



**Presented By  
City of Mission  
Water Systems**

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2016

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (956) 584-4310 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

PWS ID#: TX1080008

## We've Come a Long Way

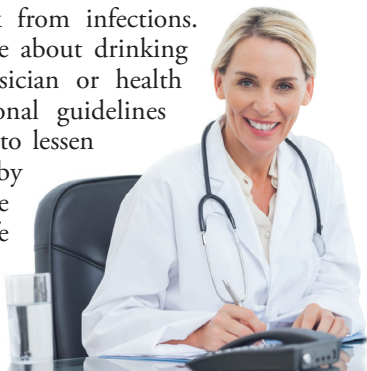
Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2016. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at any hour—to deliver the highest-quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

## Emergency Use of Supplemental Water Sources

During emergencies, the City of Mission is capable of coordinating the delivery of potable water from the City of McAllen through a metered interconnection.

## Important Health Information

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.



## 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.

## Source Water Assessment

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 our water systems 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 systems, contact Filemon Olvera, Water Plant Supervisor, at (956) 584-4310.

For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/swaview>.

Further details about sources and source-water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>.

SOURCE WATER NAME	TYPE OF WATER	REPORT STATUS	LOCATION
Mission City Reservoir SW	SW	Active	4th Street and 514 Perkins Ave
North Plant Reservoir	SW	Active	2801 N. Holland

## Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan

The City of Mission has implemented a Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan to manage and provide an adequate water supply to meet the future needs of our customers. The purpose of this plan is to establish procedures to identify, classify, and manage an effective and efficient water supply during high water demand or water-shortage emergency. Excessive demand on the water treatment plants and/or continually falling treated-water reservoir levels, which do not refill overnight to a specific level, will trigger four stages of the water conservation plan. These stages range from Stage 1 (voluntary stage) to Stage 5 (water rationing). Utility customers in the City of Mission are currently in a voluntary water conservation Stage 1 at the time this report is published and are encouraged to limit their daily water usage by using good management practices for water conservation. Utility customers will be notified before a stage level change. At such time, customers may incur a surcharge fee based on the individual customer's water-usage history for Stages 3, 4, and 5. Fines that may exceed \$400.00 may be imposed for any violations of any stage of the water conservation plan and, depending on the severity of the violation, the customer's water service may be terminated.

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



## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Mission's Water Systems consist of two water treatment plants: the South Water Treatment Plant (8.0 million gallons per day, or mgd) and the North Water Treatment Plant (17.5 mgd). Our raw water source is the Rio Grande River; the raw water is delivered from the river to the reservoirs via irrigation canals. Combined, our water treatment facilities can treat and purify 25.5 million gallons per day of clean drinking water.

## Tips to Prevent Storm Water Pollution

1. Remember to turn off your sprinklers when it rains to avoid water runoff; during winter, runoff can freeze, causing slippery conditions.
2. Bag your pets' waste. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drains and eventually into local water bodies.
3. Don't apply pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides before it rains. Contrary to popular belief, the rain won't help to soak these chemicals into the ground; it will only help create polluted runoff into our local creeks.
4. Select native and adapted plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizers, and pesticides. Learn more about native and adapted plants at [www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com).
5. Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard.
6. If you change your car's oil, don't dump it on the ground or in the storm drain. Dispose of it properly at an oil recycling center.
7. Check your car, boat, or motorcycle for leaks. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material; don't rinse the spills into the storm drains.
8. Don't get rid of grass clippings and other yard waste by dumping it or sweeping it into the storm drain; this will deplete the oxygen for aquatic life. Instead, compost your yard waste.
9. When washing your car at home, wash with only water or use biodegradable soap, and wash it on a lawn or other unpaved surface. Better yet, take your car to a professional car wash.
10. Don't get rid of old or unused paint by throwing it down the storm drain; dispose of paint and other household hazardous waste at recycling facilities.
11. Don't pump your pool water into the storm drain; pool chemicals can be hazardous to our creeks' habitats. Whenever possible, drain your pool into the sanitary sewer system where the water can be treated.
12. Don't Mess with Texas! Throw litter away in a garbage can, not out your window. Recycle what you can!

## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We will meet Friday, July 7, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, located at 1201 E. 8th Street.

## 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 352,851,875 gallons of water or 7 percent. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call (956) 580-8780.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Filemon Olvera, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, at (956) 584-4310.

## Tip Top Tap

The most common signs that your faucet or sink is affecting the quality of your drinking water are discolored water, sink or faucet stains, a buildup of particles, unusual odors or tastes, and a reduced flow of water. The solutions to these problems may be in your hands.

### Kitchen Sink and Drain

Hand washing, soap scum buildup, and the handling of raw meats and vegetables can contaminate your sink. Clogged drains can lead to unclean sinks and backed-up water in which bacteria (e.g., pink and black slime) can grow and contaminate the sink area and faucet, causing a rotten egg odor. Disinfect and clean the sink and drain area regularly. Also, flush regularly with hot water.

### Faucets, Screens, and Aerators

Chemicals and bacteria can splash and accumulate on the faucet screen and aerator, which are located on the tip of faucets and can collect particles like sediment and minerals, resulting in a decreased flow from the faucet. Clean and disinfect the aerators or screens on a regular basis.

Check with your plumber if you find particles in the faucet screen as they could be pieces of plastic from the hot water heater dip tube. Faucet gaskets can break down and cause black, oily slime. If you find this slime, replace the faucet gasket with a higher-quality product.

White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and shower heads may be caused by hard water or water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.

### Water Filtration and Treatment Devices

A smell of rotten eggs can be a sign of bacteria on the filters or in the treatment system. The system can also become clogged over time so regular filter replacement is important. (Remember to replace your refrigerator filter!)

## Water Conservation

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. Check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

## How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and sent to the reservoir, where copper sulfate (algae control) is added. Gravity then causes the raw water to flow to the raw water pump intake, where we add powdered activated carbon (for taste and odor control). When the water is pumped to the water treatment plant, it then goes to a rapid mixer where aluminum sulfate and polymer are added. Chlorine dioxide is added for disinfection. The addition of these substances causes small particles (called floc) to adhere to one another, making them heavy enough to settle into a basin from which sediment is removed. At this point, the water is filtered through layers of anthracite coal and sand. As smaller, suspended particles are removed, turbidity disappears and clear water emerges. Chlorine and ammonium sulfate are added as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine added, adding the smallest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising aesthetics.) Finally, polyphosphate, a corrosion inhibitor (to protect distribution system pipes) is added before the water is pumped to sanitized, underground reservoirs, water towers, and into your home or business.



## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of contaminants on a very strict sampling schedule. The information below represents only those substances that were detected; 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.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2016	2	2	0.111	0.106–0.111	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters <sup>1</sup> (pCi/L)	2011	50	0	5.4	5.4–5.4	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2016	[4]	[4]	2.5	1.03–3.78	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2016	1	0.8	0.73	0.24–0.73	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2011	5	0	1	1–1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2016	4	4	0.5	0.45–0.49	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2016	60	NA	16	14.2–19.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2016	10	10	1	0.46–0.66	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2016	50	50	3.4	3.1–3.4	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2016	80	NA	43	24.6–46.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria (% positive samples)	2016	5% positive monthly samples	0	1.1	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>2</sup> (NTU)	2016	TT	NA	0.29	0.06–0.29	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2016	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

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%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2016	1.3	1.3	0.11	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2016	15	0	1.2	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>1</sup>The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. The U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

<sup>2</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

## Definitions

**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 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

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**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).

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