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 6 p.m., at City Hall, 200 N. Brazil Street, Los Fresnos, Texas.

Questions

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

En Español

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (956) 233-5768.

City of Los Fresnos
PWS ID# TX0310004
200 N. Brazil
Los Fresnos, Texas 78566

PWS ID# TX0310004

2018 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

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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.

Source of Drinking 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 and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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.

Where Do We Also Get Purchased Water?

The City of Los Fresnos (PWS#: TX0310004) purchases water from Southmost Regional Water Authority. Southmost Regional Water Authority (PWS#: TX0310150) provides purchase ground water from the Gulf Coast Aquifer located in south Texas.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) completed an assessment of your source water, and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system is 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 Carlos Salazar at 956-233-5768.

All Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

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.

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 the system's business office.

Water Loss Audit

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the period of January to December 2018, our system lost an estimated 10.76 percent. This number included water used through the fire hydrants and during routine flushing of our water pipes, which is unmetered. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call 956-233-5768.

Additional Health Information for 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. We are 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 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.

2018 Test Results

This is your water quality report for January 1 to December 31, 2018. The City of Los Fresnos provides surface water obtained from the Rio Grande River to the Los Fresnos Reservoir and ground water from the Southmost Regional Water Authority Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant located in Brownsville, Texas.

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; persons 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 providers Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Lead and Copper

Contaminant (Units)	Date Sampled	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	2017	1.3	1.3	0.084	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	2017	0	15	1.4	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection By-Products

Contaminant (Units)	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	2018	10*	3.7-16.5	NA	60	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	2018	10**	2.2-22	NA	80*	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

** 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.*
*** 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.*

Disinfectant Residuals

Contaminant (Units)	Collection Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	2018	1.89	1.38-2.20	4	4	No	Water additive used to control microbes.

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (Units)	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	2018	0.108	0.108-0.108	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppm)	2018	50	50-50	200	200	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2018	0.5	0.49-0.49	4	4.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	2018	0.01	0.01-0.01	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2018	4	4-4	50	50	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant (Units)	Collection Date	Highest Single Sample	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	2017	7.5	7.5 - 7.5	0	50	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Uranium (ug/l)	2017	1.9	1.9 - 1.9	0	30	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

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

Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides

Contaminant (Units)	Collection Date	Highest Single Sample	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Atrazine (ppb)	2018	0.13	0.13-0.13	3	3	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

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	0.33 NTU	1 NTU	No	Soil runoff
Lowest Monthly % Meeting Limit	100%	0.3 NTU	No	Soil runoff

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of 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.

Definitions

The charts may contain terms and abbreviations with which you are not familiar. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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

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 a margin of safety.

Avg. – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – 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.

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

NA – not applicable.

NTU – nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity).

Parts per billion (ppb) – micrograms per liter (µg/l) or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

Parts per million (ppm) – milligrams per liter (mg/l) or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – a measure of radioactivity.

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

6 Tips to Prevent Storm Water Pollution

1) Turn off your sprinklers when it rains to avoid water runoff.
2) Do not apply fertilizers and pesticides before it rains. Contrary to popular belief, the rain will not help soak chemicals into the ground; instead, it creates polluted runoff into the local waters.
3) Do not dump your car's oil on the ground or in the storm drain; dispose of it properly at an oil recycling center.
4) Check your car, boat or motorcycle for leaks. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material; do not rinse it into the storm drain.
5) Wash your car with water only or use biodegradable soap to avoid runoff of harmful chemicals and try to wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface.
6) Don't mess with Texas! Throw your litter in a garbage can and recycle what you can!