



## ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ZONE 7

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# Common Questions about Your Tap Water

### ***1. What's in my tap water?***

The Zone 7 Water Agency is regulated by the State of California State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water. Zone 7 Water consistently meets and exceeds all State and Federal water quality standards. Zone 7 is committed to plan, design, operate, and maintain its water supply system to deliver high quality water that meets all public health regulatory requirements set under the Safe Drinking Water Act and to ensure an extra margin of safety, Zone 7's water quality policy sets internal water quality targets to be no greater than 80 percent of the applicable primary State or federal regulatory requirements.

Zone 7 follows a robust sampling and monitoring program to ensure that it meets these targets. Water quality testing is done at monthly, quarterly and annual intervals. Information on these water quality results are contained in the annual [Consumer Confidence Report on the Zone 7 website](#). The Zone 7 Water Agency also does an annual report for the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Program](#) which has extensive information on water quality. Zone 7 Water Agency maintains over 220 sampling wells to frequently monitor water quality. All annual reports can be found at <http://www.zone7water.com/publications-reports/reports-planning-documents>.

### ***2. Why are these contaminants in the water?***

Zone 7 uses multi-barrier approach to treat water, actively participates in source water control & improvements (such as Department of Water Resources programs to protect State Water Project water quality and local groundwater basin water quality monitoring and management programs), and employs treatment & monitoring technologies to provide the best quality water, in a fiscally responsible way, that meets or exceeds all regulatory requirements.

Some of the contaminants in our water supply are naturally occurring in the environment, some are human-made, and others are by-product of disinfection processes used in water treatment and distribution. Although these contaminants are in our water (and in most other municipal water supplies), the levels are well below the standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

### ***3. How is our water system removing contaminants?***

Zone 7 Water Agency uses different treatment methodologies to address different water quality concerns in different sources of water. The Zone 7 Water Agency has a Water Quality Policy which establishes internal targets for water quality which are *more stringent* than regulations. These internal targets were developed for an additional margin of safety and to address local concerns regarding such things as taste, odor, and water hardness. This policy was developed jointly by Zone 7 and its stakeholders, including its retailers and is reviewed on an annual basis. Surface water is treated at Zone 7's two water treatment plants and the treatment methodology includes filtration, flocculation and chloramines. Groundwater water has chloramine added at the wellhead to provide a disinfectant that matches surface water so that water quality is the same throughout the distribution system and the Mocho Groundwater Demineralization Plant which through reverse osmosis, addresses water hardness, removes salts from the groundwater basin, and is a proven treatment method for removing PFAS chemicals.

#### ***4. How are you investing in better water treatment technology and ensuring better water quality going forward?***

Zone 7 Water Agency is currently investing in upgrading both of its water treatment plants to ozone treatment. Ozonation is a tried and true technology that is commonly utilized by similar agencies and, given the attributes of our water supply, is the best method of treatment. The addition of ozone to the existing treatment process will also serve to improve the quality of your drinking water.

Specifically, ozone treatment:

- Is the most effective treatment for contaminants of emerging concern (like toxic compounds produced by blue-green algae (also known as cyanotoxins), endocrine disruptors, and pharmaceuticals).
- Is the most effective treatment method for improving color, taste and odor.
- Is more effective in killing viruses, bacteria, and microorganisms than chlorine as disinfectant.
- Reduces potentially harmful disinfection by-products.
- Leaves no harmful residuals—ozone quickly decomposes into oxygen.
- In tandem with the filtration process, removes organic and inorganic mater.
- Enhances other steps in the water treatment process.

#### ***5. What are you doing to create sustainable funding for our water systems?***

The Zone 7 Water Agency actively manages its finances and strives for cost efficiencies as a standard practice. The Board of Directors actively manages finances through quarterly monitoring reports and a mid-cycle check-in. Water rates are established through a public process.

#### ***6. How are you protecting our source water to keep pollution from getting into water in the first place?***

For surface water, Zone 7 Water Agency is an active participant in the state Department of Water Resources (DWR) Municipal Water Quality Investigation (MWQI) program. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a source of drinking water for approximately two-thirds of the state of California. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) monitors the water quality of the delta through its Municipal Water Quality Investigations Program (MWQI). Twenty-seven stations are monitored. Parameters measured include alkalinity, dissolved organic carbon (DOC), dissolved ions (copper, magnesium, selenium, potassium, chloride, sodium, sulfate, arsenic, boron, bromide), fecal coliform, water hardness, trihalomethanes (bromodichloromethane, bromoform, chloroform, dibromochloromethane, total trihalomethane formation potential THMFP), total dissolved solids, pH, dissolved oxygen, water temperature, turbidity, conductivity, and ultra-violet analysis of DOC. For more information on the Municipal Water Investigations Program (MWQI) please visit <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Environmental-Services/Water-Quality-Monitoring-And-Assessment>. To protect groundwater sources Zone 7 Water Agency actively manages the groundwater basin.

#### ***7. How are you making sure that good, clean water remains affordable for all residents?***

As discussed above, the Zone 7 Water Agency actively manages its finances and strives for cost efficiencies as a standard practice. The Board of Directors actively manages finances through quarterly monitoring reports and a mid-cycle check-in. Water rates are established through a public process. In addition, the Zone 7 Water Agency seeks grant opportunities where possible. The Zone 7 Water Agency also coordinates with other Bay Area Water Agency partners for cost sharing opportunities such as for major water supply infrastructure improvements.