in distribution system (health-related)									
Arsenic[1]	ppb	10	0.004	1.5	ND-2.6	1.6	ND-3.2	none	2
Fluoride[1]	ppm	2	1	0.28	0.22-0.37	0.11	0.10-0.13	none	2
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	2.56	1.3-3.8	0.05	ND-0.10	none	2,3
Chromium VI	ppb	10	0.02	9.8	ND-16	NA	NA	none	2
Gross alpha	pCi/L	15	0	2.58	2.58-2.58	1.85	1.67-2.03	none	1
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	3.1	3.1-3.1	0.98	ND-1.4	none	1
Secondary regulated substances (not health-related)									
Color	CU	15	NA	3	ND-5	16	14-18	none	4
Manganese	ppm	50	NA	ND	ND	52	3-100	none	2
Turbidity	NTU	5	NA	0.31	0.15-0.72	0.35	0.24-0.46	none	5
Total dissolved solids	ppm	1,000	NA	804	690-870	320	320	none	2
Specific conductance	micromho	1,600	NA	1,320	1,200-1,400	615	610-620	none	6
Chloride	ppm	500	NA	136	110-180	100	100	none	2
Sulfate	ppm	500	NA	214	200-250	44	43-45	none	2
Boron	ppb	1,000	NA	775	760-790	ND	ND	none	2
Additional water quality information (not health-related)									
Hardness	ppm	NA	NA	430	403-450	135	130-140	none	2
Calcium	ppm	NA	NA	71	60-78	ND	ND	none	2
Magnesium	ppm	NA	NA	61	56-73	15	11-18	none	2
Sodium	ppm	NA	NA	134	110-150	71	68-74	none	2
Silica[2]	ppm	NA	NA	29	25-32	NA	NA	none	2
Potassium	ppm	NA	NA	3.16	2.7-3.7	4.3	4.1-4.4	none	2
Alkalinity	ppm	NA	NA	311	280-350	140	140	none	2
pH		NA	NA	7.88	7.8-7.99	7.85	7.1-8.6	none	2

Substance tested	Unit of measurement	MCL (maximum allowed)	PHG or MCLG	Number of detections	Violations	Typical sources*
Microbiological contaminants in distribution system (health-related)						
Total coliform	samples	2 positives per month	0	0	none	7
E. coli	samples	0	0	0	none	8

Substance tested	Unit of measurement	MCL (max. allowed)	PHG or MCLG	Average for site with highest readings	Range across all sites	Violations	Typical sources*
Disinfection by-products and residuals in distribution system (health-related)							
Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	NA	52	17-52	none	9
Haloacetic acids	ppb	60	NA	11	6-11	none	9
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	0.85 across all sites	0.10-2.02	none	11

Substance tested	Unit of measurement	MCL (max. allowed)	No. of sites sample	No. of sites over notification level	90th percentile	Violations	Typical sources*
Customer tap sampling (health-related)							
Lead	ppb	15	41	2	0	none	10
Copper	ppm	1.3	41	0	0.26	none	10

1. Flouride and arsenic were tested in 2020. 2. Silica was tested in 2011. The State Division of Drinking Water does not require annual testing of these substances because concentrations do not change frequently.

Drinking source water assessment

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requires Drinking Water Source Assessment Programs to evaluate the vulnerability of water sources to potential contamination. All water sources on the planet are vulnerable to contamination, largely due to human development. Assessments are required any time a new water source or treatment process is brought online.

Groundwater Assessments for Sunnyslope Wells 2, 5, 7, 8 and 11 were updated in March 2009. These sources are considered most vulnerable to contamination from agricultural drainage, septic systems, sewer collection systems, and agricultural wells.

Surface Water An assessment for Lessalt and West Hills Water Treatment Plants was updated in 2017. This source is considered most vulnerable to contamination from recreational activities, government agency equipment storage, road/streets, septic systems, sewer collection systems, grazing animals, farm machinery, orchards, row crops, grass lands, hay, pasture, wells, irrigation, housing greater than one house per half acre, streams, rivers, and fault lines.

A copy of the summaries of these completed assessments may be viewed at the Sunnyslope Water district office.

Some people may be more sensitive to contaminants

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 individuals should seek advice from their health care providers.

USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Lead and copper testing

To further safeguard our community, Sunnyslope Water also performs lead and copper testing outside the treatment and distribution system at high-risk schools and homes in our district. These heavy metals can leach into water when service lines or home plumbing include lead pipes, or copper pipes with lead solder. As defined by federal and state laws, high-risk is defined as schools constructed before January 1, 2010, and homes with plumbing installed between January 1983 and June 1986.

