

# 2025 City of Cordova Water Quality Report

## PWSID# AK2293205

### Is my water safe?

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 are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

### 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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Where does my water come from?

The City of Cordova gets its drinking water from 5 surface water sources: Heney Creek, Meals Lake, Murcheson Falls, Eyak Lake, and the Orca reservoir. The Eyak Lake surface water source acts as a backup water source. The Meals Lake/Heney Creek surface water intake source is located at +60.530466 North, -145.75198 West. The Murcheson Falls surface water intake source is located at +60.535207 North, -145.71449 West. The Eyak Lake surface water intake source is located at +60.536090, -145.71883 West. The Orca Reservoir surface water intake source is located at +60.578000 North, -145.71571 West.

### Source water assessment and its availability

Source water assessment results:

A source water assessment for the Heney Creek surface water intake (IN001) was completed in 2003 and the results of the assessment are:

The Wellhead/Surface Intake Susceptibility is Very High.

The Aquifer Susceptibility is N/A.

The overall vulnerability to potential contaminants is:

Bacteria and Viruses is Very High;

Nitrates/Nitrites is Medium;

Volatile Organic Chemicals is Medium;

Inorganics/Heavy Metals is Medium;

Synthetic Organic Chemicals is Medium;

Other Organic Chemicals is Medium.

A source water assessment for the Eyak Lake surface water intake (IN002) was completed in 2003 and the results of the assessment are:

The Wellhead/Surface Intake Susceptibility is Very High.

The Aquifer Susceptibility is N/A.

The overall vulnerability to potential contaminants is:

Bacteria and Viruses is Very High;

Nitrates/Nitrites is High;

Volatile Organic Chemicals is High;

Inorganics/Heavy Metals is Medium;

Synthetic Organic Chemicals is High;

Other Organic Chemicals is High.

A source water assessment for the Murcheson Falls surface water intake (IN003) was completed in 2003 and the results of the assessment are:

The Wellhead/Surface Intake Susceptibility is Very High.

The Aquifer Susceptibility is N/A.

The overall vulnerability to potential contaminants is:

Bacteria and Viruses is Very High;

Nitrates/Nitrites is Medium;

Volatile Organic Chemicals is Medium;

Inorganics/Heavy Metals is Medium;

Synthetic Organic Chemicals is Medium;

Other Organic Chemicals is Medium.

A source water assessment for the Meals Lake surface water intake (IN004) was completed in 2003 and the results of the assessment are:

The Wellhead/Surface Intake Susceptibility is Very High.

The Aquifer Susceptibility is N/A.

The overall vulnerability to potential contaminants is:

Bacteria and Viruses is Very High;

Nitrates/Nitrites is Medium;

Volatile Organic Chemicals is Medium;

Inorganics/Heavy Metals is Medium;

Synthetic Organic Chemicals is Medium;

Other Organic Chemicals is Medium.

A source water assessment for the Orca Lake surface water intake (IN005) was completed in 2003 and the results of the assessment are:

The Wellhead/Surface Intake Susceptibility is Very High.

The Aquifer Susceptibility is N/A.

The overall vulnerability to potential contaminants is:

Bacteria and Viruses is Very High;

Nitrates/Nitrites is Medium;

Volatile Organic Chemicals is Medium;

Inorganics/Heavy Metals is Medium;

Synthetic Organic Chemicals is Medium;

Other Organic Chemicals is Medium.

The Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) group is no longer completing Source Water Assessment reports for public water system (PWS) sources. However, DWSP continues to delineate drinking water source protection areas for all PWS sources and furthers awareness of these protection areas through outreach efforts.

DWSP encourages active protection efforts by promoting the development and implementation of DWSP plans by PWS and communities, as well as by providing passive protection efforts through reviewing and commenting on proposed permitted activities near PWS sources and ensuring agency loans and grants prioritize water quality improvement projects near PWS sources.

For assistance, please contact the DWSP coordinator at 907-269-7549, or toll free in Alaska at 1-866-956-7656. You can go to the DWSP website for more information at: <https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/dwp>.

## **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 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). 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 from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which 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, which 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and 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 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.

## **How can I get involved?**

Persons interested in the City of Cordova water system can contact us using the contact information included in this report.

## **Waivers**

ADEC has granted monitoring waivers for Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC) for our four active water sources for the period of 2023-2025. We are not required to monitor for SOC during the wavered compliance period. We will apply for a waiver renewal when this compliance period ends.

## **Additional Information for Lead**

The City of Cordova reviewed available historical service line information, information provided by customers, and modeling or pothole digging showed that there were not lead or galvanized requiring replacement so far. However, we have several service lines that we're still in the process of reviewing, they are currently categorized as unknown. To learn about our plan for identifying the remaining unknown lines please contact us at (907) 424-6220. The following link can be used to access inventory information - <https://ak-lsli-adec.hub.arcgis.com/>.

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. CORDOVA CITY WATER is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact CORDOVA CITY WATER (Public Water system Id: AK2293205) by calling 907-424-6220 or emailing [publicworks@cityofcordova.net](mailto:publicworks@cityofcordova.net). Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Water Quality Data Table

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. The table below 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.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	34	9.3	70.5	2025	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	19	7	35.1	2025	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	00	15	2.335	NA	2.71	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	00	5	0.74	NA	0.74	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Range		# Samples Exceeding AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
				Low	High				
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>									
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.26	0.074	0.28	0	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	00	15	6	0.38	6.4	0	2024	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Violation	Typical Source
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	ND	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

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)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
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.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
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
90th Percentile	Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected.

**For more information please contact:**

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