# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al teléfono (512) 304-0354.

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#### Pear Valued Members,

We are pleased to present you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality, covering all testing performed between January 1 to December 31, 2024.

Included are details about your source(s) of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. At Aqua Water Supply Corporation, our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our dedication to excellence drives us to consistently enhance our water treatment processes and safeguard precious water resources. By providing you this information, we honor our commitment to transparency, because we believe that informed members are our best allies.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the contents of this report, please do not hesitate to reach out. Your feedback is invaluable to us as we strive for continuous improvement.

Thank you for entrusting us with the responsibility of providing you with clean and reliable drinking water.

Sincerely,

Dacy Cameron, PE

General Manager, Aqua Water Supply Corporation

#### Where Does My Water Come From?

A qua Water Supply Corporation provides service to approximately 30,446 active meters. Our drinking water is obtained exclusively from groundwater sources from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. Water is supplied through approximately 2,121 miles of pipeline in a 1,123-square-mile area. Aqua Water Supply Corporation is capable of producing 25 million gallons of water per day from 41 groundwater wells and has the capacity to store 17 million gallons of water in elevated and ground storage tanks.

#### **Community Participation**

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water at our monthly board of directors meetings. These meetings are typically held on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Aqua Water Supply Corporation main building. See www.aquawsc.com for updates.

#### 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 healthcare 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.



#### Source Water Assessment

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) completed an assessment of your source water, and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your source water system are based on this susceptibility and on previous data. Any detection of these contaminants will be reported in this Consumer Confidence Report. More information about



your source water assessment and protection can be found at https://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/. Our water system number is TX0110013. You can also contact Aqua Water Supply Corporation, Water Resources Department, at (512) 304-0354.

#### 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 393,260,574 gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call (512) 304-0354.

# **QUESTIONS?**

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Aqua Water Supply Corporation, Water Resources Manager, at (512) 304-0354.



#### Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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 at (512) 304-0354. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

#### **Benefits of Chlorination**

Disinfection, a chemical process used to control diseasecausing microorganisms by killing or inactivating them, is unquestionably the most important step in drinking water treatment. By far, the most common method of disinfection in North America is chlorination.

Before communities began routinely treating drinking water with chlorine (starting with Chicago and Jersey City in 1908), cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis A killed thousands of US residents annually. Drinking water chlorination and filtration have helped to virtually eliminate these diseases in the U.S. Significant strides in public health are directly linked to the adoption of drinking water chlorination. In fact, the filtration of drinking water and the use of chlorine are probably the most significant public health advancements in human history.

How chlorination works:

Potent germicide: Reduction of many disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water to almost immeasurable levels.

Taste and odor: Reduction of many disagreeable tastes and odors from foul-smelling algae secretions, sulfides, and decaying vegetation.

Biological growth: Elimination of slime bacteria, molds, and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains, and in storage tanks.

Chemical: Removal of hydrogen sulfide (which has a rotten egg odor), ammonia, and other nitrogenous compounds that have unpleasant tastes and hinder disinfection. It also helps to remove iron and manganese from raw water.



#### 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. Aqua Water Supply Corporation 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, 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory may be accessed at www.aquawsc.com/conservationenvironment/environmental-protection/lead-copper-service-lines/. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

### **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 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 is 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 (unless a TOC violation is noted in the Violation column).

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. As part of this program, Aqua Water Supply Corporation sampled for 30 unregulated contaminants in the water. Twenty-nine of the substances sampled, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), were under the U.S. EPA's Minimum Reporting Level. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards. 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<br>(UNIT OF MEASURE)         | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | MCL<br>[MRDL]   | MCLG<br>[MRDLG] | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE  |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|---|
| Arsenic (ppb)                          | 2024            | 10              | 0               | 4                  | ND-4              | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards;<br>runoff from glass and electronics production wastes                       |
| Barium (ppm)                           | 2024            | 2               | 2               | 0.189              | 0.078–0.189       | No        | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits                                      |
| <b>Beta/Photon Emitters</b><br>(pCi/L) | 2023            | 50 <sup>1</sup> | 0               | 5.3                | ND-5.3            | No        | Decay of natural and human-made deposits  |
| Chlorine (ppm)                         | 2024            | [4]             | [4]             | 1.8<br>(average)   | 0.74–3.20         | No        | Water additive used to control microbes   |
| Combined Radium (pCi/L)                | 2020            | 5               | 0               | 3.03               | 3.03-3.03         | No        | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Fluoride <sup>2</sup> (ppm)            | 2024            | 4               | 4               | 0.44               | ND-0.44           | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which<br>promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and<br>aluminum factories |
| Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]<br>(ppb)       | 2024            | 60              | NA              | 1.1                | 1.1–10.8          | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection   |
| Nitrate (ppm)                          | 2024            | 10              | 10              | 0.67               | ND-0.67           | No        | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks<br>sewage; erosion of natural deposits                                   |
| TTHMs [total<br>trihalomethanes] (ppb) | 2024            | 80              | NA              | 64                 | 13.3–67.8         | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection   |

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

| SUBSTANCE<br>(UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | AL  | MCLG | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED<br>(90TH %ILE) | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH | SITES ABOVE<br>AL/TOTAL<br>SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Copper (ppm)                   | 2023            | 1.3 | 1.3  | 0.169                             | NA                | 0/30                             | No        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits  |
| Lead (ppb)                     | 2023            | 15  | 0    | ND                                | NA                | 0/30                             | No        | Lead service lines; corrosion of household plumbing<br>systems, including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural<br>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** (μg/L) (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (mg/L) (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

| UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES <sup>3</sup> |                 |                    |                   |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| SUBSTANCE<br>(UNIT OF MEASURE)      | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH | TYPICAL SOURCE                                     |  |  |  |  |
| Lithium (ppb)                       | 2024            | 43.96              | ND-83             | Naturally occurring element in groundwater sources |  |  |  |  |

# **BY THE NUMBERS**

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

<sup>2</sup> Aqua Water Supply Corporation does not add any fluoride to our water.

<sup>3</sup> Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the U.S. EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

## What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, and toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium Serratia marcescens. Serratia is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including humans). The bacteria can be



introduced into the house through any of these sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to clean and dry these surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorinebased compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more

susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence. Serratia will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

0

3.4 BILLION

> The daily volume gallons of water recycled and reused in the U.S., reducing waste and conserving resources.



The percent effectiveness of modern water treatment plants in removing harmful bacteria and viruses from drinking water.

**1.7** MILLION The number of jobs supported

by the U.S. water sector.

28%

The percent reduction in per capita water use in the U.S. since 1980, thanks to efficiency improvements.



The length in miles of drinking water pipes in the U.S., delivering clean water to millions of homes and businesses daily.

2

How often in minutes a water main breaks.