2021 WATER QUALITY REPORT - CITY OF LAREDO
PWS ID NUMBER: TX2400001

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in this report. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about your drinking water.

Este reporte incluye informacion sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o desea solicitar copias en español; favor de llamar al: (956) 721-2007.

SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER:

The sources of drinking water nationwide (both tap 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 livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban 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, urban 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, urban 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 the tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

WHERE DO WE GET OUR DRINKING WATER?

Customers of the City of Laredo receive their drinking water from two water treatment plants that pump surface water from the Rio Grande River. The City of Laredo treats and filters the water according to federal and state standards to remove any possible harmful contaminant.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) completed an assessment of your source of water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. Some of this source water assessment information is available on Texas Drinking Water Watch at **http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW**.

The sampling requirements for the City of Laredo's water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact: Erik Taboada, at 956-795-2620.

ALL DRINKING WATER MAY CONTAIN CONTAMINANTS:

When drinking water meets federal standards, there may not be any health benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. 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 effect can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

SECONDARY CONSTITUENTS:

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron), which are found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concern. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document, but they may affect the appearance and taste of your water. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact our system's business office.

HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD:

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. The City of Laredo is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of material 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 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 or at **http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.**

SPECIAL NOTICE:

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immune-compromised 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 infections by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at the number (800) 426-4791.

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Inorganic Contaminants (Collection Date: 2021)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	0.0978	0.0848 – 0.0978	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide (ppb)	120	0 – 120	200	200	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
Fluoride (ppm)	0.7	0.54 – 0.72	4	4.0	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate – [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	0.27 – 0.76	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium (ppb)	3.2	0 – 3.2	50	50	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Total Organic Carbon	The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.					

Turbidity	Level Detected	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	1 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	100%	0.3 NTU	N	Soil runoff.

Information Statement: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
* Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L*)	2021	5.6	0 – 5.6	0	50	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L)	2021	2	0 – 2	0	15	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium (ug/l)	2021	3.4	1.4 – 3.4	0	30	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

* EPA considers 50 pCI/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Average Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
[1] Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	2021	33	17.4 – 36.1	No goal for the total	60	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
[2] Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	2021	73	37.9 – 77.8	No goal for the total	80	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

[1] 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.
[2] The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year.

	MCLG	Total Coliform MCL	Highest Number of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL	Total No. of Positive *E. Coli* or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Coliform Bacteria	0	5% of monthly samples are positive.	1.3	Fecal or E. Coli MCL: A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. Coli positive.	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Disinfectant Residual (2021 Year)	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Chlorine (mg/L)	3.47	0.37 - 4.7	4	4	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper Date Sampled: 2021	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.0794	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppb)	0	15	1.25	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

STATE WATER LOSS AUDIT: In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of January - December 2021, our system lost an estimated 11.06% of the system input volume.

DEFINITIONS and ABBREVIATIONS:

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

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

(ALG) Action Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Level 1 Assessment: A level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

(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.

MFL: million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

NA: not applicable.

(NTU): Nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)

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

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppq: parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)

ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

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

VIOLATIONS

Public Notification Rule

THE PUBLIC NOTIFICATION RULE: helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency)

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	08/01/2021	11/05/2021	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.

This report is available at: **http://www.cityoflaredo.com/utilities/CCR/CC_Reports.pdf**

The Laredo Water Museum is located at: 2702 Anna Ave.
For more information, call: (956) 721-2020

There are many opportunities for public participation

The City of Laredo Council meets every first and third Monday of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall located at 1110 Houston St. Laredo, TX. 78042. Information on these meetings can be found by visiting: **http://www.cityoflaredo.com/Agen_and_Min_Index.htm**

Call 24 hours a day to:

- Report leaks, main breaks, or sewer spills
- Water Quality Concerns
- Theft of Water

(956) 721-2010