



# 2017 WATER QUALITY REPORT - CITY OF LAREDO

Issued June 2018

PWS ID Number: TX2400001

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 tests and is presented in this report.

**Why you've received this report:** This report is to provide information about City of Laredo water system including source water, the levels of detected contaminants and compliance with drinking water rules. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about your drinking water.

**SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER:** The sources of drinking water nationwide (both tap 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 be polluted by animals or 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 operation, and wildlife.

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salt 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, 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 station, urban and 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.

**WHERE DO WE GET OUR DRINKING WATER?:** The City of Laredo uses surface water from the Rio Grande River as its source of raw water. The City of Laredo treats and filters the water according to federal and state standards to remove any possible harmful contaminant.

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) completed an assessment of your source of water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for the City of Laredo's water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confident Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Wenceslao Barberena at 956-795-2620.

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre su agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o desea solicitar copias en español; favor de llamar al: (956) 721-2007.

El reporte está disponible en Internet:  
[http://www.cityoflaredo.com/utilities/CCR/CC\\_Reports.pdf](http://www.cityoflaredo.com/utilities/CCR/CC_Reports.pdf)

**ALL DRINKING WATER MAY CONTAIN CONTAMINANTS:** When drinking water meets federal standards, there may not be any health 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 effect can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**.

In order to ensure that the tap water is safe to drink, U.S.EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which provides the same protection for public health, prescribes regulations that establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

**SECONDARY CONSTITUENTS:** Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron), which are 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 affect the appearance and taste of your water.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immuno-compromised 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 infections by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at the number **(800) 426 - 4791**.

## MONITORING VIOLATION PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Laredo PWS TX2400001 failed to collect the required number of bacteriological samples for coliform monitoring of the water distribution system during November 2017. This monitoring is required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) "Drinking Water Standards" and the Federal "Safe Drinking Water Act", Public Law 95-523. Bacteriological samples are used to monitor water quality and indicate if the water is free of coliform bacteria. Our water system is required to submit **150** bacteriological samples each month. Failure to collect all required bacteriological samples is a violation of the monitoring requirements and we are required to notify you of this violation. During the month of November 2017 we submitted **149 bacteriological samples, which all were negative for coliform**. A total of **1,798** bacteriological samples were collected during 2017 in the distribution system. If you have any questions regarding this violation, you may call at 956-721-2007.

**WATER LOSS:** In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan- Dec 2017, our system lost an estimated 9.98% of the system input volume.

**HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT 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. The City of Laredo is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of material 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 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>.

There are many opportunities for public participation. The City of Laredo Council meets every first and third Monday of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall located at 1110 Houston St. Laredo, TX. 78042.  
Information on these meetings can be found by visiting: [http://www.cityoflaredo.com/Agenda\\_and\\_Min\\_Index.htm](http://www.cityoflaredo.com/Agenda_and_Min_Index.htm)



**The Laredo Water Museum** is located at: 2702 Anna Ave.  
We are currently open:  
Monday- Friday  
10:00am-4:00 pm  
For more info call:  
(956) 795-2620

**VIOLATIONS**

<p><b>Consumer Confidence Report:</b> The Consumer Confidence Rule requires community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of the water delivered by the systems.</p>	<p><b>Violation Type:</b> CCR Adequacy/ Availability/ Content</p>	<p><b>Violation Begin:</b> 07/01/2017 <b>Violation End:</b> 01/24/2018</p>	<p><b>Violation Explanation</b> The City failed to provide you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that adequately informed you about the quality of our drinking water and the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water.</p>
<p><b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Violation Type:</b> MCL, LRAA</p>	<p><b>Violation Begin:</b> 01/01/2017 <b>Violation End:</b> 03/31/2017</p>	<p><b>Violation Explanation</b> Water samples showed that amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.</p>
<p><b>Public Notification Rule:</b> 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).</p>	<p><b>Violation Type:</b> Public Notice Rule Linked to Violation</p>	<p><b>Violation Begin:</b> 11/11/2016 <b>Violation End:</b> 05/24/2017 <b>Violation Begin:</b> 03/21/2017 <b>Violation End:</b> 05/24/2017</p>	<p><b>Violation Explanation</b> We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations</p>
<p><b>Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)</b> The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) seeks to prevent waterborne diseases caused by E. coli. E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children.</p>	<p><b>Violation Type:</b> Monitoring, Routine, Minor (RTCR)</p>	<p><b>Violation Begin:</b> 03/01/2017 <b>Violation End:</b> 03/31/2017 <b>Violation Begin:</b> 11/01/2017 <b>Violation End:</b> 11/30/2017</p>	<p><b>Violation Explanation</b> 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.</p>

**Call 24 Hours at Day at (956) 721-2010 to:**

- \* Report leaks, water waste, main breaks, or sewer back-ups.
- \* Discuss water quality concerns.

