

ANNUAL  
WATER  
QUALITY  
REPORT

*Water testing performed in 2008*



PWSID#: 0310004

This report was prepared by:  
City of Los Fresnos  
200 N. Brazil St.  
Los Fresnos, TX 78566

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. (956)233-5768 - para hablar con una personal bilingue en espanol.

## Continuing Our Commitment

We are once again proud to present to you our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January 1 through December 31, 2008. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards. We continually strive to adopt new and better methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. Please share with us your thoughts about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

The water from the City of Los Fresnos is safe to drink. There have been no violations and all samples taken are within acceptable ranges.



For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Carlos Salazar, Director of Public Works, at (956) 233-5768 or TCEQ Regional Office at (956) 425-6010

## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 200 N. Brazil Street, Los Fresnos, Texas.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Los Fresnos drinking water is obtained from SURFACE water sources. It comes from the Rio Grande River to the LOS FRESNOS RESERVOIR. Also, the city receives water from Southmost Regional Water Authority Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and will be provided to us this year. The report will describe the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment will allow us to focus our source water protection strategies. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us at (956) 233-5768 or TCEQ Regional Office (956) 425-6010.

## Naturally Occurring Bacteria

The simple fact is, bacteria and other microorganisms inhabit our world. They can be found all around us: in our food; on our skin; in our bodies; and, in the air, soil, and water. Some are harmful to us and some are not. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease. Throughout the year, we tested many water samples for coliform bacteria. In that time, none of the samples came back positive for the bacteria. Federal regulations now require that public water that tests positive for coliform bacteria must be further analyzed for fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal coliform are present only in human and animal waste. Because these bacteria can cause illness, it is unacceptable for fecal coliform to be present in water at any concentration. Our tests indicate no fecal coliform is present in our water.

## Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and saving 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

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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based 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. For more information on 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.

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often 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 greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

## Emergency/Supplemental Water Sources

Southmost Regional Water Authority water is used on a daily basis to supplement the City's drinking water. Call Judy Adams at (956) 350-8819

## Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:

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 your physician or health care provider. The EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the State Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800- 426-4791).

## Lead and Drinking Water

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water ([www.epa.gov/watrhome](http://www.epa.gov/watrhome)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health.

## Sampling Results

The pages that follow list all of the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2008	10	0	3	3–3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Chloramines (ppm)	2008	[4.0]	[4.0]	1.9	0.8–2.6	No	Disinfectant used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2008	4	4	0.26	0.26–0.26	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2008	60	NA	11.7	11.7–11.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2008	10	10	0.18	0.18–0.18	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2008	80	NA	2.6	2.6–2.6	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon (% removal)	2008	TT	NA	67	37–100	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Total Organic Carbon–Drinking Water (ppm)	2008	TT	NA	2.0	0–3.6	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Total Organic Carbon–Source Water <sup>2</sup> (ppm)	2008	TT	NA	5.7	4.8–11.9	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity <sup>1</sup> (NTU)	2008	TT	NA	0.30	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2008	TT	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

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% TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2007	1.3	0	0.057	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2007	15	0	1.5	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

### SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bicarbonate (ppm)	2008	NA	NA	96	96–96	No	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
Chloride (ppm)	2008	300	NA	170	170–170	No	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproducts of oil field activity
Hardness as Ca/Mg (ppm)	2008	NA	NA	184	184–184	No	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
pH (Units)	2008	>7.0	NA	8.1	8.1–8.1	No	Measure of corrosivity of water
Sulfate (ppm)	2008	300	NA	181	181–181	No	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
Total Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	2008	1000	NA	97	97–97	No	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2008	1000	NA	622	622–622	No	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Bromodichloromethane</b> (ppb)	2008	1.18	1.18–1.18	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Chloroform</b> (ppb)	2008	1.14	1.14–1.14	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

<sup>1</sup>Footnote for City of Los Fresnos: Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasite that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

<sup>2</sup>Footnote for City of Los Fresnos: Total organic carbon (TOC) no health effects. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection byproducts. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA) which are reported elsewhere in this report.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the U.S. EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

### Definitions

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which 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

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**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.