

2010 Drinking Water Report

Consumer Confidence Report



1557 FM 1110 Rd.
Clint, TX. 79836
(915) 791-4480

Dear Customer:

This report describes the quality of Lower Valley Water District's drinking water, as well as the sources and programs that protect our water quality. This publication complies with federal law requirements for water utilities to provide water quality information to customers every year.

While most of the contents of this report are required by regulation, we also include information that addresses questions typically asked by our customers about our system. We support the public's right to know the results of our water quality monitoring.

We realize that a report dominated by technical information is not inviting reading to most people. Our effort is to provide information in a clear and useful format. For those who are not interested in all the detail that we provide, here is the summary:

Lower Valley Water District's drinking water supply is safe to drink and our water meets or exceeds all applicable standards. We have no violations of water quality standards. We test our water regularly through a certified laboratory. State and federal regulators routinely monitor our compliance and testing protocols to assure that we deliver safe drinking water to the District's customers.

This analysis was done using data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests. We hope this information helps you to become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water. If you have any questions or comments concerning this report please call our office at (915) 791-4480. We welcome your interest in the Lower Valley Water District's water system and you are more than welcome to participate in our public Board Meetings, held every 4th Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at our main offices located at 1557 F.M. 1110 Rd., in Clint, Texas.

Sincerely,

David G. Carrasco
General Manager

Estimado(a) Cliente:

Este reporte describe la calidad del agua del Distrito de Agua del Valle Bajo (LVWD por sus siglas en inglés), origen del agua y programas que protegen la calidad. Esta publicación cumple con los requisitos de la ley federal que requiere proveer información anualmente a sus clientes sobre la calidad del agua.

Aunque la mayor parte del contenido de este reporte es requerido por ley, también incluimos información que da respuesta a preguntas típicas de nuestros clientes. Apoyamos el derecho del público a saber los resultados de nuestros monitoreos de calidad.

Reconocemos que un reporte dominado por información técnica no es leído fácilmente por muchos. Nos esforzamos en proveer información en una forma clara y fácil de entender. Para aquellos que están interesados en todos los detalles que presentamos, aquí les damos un resumen:

El agua potable que usted consume es segura, cumple e incluso sobrepasa todas las normas aplicables. No tenemos violaciones de las normas de calidad. Analizamos regularmente nuestra agua en laboratorios certificados. Agencias estatales y federales, rutinariamente, vigilan nuestro cumplimiento y métodos de análisis para asegurar que el agua que proveemos a nuestros clientes sea agua potable segura.

Este análisis se hizo utilizando datos de las más recientes pruebas requeridas por EPA (la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos). Esperamos que ésta información le ayude a estar más informado sobre la calidad del agua potable. Si tiene alguna pregunta adicional o comentarios sobre éste reporte, por favor comuníquese a nuestra oficina al (915) 791-4480. Le agradecemos su interés en el Distrito de Agua del Valle Bajo y lo invitamos a atender a nuestras juntas públicas mensuales de la Mesa Directiva, que se llevan a cabo cada 4to Jueves de cada mes, a las 6:00 p.m. en nuestras oficinas ubicadas en 1557 F.M. 1110 Rd., en Clint, Texas.

