

2016 Drinking Water Report

Consumer Confidence Report



PWS ID Number TX0710154

1557 FM 1110 Rd.
Clint, TX. 79836
(915) 791-4480

Dear Customer:

This report describes the quality of Lower Valley Water District's drinking water, as well as the sources and programs that protect our water quality. This publication complies with federal law requirements for water utilities to provide water quality information to customers every year.

While most of the contents of this report are required by regulation, we also include information that addresses questions typically asked by our customers about our system. We support the public's right to know the results of our water quality monitoring.

We realize that a report dominated by technical information is not inviting reading to most people. Our effort is to provide information in a clear and useful format. For those who are not interested in all the detail that we provide, here is the summary:

Lower Valley Water District's drinking water supply is safe to drink and our water meets or exceeds all applicable standards. We have no violations of water quality standards. We test our water regularly through a certified laboratory. State and federal regulators routinely monitor our compliance and testing protocols to assure that we deliver safe drinking water to the District's customers.

This analysis was done using data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests. We hope this information helps you to become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water. If you have any questions or comments concerning this report please call our office at (915) 791-4480. We welcome your interest in the Lower Valley Water District's water system and you are more than welcome to participate in our public Board Meetings, held every 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at our main offices located at 1557 F.M. 1110 Rd., in Clint, Texas.

Sincerely,

Jack Alayyan
General Manager

Estimado(a) Cliente:

Este reporte describe la calidad del agua del Distrito de Agua del Valle Bajo (LVWD por sus siglas en inglés), origen del agua y programas que protegen la calidad. Esta publicación cumple con los requisitos de la ley federal que requiere proveer información anualmente a sus clientes sobre la calidad del agua.

Aunque la mayor parte del contenido de este reporte es requerido por ley, también incluimos información que da respuesta a preguntas típicas de nuestros clientes. Apoyamos el derecho del público a saber los resultados de nuestros monitoreos de calidad.

Reconocemos que un reporte dominado por información técnica no es leído fácilmente por muchos. Nos esforzamos en proveer información en una forma clara y fácil de entender. Para aquellos que están interesados en todos los detalles que presentamos, aquí les damos un resumen:

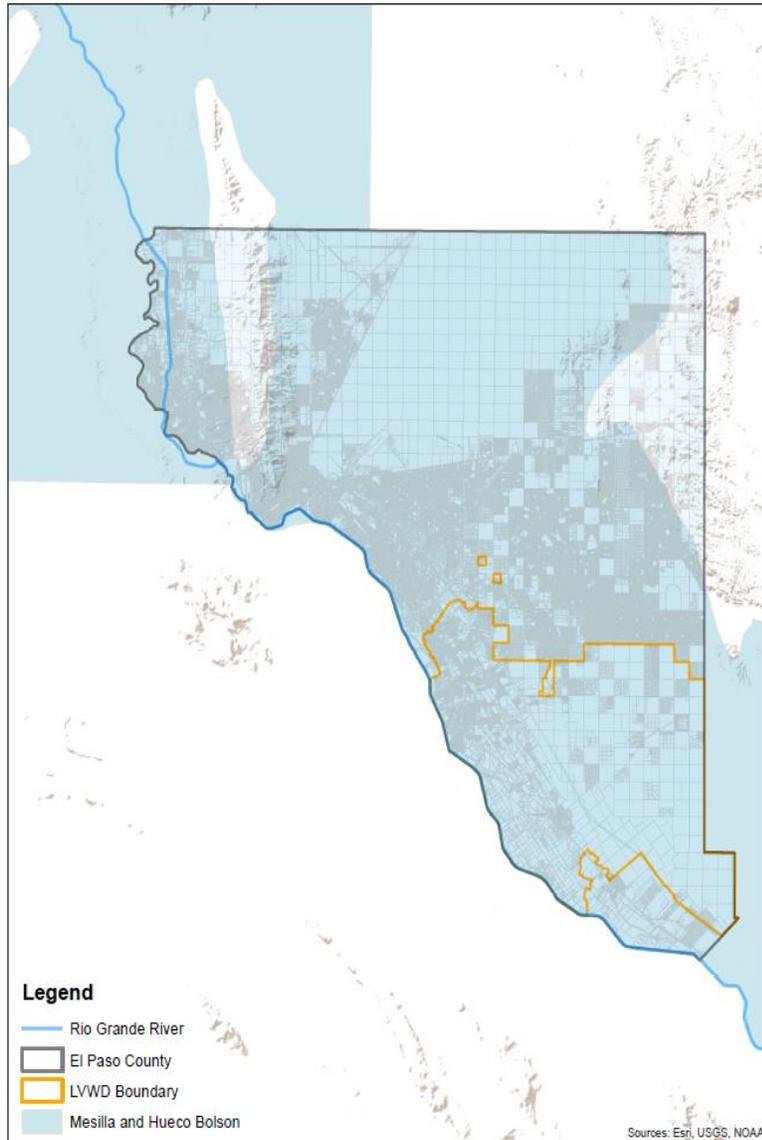
El agua potable que usted consume es segura, cumple e incluso sobrepasa todas las normas aplicables. No tenemos violaciones de las normas de calidad. Analizamos regularmente nuestra agua en laboratorios certificados. Agencias estatales y federales, rutinariamente, vigilan nuestro cumplimiento y métodos de análisis para asegurar que el agua que proveemos a nuestros clientes sea agua potable segura.

