

A close-up photograph of water being poured from a glass pitcher into a clear glass. The water is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic splash and bubbles. The background is a blurred wooden surface.

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2018



*Presented By*  
**West Travis County  
Public Utility Agency**

## Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2018. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

## Source Water Assessment

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the state regulatory agency, completed an assessment of your source water, and results indicate that some of your sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report.

Further details about sources and source water assessments are available at Drinking Water Watch, <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW>.

If you would like a copy of our assessment, please feel free to contact our office during regular business hours at (512) 263-0125.

## Important Health Information

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## Community Participation

Public input concerning the water system may be made at regularly scheduled board meetings generally held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, beginning at 10 a.m., at Bee Cave City Hall, 4000 Galleria Parkway, Bee Cave, TX 78738.

## Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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 livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on the taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Water Loss Audit

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board during the year covered by this report, our system lost an estimated 175 million gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call West Travis County PUA at (512) 263-0125.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. This water supply is responsible for

providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Our drinking water source is Lake Austin. Lake Austin is a water reservoir on the Colorado River. It is maintained as a constant-level lake by releases of water from Lake Travis upstream.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Customer Service at (512) 263-0125.

## About Our Violations

### Interim Enhanced SWTR

The Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule improves control of microbial contaminants, particularly *Cryptosporidium*, in systems using surface water, or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water. The rule builds upon the treatment technique requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule.

VIOLATION TYPE	VIOLATION BEGIN	VIOLATION END	VIOLATION EXPLANATION
<b>Monthly Comb Ftr Effluent</b> (IESWTR/LT1)	10/01/2018	10/31/2018	Turbidity levels, though low, exceeded a standard for the month indicated. Turbidity (cloudiness) levels are used to measure effective filtration of drinking water.
<b>Single Comb Ftr Effluent</b> (IESWTR/LT1)	10/01/2018	10/31/2018	One turbidity measurement exceeded a standard for the month indicated. Turbidity (cloudiness) levels are used to measure effective filtration of drinking water.

### Table Talk

Get the most out of the Testing Results data table with this simple suggestion. In less than a minute, you will know all there is to know about your water:

For each substance listed, compare the value in the Amount Detected column against the value in the MCL (or AL, SCL) column. If the Amount Detected value is smaller, your water meets the health and safety standards set for the substance.

#### Other Table Information Worth Noting

Verify that there were no violations of the state and/or federal standards in the Violation column. If there was a violation, you will see a detailed description of the event in this report.

If there is an ND or a less-than symbol (<), that means that the substance was not detected (i.e., below the detectable limits of the testing equipment).

The Range column displays the lowest and highest sample readings. If there is an NA showing, that means that only a single sample was taken to test for the substance (assuming there is a reported value in the Amount Detected column).

If there is sufficient evidence to indicate from where the substance originates, it will be listed under Typical Source.



### BY THE NUMBERS

The number of Olympic-sized swimming pools it would take to fill up all of Earth's water. **800 TRILLION**

**1¢** The average cost for about 5 gallons of water supplied to a home in the U.S.

The amount of Earth's water that is salty or otherwise undrinkable, or locked away and unavailable in ice caps and glaciers. **99%**

**50 GALLONS** The average daily number of gallons of total home water use for each person in the U.S.

The amount of Earth's surface that's covered by water. **71%**

**330 MILLION** The amount of water on Earth in cubic miles.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we show only those substances that were detected in our water. (A complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request.) Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Barium</b> (ppm)	2018	2	2	0.0649	0.0649–0.0649	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Beta/Photon Emitters<sup>1</sup></b> (pCi/L)	2017	50	0	4.6	4.6–4.6	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
<b>Cyanide</b> (ppb)	2018	200	200	50	50–50	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
<b>Fluoride</b> (ppm)	2018	4	4	0.23	0.23–0.23	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
<b>Nitrate</b> (ppm)	2018	10	10	0.18	0.18–0.18	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Total Coliform Bacteria</b> (Positive samples)	2018	TT	NA	1	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment

### Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	COLLECTION DATE	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF LEVELS DETECTED	MCLG	MCL	UNITS	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
<b>Halacetic Acids<sup>2</sup></b> (HAA5)	2018	17	8.6–17	No goal for the total	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Total Trihalomethanes<sup>3</sup></b> (TTHM)	2018	50.5	31.1–50.5	No goal for the total	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

**NA:** Not applicable

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

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Disinfectant Residual								
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR	AVERAGE LEVEL	RANGE OF LEVELS DETECTED	MRDL	MRDLG	UNIT OF MEASURE	VIOLATION	SOURCE IN DRINKING WATER
Chlorine Residual	2018	3.00	0.8–7.2	4.0	4.0	ppm	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community.

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2018	1.3	1.3	0.895	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2018	15	0	1.56	0	No	Lead services lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

Turbidity <sup>4</sup>				
	LEVEL DETECTED	LIMIT (TREATMENT TECHNIQUE)	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Highest single measurement	1.4 NTU	1 NTU	Y	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	95%	0.3 NTU	Y	Soil runoff.

<sup>1</sup>The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. The U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

<sup>2</sup>The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year.

<sup>3</sup>The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year.

<sup>4</sup>Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.