

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022



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

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar.  
Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (512) 263-0125.

PWS ID#: 2270235



## Introduction

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2022. 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.

## Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and sent to clarifiers. Along the way, chlorine is added for disinfection, and just before it reaches the clarifiers, aluminum chlorohydrate and polymer are added. The addition of these substances causes small particles, called floc, to adhere to one another, making them heavy enough to settle into a basin from which sediment is removed. At this point, the water is filtered through layers of fine coal and silicate sand. As smaller suspended particles are removed, turbidity disappears and clear water emerges.

Chlorine is added again as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) Finally, a corrosion inhibitor (to protect distribution system pipes) is added before the water is pumped to reservoirs and water towers and into your home or business.

“Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.”  
—W.H. Auden

## Source Water Assessment

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) completed an assessment of your source water. 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 online from Drinking Water Watch at <https://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/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 or visit [wtcpua.org](http://wtcpua.org).

## 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 two 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## 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.



## QUESTIONS?

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

## 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, which 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 which 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 taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact our business office at (512) 263-0125. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people: "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

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



## About Our Violation

The West Travis County Public Utility Agency (TX2270235) has violated the monitoring and reporting requirements set by TCEQ in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC), Section 290, Subchapter F: Public water systems that use a series of treatment processes that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation or clarification, and filtration as part of the overall treatment protocol must monitor total organic carbon and report the results of that monitoring to the TCEQ on a monthly basis.

We failed to monitor or report total organic carbon. This violation occurred in February 2023. Results of monitoring are an indicator of whether drinking water is protected from potential adverse health effects associated with disinfectants and disinfection by-products. We did not complete all monitoring or reporting for disinfectant by-product precursors, and therefore TCEQ cannot be sure of the total organic carbon levels in your drinking water during that time. To address this issue, we have created a verification system to make sure all samples are taken in a timely manner.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact Curtis Jeffrey at (512) 470-7702.

## 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 looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 4 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.

## Community Participation

Public input concerning the water system is welcome at regularly scheduled board meetings, generally held on the third Thursday of every other month at 1:00 p.m. at Bee Cave City Hall, 4000 Galleria Parkway.



## 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 153 million gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call Customer Service at (512) 263-0125.



## 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 only show 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. We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

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 Violation column).

The state recommends monitoring 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.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2022	2	2	0.0624	0.0624–0.0624	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/L)	2017	50 <sup>1</sup>	0	4.6	4.6–4.6	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	2022	4	4	3.08	0.7–4.5	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	4	4	0.2	0.2–0.23	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2022	60	NA	12	8.5–12	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2022	10	10	0.11	0.11–0.11	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2022	TT	NA	1	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2022	80	NA	43 <sup>2</sup>	28.9–45.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### Turbidity

	LEVEL DETECTED	LIMIT (TREATMENT TECHNIQUE)	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Highest Single Measurement	0.31 NTU	1 NTU	No	Soil runoff
Lowest Monthly % Meeting Limit	100%	0.3 NTU	No	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 water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

### 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/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2020	1.3	1.3	0.588	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2020	15	0	1.24	0/30	No	Lead service lines; corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits

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

<sup>2</sup>Highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year.

## 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 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.

**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.