



High-Quality Drinking Water at Your Fingertips

With the turn of the faucet, high-quality tap water is available for consumption, and what better way to cool down this summer than with a glass of refreshing water. This water comes mostly from the Orange County Groundwater Basin, managed by the Orange County Water District (OCWD), and served by the city of Fullerton's water department.

Your drinking water is thoroughly monitored from its source to your tap. California's drinking water is highly regulated and has some of the nation's most stringent guidelines. Orange County water providers ensure water is not only flowing into your homes, but it is carefully monitored and tested so it meets all federal and state drinking water regulations established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water.



August is [National Water Quality Month](#) and it's a good time to learn about where your water comes from and how water agencies undertake this valuable effort of delivering clean water to you. We turn on the tap every day, yet we may not think about what it takes to make sure this water is reliable and of the highest quality. Your local water agencies plan ahead and work hard every day to make sure that what comes out of the tap is safe and plentiful.

OCWD's Philip L. Anthony Water Quality Laboratory administers a comprehensive groundwater and surface water monitoring program to continually generate real-time data on our local water supply. Highly trained professionals measure water elevations and take samples from 400 monitoring wells throughout the basin, and test for more than 500 compounds, many more than what is required by state and federal laws and regulations. Extensive efforts are taken to test water from approximately 1,500 locations throughout the basin, analyze more than 20,000 samples each year and report more than 400,000 results. OCWD can monitor contaminants in its groundwater basin down to one part per trillion. That is like looking for one drop of water in 20 Olympic-size swimming pools—a rather remarkable feat!

Every year, the city of Fullerton produces a water quality report, also called a [Consumer Confidence Report](#), or CCR which contains important information about the assessments that are performed on both imported water and groundwater, along with testing done on groundwater wells, reservoirs, and the water distribution system.

Next time you're ready to quench your thirst, take a moment to appreciate the breadth of monitoring and testing that's done on every drop so you can enjoy a refreshing, clean, high-quality taste. Cheers!

In collaboration with Orange County Water District staff, this article was provided by Orange County Water District Director Bruce Whitaker, who represents Division 10, which covers the city of Fullerton. Contact Director Whitaker at BWWhitaker@live.com.