

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022



***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, 2022. 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. Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

## 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 our source water protection strategies.



For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/swaview>. Further details about sources and source water assessments are available from Drinking Water Watch at <https://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>.

## What's Your Water Footprint?

You may have some understanding about your carbon footprint, but how much do you know about your water footprint? The water footprint of an individual, community, or business is defined as the total volume of freshwater that is used to produce the goods and services that are consumed by the individual or community or produced by the business. For example, 11 gallons of water is needed to irrigate and wash the fruit in one half-gallon container of orange juice. Thirty-seven gallons of water is used to grow, produce, package, and ship the beans in that morning cup of coffee. Two hundred and sixty-four gallons of water is required to produce one quart of milk, and 4,200 gallons of water is required to produce two pounds of beef.

According to the U.S. EPA, the average American uses over 180 gallons of water daily. In fact, in the developed world, one flush of a toilet uses as much water as the average person in the developing world allocates for an entire day's cooking, washing, cleaning, and drinking. The annual American per capita water footprint is about 8,000 cubic feet, twice the global per capita average. With water use increasing sixfold in the past century, our demands for freshwater are rapidly outstripping what the planet can replenish. To check out your own water footprint, go to [www.watercalculator.org](http://www.watercalculator.org).

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of El Campo Water Department customers are fortunate because they enjoy an abundant water supply from five wells. These wells draw water from a combination of the Angelina and Chicot groundwater formations, which range in depth from 750 to 1,400 feet. Combined, these wells are capable of producing about eight million gallons of high-quality drinking water every day. In 2022 your water department produced and delivered to your taps 663,025,000 gallons of water -- an average of 1,816,507 gallons per day! These numbers indicate that the current supply should be adequate to provide the City of El Campo with quality drinking water for several years to come.

“Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.”  
—W.H. Auden

## Community Participation

You are invited 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 Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 315 East Jackson Street. Please call (979) 541-5000 to confirm meeting times.

## 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.

## 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, which 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 which 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 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.

## 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 77,941,125 gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call (979) 541-5076.



## Important Health Information

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





## BY THE NUMBERS

The number of Olympic-sized swimming pools it would take to fill up all of Earth's water.

**800**  
TRILLION

**1** The average cost in cents for about 5 gallons of water supplied to a home in the U.S.

The percent of Earth's water that is salty or otherwise undrinkable, or locked away and unavailable in ice caps and glaciers.

**99**

**50** The average daily number of gallons of total home water use for each person in the U.S.

The percent of Earth's surface that is covered by water.

**71**

**330**  
MILLION The amount of water on Earth in cubic miles.

The percent of the human brain that contains water.

**75**

## 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 looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use four 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 can 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.

## 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 two 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).



## Test Results

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

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less 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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Arsenic</b> (ppb)	2022	10	0	5.1	3.2–5.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
<b>Barium</b> (ppm)	2022	2	2	0.263	0.238–0.263	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Chlorine</b> (ppm)	2020	[4]	[4]	1.31	0.74–1.89	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Combined Radium</b> (pCi/L)	2022	5	0	1.50	1.50–1.50	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Fluoride</b> (ppm)	2022	4	4	0.38	0.38–0.38	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2</b> (ppb)	2022	60	NA	1.0	ND–1.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Nitrate</b> (ppm)	2022	10	10	0.50	0.30–0.50	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Selenium</b> (ppb)	2022	50	50	3.3	ND–3.3	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
<b>TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2</b> (ppb)	2022	80	NA	6.5	ND–6.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Uranium</b> (ppb)	2022	30	0	1.7	1.7–1.7	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)			SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
		AL	MCLG				
<b>Copper</b> (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.13	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead</b> (ppb)	2022	15	0	1.3	0/30	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

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

**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.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**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).