Results of lead and copper testing in the Hollister area have always been below the notification level set by the State Water Resources Control Board. If lead concentrations exceed an action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) or copper concentrations exceed an action level of 1.3 ppm in more than 10 percent of customer taps sampled, actions must be taken to control corrosion or replace the system.

If your home falls into the high-risk category and you'd like your water tested free of charge, please call us at (831) 637-4670.

The Lessalt Water Treatment Plant reopened in February 2023 after being shut down for 17 months during the drought when there was not enough imported surface water to run both our plants. The equipment and infrastructure at Lessalt received extensive maintenance during the closure and is now operating at maximum efficiency.

Drinking water regulations

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe limits for the amount of certain contaminants in drinking water. The State Board also establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide the same protection. 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. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, please see the contacts below. The sources of 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 are:

Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 byproducts 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.

For more information. . .

. . . on water contaminants and regulations, please visit the **US Environmental Protection Agency** at water.epa.gov/drink, or call their Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

. . . on California's water infrastructure, competing water demands, and resultant environmental issues, please visit the **Water Education Foundation** at watereducation.org.

Know your local water agencies: what we do and how we work together

Cooperative partnerships and cost-sharing agreements allow local agencies to provide reliable, high-quality water to the Hollister area in the most efficient, cost-effective manner possible. Our most important partnership is with you, our water consumers–your water conservation efforts are vital to maintain the sustainability of our community's water supply.

Sunnyslope Water District provides drinking water to the eastern half of Hollister, including Ridgemark and some urban parts of San Benito County—about 7,500 households, or half the local population. We also provide wastewater treatment services to the Ridgemark area. Sunnyslope operates and maintains the West Hills and Lessalt Water Treatment Plants, which are owned by the San Benito County Water District. These treatment plants also supply potable water to the City of Hollister Water Utility.

The City of Hollister Water Utility provides drinking water to Hollister residents west of Memorial Drive. They also operate the Hollister Water Reclamation Facility which treats and recycles our local wastewater (except for the Ridgemark area, which Sunnyslope treats) so it can be used for groundwater recharge, agriculture, and landscaping.

The San Benito County Water District (SBCWD) is a federal water contractor with the Bureau of Reclamation. They manage water supply throughout the county for urban, agricultural, and industrial use. As our local Groundwater Sustainability Agency, they monitor the county's groundwater basin, and also oversee surface water imported from the Central Valley Project through the San Felipe Distribution System. They own the Lessalt and West Hills Water Treatment Plants which Sunnyslope operates. For information about our county's water supply and system, please visit sbcwd.org.

Water Resources Association San Benito County (WRASBC) and **Hollister Urban Area Water Project (HUAWP)** are programs developed cooperatively by Sunnyslope Water, the City of Hollister, and the San Benito County Water District. WRASBC promotes public water conservation to protect our local groundwater (see below). HUAWP provides an integrated, long-term master plan to improve local drinking water quality and sustainability, and provide infrastructure for our water supply.

Rebates and free stuff to conserve water

Get paid to replace your lawn Property owners can receive $200 to $2,000 ($2.00 per square foot) for replacing their existing, irrigated turf with drought-tolerant plants and permeable hardscape.

Free home/yard water survey Save money: have an expert check for leaks and inefficiencies. Learn how to program your irrigation controller for maximum economy and productivity.

Free hose nozzles, shower heads, and aerators WRASBC can install these high-quality devices during your home survey, or call the number below for pickup at their office.

Water softener rebate Retire your water softener or replace it with a no-salt water conditioner and receive a $300 rebate.

Irrigation rebate Receive a rebate up to $100 on qualifying water-wise hose timers, rain sensors, rotator nozzles, and sprinklers.

Free toilet or rebate Get a free high-efficiency toilet or $75 rebate to replace your circa 1992 or older model.

Please visit Water Resources Association San Benito County at wrasbc.org for program details, or call (831) 637-4378.

Sunnyslope Water District

Providing reliable, high-quality, cost-effective water and sanitary services to our community, to protect human health and the environment

3570 Airline Hwy, Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 637-4670 • sunnyslopewater.org
Open Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm

Free 24-hour emergency service:
If you think your water meter is leaking, or you see water gushing in the street, it is an emergency. Do not hesitate to contact us, day or night! Our on-call staff will return your call immediately.

The public is welcome to attend Sunnyslope Water District board meetings, held every third Tuesday of the month at 5:15 pm. To attend remotely via Zoom, please click on our homepage link.