

# *Suburban East Salem Water District's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report For 2021*

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence 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 want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

The water you consume from the tap is commonly referred to as Surface water and, is collected by the City of Salem from the North Santiam River at Geren Island in Stayton. It is filtered and treated, then piped to Franzen Reservoir and then on down the pipe line to Suburban East Salem Water District and other areas.

This report shows our water quality and what it means. It has been developed to conform to federal and state regulations that require each water utility to provide water quality information to their customers each year. We are mailing this report to all postal customers in the area. If you do not know if you receive our drinking water, please refer to the map to determine if you may be a customer of Suburban East Salem Water District. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the manager, Bruce A. Carnine at 503-364-1620 or [bruce.carnine@outlook.com](mailto:bruce.carnine@outlook.com).



WHAT THE EPA WANTS YOU TO KNOW ABOUT CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN YOUR WATER

The source 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 which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural operations and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, 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, storm water runoff and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### LEAD AND COPPER RESULTS ALLOW THE DISTRICT TO REMAIN IN REDUCED MONITORING

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. Suburban East Salem Water District 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 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 (800-426-4791) or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Suburban East Salem Water District tested for lead and copper in 31 homes in 2021. According to EPA regulations, 90 percent of those homes needed to have lead and copper levels below the EPA Action Level. In fact, 100% of the homes tested by the District were below the EPA Action Level for copper. 1 home exceeded the MCL for lead and was notified accordingly per OHA rules. The District has scheduled testing again for lead and copper in the period between June and July 2023.

Turbidity is a measurement of water clarity. High turbidity means there could be suspended soil and organic matter in the water. This can increase the risk of contamination by interfering with the drinking water treatment process. The results of the City's turbidity monitoring in treated water indicate that current levels are well within EPA's safe drinking water standards. One hundred percent of the City's samples were below required levels.

Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. In 2021 a total of 180 bacteria samples were collected from the distribution system and 0 tested positive for Total Coliform, e-coliform or fecal coliform.

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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791) or at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

### WHAT IS IN SUBURBAN EAST SALEM WATER DISTRICTS WATER

The following tables lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide

increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

## WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

Contaminant	Year	MCL	MCLG	Tested	Inorganic Detected Level	Range	Major Sources	Violation ?
<i>Copper ppm</i>	2021	AL=1.3	1.3	0.19	0-.36	Corrosion of household	No Individual homes exceeding	AL = 0 plumbing systems
<i>Lead ppb</i>	2021	AL=15	0	7.3	0-20	Corrosion of household	No Individual homes exceeding	AL = 1 plumbing systems Erosion of natural deposits;
<i>Fluoride ppm</i>	2021	4	4	Average: 0.61	0.20-0.71	Water additive which	No Tested by the City of Salem promotes strong teeth	<i>Nitrate ppm</i> 2021 10 10 0.36 Natural deposits and No Tested by the City of Salem agricultural runoff. <i>Nitrate-Nitrite ppm</i> 2021 10 10 0.36 Natural deposits and No Tested by the City of Salem agricultural runoff. <b>Microbiological</b>
<i>Turbidity NTU</i>	2021	TT n/a	Average: 0.08	0.04-0.41	Erosion & Soil runoff	No	Tested by the City of Salem	100% of samples meet turbidity standards
<i>Total coliform</i>	2021	1	0	0	0-1	Naturally present in environment	No	<i>Fecal coliform/E. coli</i> 2021 1 0 0 0 Human or animal fecal waste No
Disinfection By-Products								
<i>Total ppb</i>	2021	80	0	36	25-38	By-product of drinking	No	<i>Trihalomethanes</i> water disinfection <i>Halocetic Acid ppb</i> 2021 60 0 35 19-36 By-product of drinking No <i>HAA5</i> water disinfection
<i>Chlorine Residual ppm</i>	2021	4	4	1	.9-1	Water additive used to control		No
								microbes
								<i>Total Organic Carbon</i> 2021 TT n/a 0.96 0.86-1.0 Naturally present in environment No
Tested by the City of Salem								
Unregulated Constituents								
<i>Sodium ppm</i>	2021	20	4.7	1	Sample	Erosion of natural deposits	No	Tested by the City of Salem

### KEY TO TABLE:

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level ppm = parts per million ppb = parts per billion MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal TT = Treatment Technique AL = Action Level  
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units na = not applicable ND = Not Detected

Also, in the above table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions.

