



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

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (956) 233-5768 - para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

Quality First

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2010. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you and your family with quality drinking water.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions or concerns, we are always available to assist you.

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.

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.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Carlos Salazar, Public Works Director, at (956) 233-5768 or the 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 second Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7:00 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 sources is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information describes 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 allows us to focus our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information is available on Texas Drinking Water Watch at <http://dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/>. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us at (956) 233-5768 or at the TCEQ Regional Office, (956) 425-6010.



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 dissolves 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: 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.

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. 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 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 color constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document, but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

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.

Information on the Internet

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

Fact or Fiction

There is the same amount of water on Earth now as there was when the Earth was formed. *(Fact: The water that comes from your faucet could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank!)*

About half the water treated by public water systems is used for drinking and cooking. *(Fiction: Actually, the amount used for cooking and drinking is less than 1% of the total water produced!)*

A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water. *(Fact: Dehydration symptoms generally become noticeable after only 2% of one's normal water volume has been lost.)*

The first water pipes in the U.S. were made of cast iron. *(Fiction: The first water pipes were actually made of fire-charred bored logs.)*

The world's first municipal water filtration plant was opened in the United States. *(Fiction: The first plant was actually opened in Paisley, Scotland, in 1832.)*

A person must consume a half-gallon of water daily to live healthily. *(Fact: A person should drink at least 64 ounces, or 8 cups, of water each day.)*

One gallon of gasoline poured into a lake can contaminate approximately 750,000 gallons of water. *(Fact)*

Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less 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 water from the City of Los Fresnos is safe to drink. There have been no violations, and all samples taken are within acceptable ranges.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Antimony (ppb)	2010	6	6	0.827	0.827–0.827	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; Fire retardants; Ceramics; Electronics; Solder
Arsenic (ppb)	2010	10	NA	1.62	1.62–1.62	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2010	2	2	0.116	0.116–0.116	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2010	[4]	[4]	1.4	0.7–2.5	No	Disinfectant used to control microbes
Chromium (ppb)	2010	100	100	0.436	0.436–0.436	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2010	4	4	0.11	0.11–0.11	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2010	60	NA	4.8	4.8–4.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2010	10	10	0.11	0.11–0.11	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2010	50	50	2.48	2.48–2.48	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Thallium (ppb)	2010	2	0.5	0.106	0.106–0.106	No	Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Turbidity ¹ (NTU)	2010	TT	NA	0.3	0.3–0.3	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2010	TT=95% of samples<0.3	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	VIOLATION	MCLG	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2007	1.3	No	1.3	0/20	0.0573	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2007	15	No	0	0/20	1.5	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

¹Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

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.