Annual

DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

For the Period of January 1 to December 31, 2019

WEBB COUNTY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

515 Martha Drive, Rio Bravo, Texas 78046
(956) 523-5590
PWS ID# 2400022

ABOUT YOUR WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT PROCESS

The Webb County
water system provides roughly

1 MILLION GALLONS

every day of treated and purified water for nearly 8,000 residents in Rio Bravo and El Cenizo.

The source of your drinking water is the Rio Grande River. We strive to provide you with drinking water that meets or surpasses all state and federal standards. Water is purified at the Rio Bravo Water Treatment Plant. We purify the water using chemical treatment as well as settling and filtration techniques. Water treatment chemicals include lime, chloramines (chlorine and ammonia), alum, and polymers. These are added to remove impurities, kill harmful bacteria and eliminate unpleasant tastes and odors. Once the water is treated, the water is transported under pressure through a system of storage tanks and a network of pipes to your tap.

Webb County continues to **meet** and **surpass** the water quality requirements under the authority of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Since compliance with the final water quality violation in July of 2017, your water provider has consistently completed all water quality treatment techniques established for the protection of your drinking water. In July of this year we will have consistently met these requirements for two (3) years.

Working Hard to Provide Safe Drinking Water!

Webb County Utilities Department provides the day-to-day management of the water system working to provide you with water that meets and surpasses all the health and safety standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). We regularly test water samples to be sure that your water meets the safety standards. All test results are on file with the TCEQ, the agency that monitors and regulates drinking water quality in our state. The EPA and the TCEQ establish these regulations. They also require water suppliers to provide a Water Quality Report to customers on an annual basis. This Water Quality Report contains important information about your drinking water. Please read it carefully and feel free to call us at (956) 523-5590 if you have any questions about your water or your water service. You can also call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426 - 4791 with water-related questions. If you have specific questions about your water as it relates to your personal health, we suggest that you contact your healthcare provider.

For any additional information regarding this report please contact Tomas Sanchez Jr., Systems Director at (956) 523-5590.

Sources of Drinking Water

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para beber. Para asistancia en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono (956) 523-5590.

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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (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.

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).

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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Information About Source Water Assessments

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 your 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 at our system, contact Tomas Sanchez Jr., Utilities System Director at (956) 523-5590.

Currently your water is provided from the Rio Grande River only; however, we are specified through TCEQ to have two sources; Intake 1 "Terminal Reservoir at the Plant", which received its water from the Rio Grande river bank, and Intake 2 from the "River Bank".

2019 REGULATED CONTAMINANTS DETECTED (Water Quality Test Results)

Coliform Bacteria

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2019	1.3	1.3	0.075	0	ppm	Y	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2019	0	15	0.8	0	ppm	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2019	40	24.6 – 43.1	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	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

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2019	85	63 - 103	No goal for the total	80	ppb	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

* 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

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2019	0.0626	0.0626 - 0.0626	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2019	0.4	0.42 - 0.42	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]	2019	0.24	0.24 - 0.24	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 Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	03/21/2016	4.9	4.9 - 4.9	0	50	pCi/L*	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

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

Synthetic organic contaminants including: pesticides and herbicides	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	2019	1	1.4 – 1.4	0	6	ppb	N	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.

Disinfectant Residual

Disinfectant Residual	Year	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation (Y/N)	Source in Drinking Water
Chloramines	2019	2.11	0.50 – 3.5	4	4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Turbidity

	Level Detected	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	0.24 NTU	1 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	100%	0.3 NTU	N	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.

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.

TABLE DEFINITIONS

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

ALG (Action Level Goal) – 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.

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.

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.

MFL – Million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

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

ppb – Parts per billion or micograms per liter (µg/L)

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units

ppt – Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

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

TT – Treatment technique

ppm – Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

µmhos/cm – Micromhos per centimeter (a measure

ppq – Parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter (pg/L) of conductivity)

Project accomplishments and meeting objectives as those presented in this report are fantastic to reflect upon; however, for the upcoming year, we plan to enhance the experience by the customer with some new services. We are working diligently to provide online payment capability to every one of our customers bringing the era of online services such as we did to provide credit card payments in the previous years.

We are finalizing our ongoing project to install remote metering of our water meters that will offer the opportunity to our customers to see effectively in real time their water usage by accessing our website or installing individual cell phone applications. A sign with LED messaging has been installed that displays continuous information regarding changes in water system schedules or important dates related to customer interaction.

One of the most exciting changes has been a Kiosk machine that will accept customer payment at the water billing office 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This machine is similar to an ATM machine that you can request information on your account and pay with a credit card, check, and even cash.

The completion of the activation of an Interactive Voice Recognition software system that can direct customers over the phone through an automated system to report system emergencies, information request, or pay their bill through. We thank our County leaders on Commissioners Court for their leadership and financial support in all these accomplishments and continued progress towards perfection.

Violations

Lead and Copper Rule			
The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and Copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR)	07/01/2019	01/10/2020	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure f the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
WATER QUALITY PARAMETER M/R (LCR)	06/30/2019	01/01/2019	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure f the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

Public Notification Rule			
The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency).			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	11/09/2019	02/03/2020	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.

Total Trihalomenthanes (TTHM)			
Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
FAILURE SUBMIT OEL REPORT FOR TTHM	04/09/2019	07/30/2019	We failed to submit our operational evaluation level (OEM) report to our regulator. The report is needed to determine best treatment practices necessary to minimize possible future exceedances of TTHM.
MCL, LRAA	10/01/2019	09/30/2019	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.
MCL, LRAA	10/01/2019	12/31/2019	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.