

A dynamic splash of clear water against a white background, with a central stream of water falling and splashing outwards, creating numerous droplets and ripples.

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2019



*Presented By*  
**City of El Campo**

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (979) 541-5075.

PWS ID#: TX2410002

## Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2019.

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.



## Important Health Information

While your drinking water meets the U.S. EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The 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.

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.



## 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 88,981,947 gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call PWS phone number.

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

## Community Participation

You are invited at any time to attend the City of El Campo City Council meetings and voice any concerns you may have about your drinking water. The City Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of every month, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the City Hall, 315 East Jackson Street, El Campo, Texas, 77437. Please call (979) 541-5000 to confirm meeting times.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of El Campo Water Department customers are fortunate because you enjoy an abundant water supply from five water wells. These water wells draw water from a combination of the Angelina and the Chicot groundwater formations, which range in depth from 750 feet to 1,400 feet. Combined, these wells are capable of producing about eight million gallons of high-quality drinking water every day. During all of 2019, your water department produced and delivered to your taps 579,369,000 gallons of water -- an average of 1,587,312 gallons per day! These numbers indicate that the current water supply should be adequate to provide the City of El Campo with high-quality drinking water for several years to come.

We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water

## 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 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.

## Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:



- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry;
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels;
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Jerry Lewis, Director of Utilities, at (979) 541-5076.

## 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 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment allows us to focus source water protection strategies.

For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL:

<http://gis3.tceq.state.tx.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtrsrc=>

Further details about sources and source water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL:

<https://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>

## BY THE NUMBERS



**34**  
BILLION

The number of gallons of water produced daily by public water systems in the U.S.

**2**  
BILLION

The age in years of the world's oldest water found in a mine at a depth of nearly two miles.

The amount of money spent annually on maintaining the public water infrastructure in the U.S. **135**  
BILLION

**1**  
MILLION

The number of miles of drinking water distribution mains in the U.S.

The number of active public water systems in the U.S. **151**  
THOUSAND

**300**  
MILLION The number of Americans who receive water from a public water system.



## Test Results

During the course of each year, your water system is sampled hundreds of times to ensure our water meets all state and federal guidelines. We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all these requirements.

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. Also, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we show only 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.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less often 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.

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set.

We participated in the 4th stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if the EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Arsenic</b> (ppb)	2019	10	0	5.2	2.1–5.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
<b>Barium</b> (ppm)	2019	2	2	0.301	0.244–0.301	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Chlorine</b> (ppm)	2019	[4]	[4]	1.30	0.35–1.84	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Combined Radium</b> (pCi/L)	2017	5	0	1.33	1.33–1.33	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Fluoride</b> (ppm)	2019	4	4	0.41	0.41–0.41	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]</b> (ppb)	2019	60	NA	2.0	0–3.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Nitrate</b> (ppm)	2019	10	10	1	0.13–0.54	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]</b> (ppb)	2019	80	NA	4.0	0–7.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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
<b>Copper</b> (ppm)	2019	1.3	1.3	0.1	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead</b> (ppb)	2019	15	0	1.6	0/30	No	Lead services lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

### UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES<sup>1</sup>

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
<b>Bromide</b> (ppb)	2018	2.97	NA
<b>Dibromoacetic Acid</b> (ppb)	2018	0.397	NA
<b>Dichloroacetic Acid</b> (ppb)	2018	0.202	NA
<b>Germanium</b> (ppb)	2018	0.375	NA
<b>Manganese</b> (ppb)	2018	2.97	NA

<sup>1</sup> Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of monitoring unregulated contaminants is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

## 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 that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average):** The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as the highest LRAAs.

**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).

