

2014 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, 2014

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.

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan.-Dec. 2014, our system lost an estimated 11,170,275 gallons of water of 326,088,000 total for a 3.4% loss. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call (956) 797-2261.

For more information regarding this report contact:

Name Heriberto Ureste
Phone (956) 797-2261

Este reporte incluye información muy importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al teléfono (956) 797-2261.

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

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; persons 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 providers. 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. We are 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>.

Sources of Drinking Water:

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. 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 Heriberto Ureste at (956) 797-2261.

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 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>

Source Water Name	Type of Water	Report Status	Location
1-3/LA FERIA RESERVOIR	SW	Negative	City of La Feria

Water Quality Test Results

Abbreviations & Definitions - The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

- MFL – million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
- NA – not applicable
- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of turbidity)
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ppm – parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
- ppb – parts per billion, or micrograms per liter or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
- ppt – parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
- ppq – parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)

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.
na:	not applicable.
Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

2014 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	1 positive monthly sample	3	0	0	Y	Naturally present in the environment.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant Type	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Source	Source of Chemical
2014	Chloramines	2.1	1.5	2.8	2.8	3.5	ppm	Disinfectant used to control/kill microbes

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	8/282013	1.3	1.3	0.106	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	8/282013	0	15	1.91	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Regulated Contaminants (Cont'd)

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2014	29	10.3 – 53.9	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2014	58	32.2 – 90.5	No goal 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
Barium	2014	0.122	0.122 - 0.122	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide	2014	160	160-160	200	200	ppm	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
Fluoride	2014	0.3	0.26 - 0.26	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]	2014	0.11	0.11 - 0.11	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	2014	10	5.1 – 5.1	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	2014	6.8	6.8 - 6.8	0	50	pCi/L *	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Combined Radium 226/228	2014	1	1 - 1	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	2014	1.3	1.3 - 1.3	0	30	ug/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Turbidity

	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.35 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	99%	N	Soil runoff.

Information Statement: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

Total Organic Carbon

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 violations section.

Violations Table

Interim Enhanced SWTR			
The Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule improves control of microbial contaminants, particularly Cryptosporidium, in systems using surface water, or ground water under the direct influence of surface water. The rule builds upon the treatment technique requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE (ESWTR/LT1), MAJOR	09/01/2014	09/30/2014	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

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 corrosivity. 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)	12/30/2013	2014	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.

Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR)			
The Surface Water Treatment Rule seeks to prevent waterborne diseases caused by viruses, Legionella, and Giardia lamblia. The rule requires that water systems filter and disinfect water from surface water sources to reduce the occurrence of unsafe levels of these microbes.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, RTN/RPT MAJOR (SWTR-FILTER)	09/01/2014	09/30/2014	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

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	10/01/2014	10/31/2014	Total coliform bacteria were found in our drinking water during the period indicated in enough samples to violate a standard.