Este análisis se hizo utilizando datos de las más recientes pruebas requeridas por EPA (la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos). Esperamos que ésta información le ayude a estar más informado sobre la calidad del agua potable. Si tiene alguna pregunta adicional o comentarios sobre éste reporte, por favor comuníquese a nuestra oficina al (915) 791-4480. Le agradecemos su interés en el Distrito de Agua del Valle Bajo y lo invitamos a atender a nuestras juntas públicas mensuales de la Mesa Directiva, que se llevan a cabo cada 4to jueves de cada mes, a las 6:00 p.m. en nuestras oficinas ubicadas en 1557 F.M. 1110 Rd., en Clint, Texas.

Cordialmente,

Jack Alayyan
Gerente General

Where Our Water Comes From



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. 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.

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.

- 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 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, septic systems and mining activities.

Water customers in the Lower Valley Water District receive water from the El Paso Water Utilities distribution system. Our drinking water is obtained from Ground and Surface water sources. The surface water source is the Rio Grande. The groundwater sources are the Mesilla Bolson and the Hueco Bolson. While water from the Rio Grande is highly treated before delivery to our customers, our high quality groundwater only needs to be chlorinated prior to delivery. Further details about the sources of water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW> (Source Water Name; EPWU Shearman and EPWU Jonathan Rogers TX0710002)

Water supplied by El Paso Water Utilities to the Lower Valley Water District is treated to a level far exceeding that required by EPA regulation. The surface water is constantly treated to 0.1 NTUs measured immediately after the water has passed through each filter. This is significantly better than the 0.3 NTUs required by EPA regulation.

All drinking water may contain contaminants. 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)

REQUIRED LANGUAGE FOR ALL COMMUNITY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

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, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants 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. The Lower Valley Water District is 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 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>.

Secondary Constituents

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.

Source Water Assessment

The TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate that our sources have a low susceptibility to contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection 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 Mr. Phillip Marin, Compliance Officer at 915-791-4480.

Required Additional Health Information for Arsenic

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Required 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. This water supply is 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Turbidity (NTU)

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity is monitored because it can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.

Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)

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.

Regulated Contaminants Detected

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	5% of monthly samples are positive	1.4	N/A	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

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 a margin of safety.

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	06/11/2015	1.3	1.3	0.34	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	06/11/2015	0	15	2.1	1	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	2016	10	0 – 29.2	No Goals for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2016	36	1.43 – 95.2	No Goals 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
Nitrate (Measured as Nitrogen)	2016	1	1.31 – 1.32	10	10	ppb	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Violation Table

Consumer Confidence Rule			
The Consumer Confidence Rule requires community water systems to prepare and provide to their customer's annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of the water delivered by their systems.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
CCR REPORT	07/01/2014	06/29/2016	We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that informs you about the quality of our drinking water and characterizes the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water.
CCR REPORT	07/01/2015	06/29/2016	We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that informs you about the quality of our drinking water and characterizes the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water.

Ground Water Rule			
The Ground Water Rule specifies the appropriate use of disinfection while addressing other components of ground water systems to ensure public health protection.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
FAILURE TO NOTIFY OTHER PWS	10/04/2013	2016	We failed to notify a water system about the presence of total coliform or fecal contamination. The water system needed the notification because it affects them as well as us.

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 corrosiveness. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
LEAD CONSUMER NOTICE (LCR)	12/30/2015	2016	We failed to provide the results of lead tap water monitoring to the consumers at the location water was tested. These were supposed to be provided no later than 30 days after learning the results.

Violation Table

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	07/12/2011	2016	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	12/06/2011	2016	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	08/10/2013	2016	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	02/12/2014	2016	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	10/01/2014	2016	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	02/13/2015	2016	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.

Monitoring Violation			
Presently, any failure of a PWS to comply with the RTCR subjects the PWS to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) enforcement authority. In accordance with 40 CFR §141.852, 141.853, and 141.860 [see 30 TAC §290.109(d) and (d)(1)(B), 290.109(g)(4), and 290.119], the PWS must: collect every required routine sample according to the PWS's Sample Siting Plan (SSP); and/or collect replacement samples when the TCEQ or lab invalidates one or more routine samples; and/or use approved analytical methods, holding times, sample collection methods by a State-accredited laboratory.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
REVISED TOTAL COLIFORM RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	June 01, 2016	June 30, 2016	We failed to collect every required routine sample according to the PWS's Sample Siting Plan (SSP) and/or failure to collect replacement samples when a State or lab invalidates one or more routine samples as described in the 40 CFR §141.853 and §141.860 [see 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §290.109(d)(2)(F), §290.109(g)(4) and (6)].

1. The lowest monthly % of samples meeting limits was 100%.
2. Lead and copper concentration shown are at the 90th percentile level at the customer's tap first draw sample.
3. The average and minimum disinfection residuals are dependent on treatment techniques.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The highest running annual average at any location monitored was 36.0 ppb for TTHM.
7. The highest running annual average at any location monitored was 10.0 ppb for HAAs.
8. The system falls in compliance with a yearly removal ratio of 1.00 or greater.
9. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Health Effects Language

Turbidity (NTU) - Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity is monitored because it can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.

Arsenic (ppb) - While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Definitions

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to maximum contaminant level goals 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.

N/A - not applicable

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - A measure of turbidity (cloudiness)

None (N) - No violations

Parts per Billion (ppb) - or micrograms per liter. An example of one part per billion is one packet of artificial sweetener sprinkled into an Olympic-sized swimming pool full of water.

Parts per Million (ppm) - or milligrams per liter. An example of one part per million is one packet of artificial sweetener sprinkled into 250 gallons of water.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - A measure of radioactivity

Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.