Treatment Technique (TT): A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. Maximum Contaminant Level: The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL): is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The "Goal" (MCLG): is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

During 2015 the SESWD sampled for about 28 unregulated contaminants ranging from naturally-occurring metals to pesticides, flame retardants, hormones, and pharmaceuticals as mandated by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The UCMR3 requires water providers to sample for unregulated contaminants once every five years. EPA uses these sampling efforts to collect information about contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water but which are currently not regulated by health-based limits under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The next round ( UCMR4 ) testing will begin December 2020. More information about the UCMR is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. The table below lists only those unregulated contaminants which were detected in SESWD water.

### Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule-Round 4 (UCMR4) Results

Samples collected from the Entry point to the District and the Maximum residence point in the system

Date	MRL*	Detected
Detected Analyte	tested Unit (ppb)	Level Lowest Highest Chlorate 2015 ppb 20
	Average	108 94 120
Strontium	2015 ppb	0.3 Average 23 20 28
Valadium	2015 ppb	0.2 Average 1.2 0.85 1.8
Hexavalent Chromium	2015 ppb	0.03 Average 0.059 0.044 0.072 Chromium 2015
	ppb	0.2 Average 0.25 0 0.25

\* MRL is the Minimum Reporting Level.  
(ppb) = parts per billion

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents we have provided the following example. A person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the maximum MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

We at Suburban East Salem Water District work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Regular public board meetings are held by your elected commissioners every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 9am at the office at 3805 LaBranch Street SE. You are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in important discussions affecting your drinking water.

Other important resources are: Environmental Protection Agency Oregon Health Authority Safe Drinking Water Hotline Drinking Water Program  
1-800-426-4791 (503) 731-4010

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/> <http://public.health.oregon.gov/>

HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater

## Where does Suburban East Salem Water District's water come from?

### Suburban East Salem's Source.

Serving a Population of about 13,500, the water is collected from the North Santiam River at the City of Salem's water treatment facility on Geren Island near Stayton, where it is filtered by slow sand filtration, treated with sodium hypochlorite (liquid chlorine) for disinfection, Fluorosilicic acid (liquid fluoride) for fluoridation and sodium carbonate (soda ash) to minimize corrosion of lead and copper from household plumbing.

The finished water then is passed on through a large pipeline into Franzen Reservoir in Turner. From Franzen Reservoir it is passed on through another large pipeline to three metered connections to the Water district located at Center ST NE, State ST and Arabian Ave SE. The district purchases the water from the City of Salem and distributes it to the district customers.



### Source Water Assessment

Since Suburban East Salem Water District purchases its water from the City of Salem, we have included some additional information from the City of Salem's water report.

The City of Salem's Source Water Assessment, completed in 2003 with assistance from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, provides an inventory, of potential contaminant sources that, could pose a risk to water quality of the North Santiam River. The assessment, as required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, also identifies sensitive areas where potential contaminant sources may have a greater potential to impact the water supply.

Results of the assessment reveal that potential contaminate sources include, sediments, turbidity, microbiological agents and nutrients. Potential sources of these contaminates include, highways, leaking septic systems, grazing animals, forest practices, above-ground and below-ground storage tanks, wood processing and milling, junk yards, and automotive and mechanical shops. The City of Salem continues to monitor activities with in the North Santiam River water shed that may impact its drinking water source.

More information about the City of Salem Source Water Assessment is available on the City of Salem website at [www.cityofsalem.net](http://www.cityofsalem.net)

The report can be found under City Departments/ Public Works/ Operations/ Water Services. The report is also available by calling the Water Quality Hot Line at 503-588-6323 or via email at [water@cityofsalem.net](mailto:water@cityofsalem.net).

## ***Suburban East Salem Water District***

# **ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**

***To Our Valued Customers***

**May 2022**