

# WEST TRAVIS COUNTY REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

## West Travis County Public Utility Agency

### 2016 Drinking Water Quality Report

DEAR CUSTOMER:

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.

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.

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 and some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The source of drinking water for West Travis County Regional Water System is surface water from Lake Austin. The TCEQ 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. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts in our system, contact West Travis County Public Utility Agency at 512-263-0125.

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

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) generally 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 contaminants that may be present in source water:

1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and 2) 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. 3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses. 4) 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. 5) Radioactive

contaminants, which can be naturally – occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that 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 which must provide the same protection for public health.

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

For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact, West Travis County Public Utility Agency at 512-263-0125

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Public input concerning the water system may be made at regularly scheduled meetings,

generally held at 10:00 am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 4000 Galleria Parkway, Bee Cave City Hall, Bee Cave, TX 78738. You may also contact the General Manager of The West Travis County Public Utility Agency, Robert Pugh, at 512-263-0100 with any concerns or questions you may have regarding this report.

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. (512) 263-0125 para hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.

#### Definitions & Abbreviations:

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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

**Parts per million (ppm):** The equivalent of milligrams per liter (mg/l) is analogous to 1 minute in 2 years.

**Parts per billion (ppb):** The equivalent of micrograms per liter (µg/l) is analogous to 1 second in 32 years.

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

**N/A:** Not applicable.

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units.



**Regulated Contaminants**

**Coliform Bacteria**

| Maximum Contaminant Level Goal | Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level | Highest No. of Positive | Fecal Coliform or E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples | Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination       |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 0                              | 1 positive monthly sample.               | 1                       |   | 0   | N         | Naturally present in the environment |

| Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|-----------|--|
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*                   | 2016            | 24                     | 4.1 – 39.7               | No Goal for the Total | 60  | ppb   | N         | By-Product of drinking water disinfection.   |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)               | 2016            | 48                     | 31.5 – 57.7              | No Goal for the Total | 80  | ppb   | N         | By-Product of drinking water disinfection.   |
| Inorganic Contaminants                     | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
| Barium                                     | 2016            | .0588                  | 0.0588 – 0.0588          | 2                     | 2   | ppm   | N         | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.                                |
| Cyanide                                    | 2016            | 120                    | 120 – 120                | 200                   | 200 | ppb   | N         | Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories                                      |
| Fluoride                                   | 2016            | 0.2                    | 0.19 – 0.19              | 4                     | 4.0 | ppm   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]             | 2016            | 0.22                   | 0.22 – 0.22              | 10                    | 10  | ppm   | N         | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.                               |
| Radioactive Contaminants                   | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
| Combined Radium 226/228                    | 2/18/2011       | 1                      | 1 – 1                    | 0                     | 5   | pCi/L | N         | Erosion of natural deposits  |

**Lead and Copper**

Definitions:

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

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

| Lead and Copper | Date Sampled | MCLG | Action Level (AL) | 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile | # Sites Over AL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
|-----------------|--------------|------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|--|
| Copper          | 2016         | 1.3  | 1.3               | 0.923                       | 0               | ppm   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservative<br>Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead            | 2016         | 0    | 15                | 3.2                         | 0               | ppb   | N         | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.                                    |



Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

| Substance         | Year | Average Level Detected | Minimum – Maximum Level Detected | MRDL | MRDLG | Units | Violation | Typical Sources                         |
|-------------------|------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-----------|---|
| Chlorine Residual | 2016 | 2.59                   | 0.6 – 5.3                        | 4.0  | 4.0   | ppm   | N         | Water additive used to control microbes |

**Turbidity**

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.

|                                | Limit (Treatment Technique) | Level Detected | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Highest single measurement     | 1 NTU                       | 0.45           | N         | Soil runoff.                   |
| Lowest monthly % meeting limit | 0.3 NTU                     | 98%            | N         | Soil runoff.                   |

**Water Loss**

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan-Dec 2016, our system lost an estimated 320 MG of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit please contact West Travis County PUA at 512-263-0125

**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.