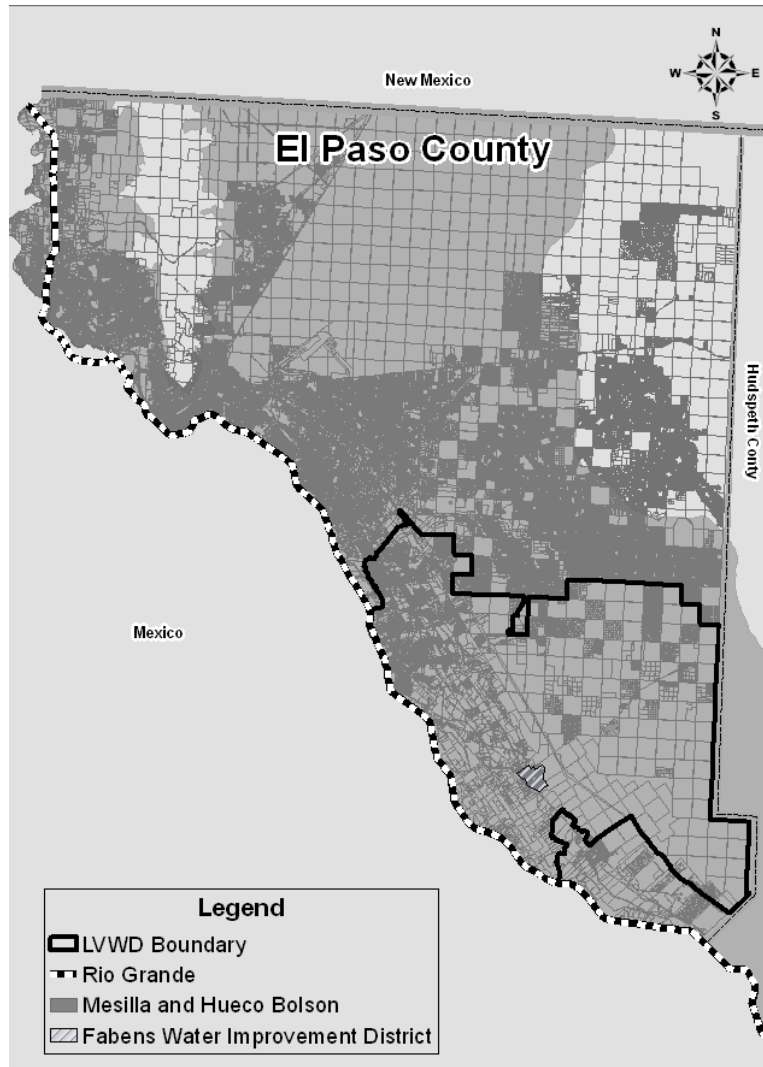
Cordialmente,

David G. Carrasco
Gerente General

Where Our Water Comes From

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 before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

Water customers in the Lower Valley Water District receive water from the El Paso Water Utilities distribution system. Our drinking water is obtained from Ground and Surface water sources. The surface water source is the Rio Grande. The groundwater sources are the Mesilla Bolson and the Hueco Bolson. While water from the Rio Grande is highly treated before delivery to our customers, our high quality groundwater needs only to be chlorinated prior to delivery.



Water supplied by El Paso Water Utilities to the Lower Valley Water District is treated to a level far exceeding that required by EPA regulation. The surface water is constantly treated to 0.1 NTUs measured immediately after the water has passed through each filter. This is significantly better than the 0.3 NTUs required by EPA regulation.

ALL drinking water may contain contaminants. When drinking water meets federal standards, there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. 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 (1-800-426-4791)

Secondary Constituents

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.

Source Water Assessment

The EPA Safe Drinking Water Act requires all states to establish Source Water Protection Programs that analyze existing and potential threats to the quality of the public drinking water. 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.

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment was conducted for your drinking water source (El Paso Water Utilities) in 2003 by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Due to the complicated nature of El Paso's groundwater supplies, some susceptibilities exist, but the depth of the groundwater is a mitigating factor. Since the surface water supply comes from upstream states and since a variety of agricultural and municipal dischargers use the Rio Grande, the surface water supply is uniquely susceptible. However, El Paso Water Utilities' surface water treatment plants are designed to minimize the effects of those susceptibilities¹. The pages that follow list all of the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants. The following definitions will help you understand better each table and in case you have any questions, you are more than welcome to contact us at 915-791-4480.

Lead and Copper

Year or Range	Contaminant	MCLG	Action Level	90 th Percentile	# of sites overall	Units	Violation	Source of Contaminant
9/26/07	Lead	0	15	2.3		ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
9/26/07	Copper	1.3	1.3	0.613		Ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Required Additional Health Information for Lead

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>.

1. El Paso Water Utilities. 2010. "2009 Drinking Water Report". http://www.epwu.org/water/pdf/CCR_2009_web.pdf

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectant and Disinfectant By Product	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Possible source
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2010	10	0-22.4	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TThm)*	2010	37	3.1-104	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels detected	MCL G	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely source of contamination
Arsenic – While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. 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 is linked to other health effects such as skin.	11/15/2006	5.96	5.96-5.96	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	11/15/2006	0.083	0.083-0.083	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	11/15/2006	3.64	3.64-3.64	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	11/15/2006	0.68	0.68-0.68	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]	11/15/2006	1.36	1.36-1.36	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion from natural deposits
Selenium	11/15/2006	4.79	4.79-4.79	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines

Radioactive Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Source of Contaminant
Beta/Photon emitters	11/15/2006	8.7	8.7-8.7	0	4	mrem/yr	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	11/15/2006	2.9	2.9-2.9	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits

Violations Table

Chlorine			
Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	07/01/2010	09/30/2010	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. The Lower Valley Water District already turned in all testing and reporting required to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and no sign of low water quality was found on any results.
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
MONITORING (TCR), ROUTINE MINOR	10/01/2010	10/31/2010	We failed to complete all the required tests of our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. The Lower Valley Water District already turned in all testing and reporting required to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and no sign of low water quality was found on any results.

Steps to correct violations

The Lower Valley Water District implemented protocols to expedite testing result reporting to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

DEFINITIONS

Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in the drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible, using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - The unit used to measure water turbidity.

Parts per Billion (ppb) - An example of one part per billion is one packet of artificial sweetener sprinkled into an Olympic-size swimming pool full of water.

Parts per Million (ppm) - An example of one part per million is one packet of artificial sweetener sprinkled into a 250 gallon vessel of water.

Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Abbreviations

- 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