

2010 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

PWS ID Number: TX0310003

PWS Name: CITY OF LA FERIA

The source of drinking water used by CITY OF LA FERIA is Surface Water

Special Notice

Required Language for ALL Community Public Water Systems

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2010

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required test and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

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 at (800) 426-4791.

For more information regarding this report contact:

Name Heriberto Ureste

Phone (956) 797-2261

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Public Participation Opportunities

Date: 2nd Tuesday of the Month

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Location: 115 E. Commercial Avenue
La Feria, TX 78559

Phone #: (956) 797-2261

Information on Sources of Water:

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.

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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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 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.
- 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 oil and gas production and mining activities.

Information about Secondary Contaminants

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.

Information about Source Water Assessments

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) 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(s) 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 source(s) 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 sourcewater assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>

Abbreviations & Definitions

- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- MFL – million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ppm – parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- ppb – parts per billion, or micrograms per liter
- ppt – parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
- ppq – parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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.
Maximum Contaminant Level or 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.
Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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.
Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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.
mrem:	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
ppb:	micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
na:	not applicable.
Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
ppm:	milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

2010 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Water Quality Test Results

Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest Number of Positive Samples	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	3 samples were positive	0	0	Y	Naturally present in the environment.

Steps to Correct Violations

On July 20, 2010 two (2) regular bacteriological samples collected from Ken-La RV Park and from White Ranch (Rancho Blanco Estates) tested positive for total Coliform Bacteria. On July 22, 2010 several repeat samples (6 samples total) were collected. Out of the six (6) samples, one (1) sample came out positive again at Ken-La RV Park. More repeat samples were collected and tested on July 26, 2010 and all repeat bacteriological samples came out Negative. South Texas Hospital does the bacteriological analysis once per month. The reason the samples came out positive was for the lack of chlorine or chloramines residual at the point of collection. Procedures taken to obtain repeat samples were to flush the area of point of collection and areas downstream and upstream and make sure that plenty of chlorine residual was available. All the results were submitted to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in Austin, Texas.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant Type	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2010	Chloramines	3.0	2.1	3.8	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Because chlorine and chloramines are subject to a maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL), all community water systems are required to report the range, average, and source of this constituent.

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	08/30/2007	1.3	1.3	0.0483	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	08/30/2007	0	15	2.8	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Single Sample	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) *	2010	21.8	2.3 - 21.8	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Single Sample	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TThm) *	2010	90.1	56.6 – 90.1	No goal for the total	80	ppb	Y	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Steps to Correct Violations

The reason of the exceeded violation was well explained in the 2009 CCR. During the water plant expansion/construction, the raw intake predisinfection point was changed to a different location, so as part of a normal treatment process, we switched from Chloramine disinfectant (Ammonia and Chlorine mix) to Free Chlorine (Chlorine Gas). All of this was reported to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Harlingen Region 15.

One of the THM's analysis results came out too high: 160 ppm instead of the required 80 ppm. Automatically, this result was carried over as part of the TCEQ Annual Running Average. All four (4) quarters results from 2010 were negative and below the 80 ppm, but because of the carried over TTHMs of 160 ppm, the annual quarterly average continued to exceed the MCL or 80 ppm. A copy of the results is available on request.

Currently, the THMs MCLs have been in compliance for the last quarter of 2010 (9/2010 - 12/2010) and the first two (2) quarters of 2011. Public Notification of Notice of Violation was mailed to customers as per TCEQ Rules and Regulations.

Regulated Contaminants

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Single Sample	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	2010	0.34	0.34 – 0.34	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)	2010	0.06	0.06 – 0.06	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Nitrate Advisory – Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR)

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 a future regulation is warranted. Any unregulated contaminants detected are reported in the following table. For additional information and data visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2/index.html>, or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. (None detected, so there is no table following)

Turbidity

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

Violations Table

Note on Violations:

TCEQ recently completed a review of Public Notice violations that were historically present in our database. This review was done at the request of the Environmental Protection Agency and was triggered by the TCEQ migration to the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). Following EPA guidelines TCEQ returned to compliance many PN violations that had existed, but may have not been reported on a prior year CCR. We strongly encourage you to check Drinking Water Watch (<http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>) for the current status of any violations displayed on this page.

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	05/01/2006	01/20/2011	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	06/01/2006	01/20/2011	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	07/01/2006	01/20/2011	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	08/30/2010		We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
Total Coliform			
Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL (TCR), MONTHLY	07/01/2010	07/31/2010	Total coliform bacteria were found in our drinking water during the period indicated in enough samples to violate a standard.
Total Trihalomethanes (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
MCL, AVERAGE	01/01/2010	03/31/2010	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, AVERAGE	04/01/2010	06/30/2010	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, AVERAGE	07/01/2010	09/30/2010	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, SINGLE SAMPLE	03/31/2010	01/01/2010	A water sample 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.