**For Non-Emergency Help call: 3-1-1**

**Website:** This report is available at [http://www.cityoflaredo.com/utilities/CCR/CC\\_Reports.pdf](http://www.cityoflaredo.com/utilities/CCR/CC_Reports.pdf)

**DEFINITIONS:**

**(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 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 use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.  
**ppm =**parts per million or milligrams per liter. **ppb =**parts per billion or microgram per liter.  
**mrem=** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body). **pCi/L=**picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).  
**(AL) Action Level=** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.  
**(ALG) Action Level Goal=** 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.  
**NA=**not applicable **MG=**Million of gallons **NTU=** nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)

## ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

For the period of January 1 to December 31, 2017

Inorganic Contaminants (Collection Date: 2017)	Highest Level or Average Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	VIOLATION	Likely Source of Contamination	
Barium (ppm)	0.0961	0.0719 - 0.0961	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	
Arsenic (ppb)	3.0	0 - 3	0	10	N	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.	
Fluoride (ppm)	0.80	0.42 - 0.77	4	4.0	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	
Nitrate –measured as Nitrogen (ppm)	1.0	0.05 - 0.57	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	
Cyanide (ppb)	60	0 - 60	200	200	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; discharge from steel/metal factories.	
Selenium (ppb)	4.2	0 – 4.2	50	50	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.	
TOC Removal Ratio	The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set.						
Turbidity (ntu)	Level Detected	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination			
Highest single measurement	0.48	1.0	N	Soil runoff.			
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	98%	0.30	N	Soil runoff.			
<b>Turbidity</b> is a measure of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system.							
Radioactive Contaminants	Highest Level or Average Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	VIOLATION	Likely Source of Contamination	
* Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr) Date collected: 12/14/2015	6.0	6 - 6	0	4	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.	
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L) Date collected: 12/14/15	3.4	1 - 3.4	0	15	N	Erosion of natural deposits.	
Uranium (ug/L) Date collected: 12/14/2015	3.5	3.5 - 3.5	0	30	N	Erosion of natural deposits.	
* EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.							
<b>Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides</b>							
Atrazine (ppb) Date collected: 2017	0.1	0.1 – 0.1	3	3	N	Runoff from herbicides used on row crops .	
Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected or Average Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	VIOLATION	Likely Source of Contamination
<sup>1</sup> Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	2017	45	16 - 34.2	No goal for the total	60	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<sup>2</sup> Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2017	95	34.1 - 76.3	No goal for the total	80	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<sup>1</sup> The value in the Highest Level o Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year.							
<sup>2</sup> The value in the Highest Level o Average Detected column is the highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year.							
	MCLG	Total Coliform MCL	Highest Number of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Coliform Bacteria	0	5% of monthly samples are positive	1.3	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.
Disinfectant Residual (2017 Year)	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	VIOLATION	Likely Source of Contamination	
Chlorine (mg/L)	3.3	1.6 – 4.2	4.0	4.0	N	Water additive used to control microbes.	
Lead and Copper Date Sampled: 2017	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	VIOLATION	Likely Source of Contamination	
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.067	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems.	
Lead (ppb)	0	15	0.94	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.	



# 2017 WATER QUALITY REPORT - CITY OF LAREDO

Issued June 2018

PWS ID Number: TX2400028

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 tests and is presented in this report.

**Why you've received this report:** This report is to provide information about City of Laredo water system including source water, the levels of detected contaminants and compliance with drinking water rules. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about your drinking water.

**SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER:** The Colombia Water Treatment Plant provides roughly 100,000 gallons of treated and purified water daily for nearly 40 commercial connections in the Colombia International Bridge and Fire Training Facility areas. The source of your drinking water is the Rio Grande River. The City of Laredo treats and filters the water according to federal and state standards to remove any possible harmful contaminant.

The sources of drinking water nationwide (both tap 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 be polluted by animals or 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 operation, and wildlife.

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**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, 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 station, urban and 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.

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) completed an assessment of your source of water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for the City of Laredo's water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Wenceslao Barberena at 956-795-2620.

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**SPECIAL NOTICE:** You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immuno-compromised 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 infections by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at the number **(800) 426 - 4791**.

**HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT 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. The City of Laredo is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of material 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 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>.

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**ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**  
For the period of January 1 to December 31, 2017

Inorganic Contaminants (Collection Date: 2017)	Highest Level or Average Detected	Range of Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic (ppb)	2.0	2.1 – 2.1	0	10	N	Erosion for natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	0.0895	0.0895 – 0.0895	2.0	2.0	N	Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	0.70	0.71 - 0.71	4.0	4.0	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate measured as Nitrogen (ppm)	0.12	0.12 – 0.012	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide (ppb)	70	70 - 70	200	200	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; discharge from steel/metal factories.

**TOC Removal Ratio** The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set.

Turbidity (ntu)	Level detected	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	0.15	1.0	N	Soil runoff
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	100 %	0.3	N	Soil runoff

**Turbidity** is a measure of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Disinfection By-Product Date collected: 2017	Highest Level or Average Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<sup>1</sup> Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	30	16.3 – 33.3	No goal for the total	60	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<sup>2</sup> Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	104	37.3 - 120	No goal for the total	80	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

<sup>1</sup> - <sup>2</sup> The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average for all samples results for HAA5 or TTHM respectively collected at a location over a year.

	MCLG	Total Coliform MCL	Highest Number of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Coliform Bacteria	0	5% of monthly samples are positive	0	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Disinfectant Residual (2017 YR)	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (mg/L)	1.8	0.9 – 3.9	4.0	4.0	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Date Collected 2017	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.04	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservation; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppb)	0	15	0.46	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

**VIOLATIONS**

**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	11/11/2016	01/03/2017	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations

**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	01/01/2017	03/31/2017	Water samples showed that 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	04/01/2017	06/30/2017	
MCL	07/01/2017	09/30/2017	
MCL	10/01/2017	12/31/2017	

**DEFINITIONS:**

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**(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 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 use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**ppm** =parts per million or milligrams per liter.

**ppb** =parts per billion or microgram per liter.

**mrem**= millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

**pCi/L**=picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

**(AL) Action Level=** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**(ALG) Action Level Goal=** 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.

**NA**=not applicable

**MG**=Million of gallons

**NTU**= nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)