



City of San Marcos
Water/Wastewater Utilities
630 E. Hopkins Street
San Marcos, TX 78666

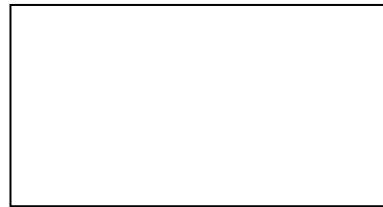
2011 Drinking Water Quality Report

(CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT)

For the Period of January 1 – December 31, 2011

CITY OF SAN MARCOS WATER CUSTOMERS

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o dudas sobre este reporte en español, favor de llamar al tel. 512.393.8010 para hablar con una persona bilingue en español.



Requested in home by July 1st.

NOTICE TO AT-RISK POPULATIONS

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

KINDS OF WATER SOURCES

The sources of drinking water (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 pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include:

- Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and 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
- 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

CONTACT US

Account Information/ Water quality inquiries: 393-8038 Report water leaks/ sewer problems: 393-8010
Billing questions: 393-8383

Visit us on the web at sanmarcostx.gov/water or send us an e-mail at WWW_Info@sanmarcostx.gov



Conserve Water San Marcos!

Water is a precious resource. Unfortunately, it is also a limited resource, especially during times of drought. The City is currently in water restrictions. Please review the rules noted below. For complete rules and current Stage information, visit the website at www.sanmarcostx.gov/water.

	Stage 1	Stage 2
Irrigation with sprinklers	Allowed 1 day/week on designated day between midnight and 10 a.m. and between 8 p.m. to midnight	Allowed 1 day/week on designated day between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and midnight.
Irrigation with hand-held bucket or hand-held hose	All allowed any day at any time.	
Irrigation with soaker hose or drip hose	Allowed any day at any time.	Allowed 1 day/week on designated day between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and midnight.
At home car washing	Allowed 1 day/week on designated day.	
Washing impervious surfaces	Prohibited unless required for health and safety.	

What is my designated week day?

Address Ending With:

- 0 or 1
- 2 or 3
- 4 or 5
- 6 or 7
- 8 or 9

Designated Day:

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday



KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of San Marcos Water/Wastewater Utilities' goal and responsibility is to provide you safe and reliable drinking water. **Our drinking water meets or exceeds all federal (EPA) drinking water requirements.** This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages.

Some of the information contained in this report may seem complex. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water. Please feel free to contact our Water Quality Supervisor at #512-393-8038 if you have any questions or would like to request a meeting regarding your drinking water.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where do we get our drinking water? Our drinking water is obtained from surface and ground water sources. Our ground water comes from the Edwards Aquifer (South BFZ) and our surface water comes from Lake Dunlap. 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 on source water protection strategies. For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at <http://gis3.tceq.state.tx.us/swa/Controller/Index.jsp?wtrsrc=>. Further details about sources and source water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>.

Can ALL drinking water 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 effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

What are 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 concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document, but may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

What Quality is our Source Water?

REGULATED AT THE SOURCE

Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Unit of Measure	Possible Source of Substance
Barium	.0451	.0451 - .0451	2	2	No	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	.61	.25 - .61	4	4			Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
* Nitrate – measured as Nitrogen	2.25	.83 - 2.25	10	10			Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	.81	0 - .81	0	6			Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.

* 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.

Substance	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Possible Source of Substance
Nickel	.0021	.0018	.0026	N/A	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.

Turbidity	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Possible Source of Substance
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	.11 NTU	No	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	.3 NTU	100%		

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

UNREGULATED AT THE SOURCE

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Possible Source of Substance
Source Water TOC	.95	.65	1.21	ppm	Total Organic Carbon (TOC) has no health effects. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA) which are noted elsewhere in this report. TOC is naturally present in the environment.
Drinking Water TOC	.73	.32	.93		

How Well Did We Treat the Water?

REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Substance	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDLG	MRDL	Violation	Unit of Measure	Possible Source of Substance
Chlorine Residuals	1.3	.45 – 2.9	<4.0	4.0	No	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.
Substance	Average of all Quarterly Samples	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Unit of Measure	Possible Source of Substance
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	12.1	6.3 – 16.6	No goal for the total	60	No	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHm)	42.9	22.1 – 81.3		80			

Substance	Total Coliform MCL	Highest No. of Positive	Total No Positive E-Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Possible Source of Substance
Coliform Bacteria	>5% per month	1	0	No	Naturally present in the environment.

Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water. Coliform bacteria are harder than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption. Fecal coliform bacteria and, in particular, E. coli, are members of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals and are passed into the environment through feces. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria (E. coli) in drinking water may indicate recent contamination of the drinking water with fecal material. The preceding table indicates whether total coliform or fecal coliform bacteria were found in the monthly drinking water samples submitted for testing by your water supplier last year.

UNREGULATED AT THE ENTRY POINT TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Substance	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Possible Source of Substance
Chloroform	3.0	3.0	3.0	ppb	Substances noted are disinfection byproducts. There is no MCL for these chemicals at the entry point to the distribution system.
Bromoform	3.8	3.8	3.8		
Bromodichloromethane	5.7	5.7	5.7		
Dibromochloromethane	8.4	8.4	8.4		

Lead and Copper Test Results

REGULATED AT THE CUSTOMER'S TAP

Substance	MCLG	Action Level	90 th Percentile Values	# Sites Overall	Violation	Unit of Measure	Possible Source of Substance
Copper 2009	1.3	1.3	.212	0	No	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead 2009	0	15	3.43	0		ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water primarily comes from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We 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>.

Secondary & Other Constituents Not Regulated

Substance	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Possible Source of Substance
Bicarbonate	229	229	229	N/A	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
Chloride	25	25	25	300		Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
Sodium	12.4	12.4	12.4	N/A		Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
pH	7.7	7.7	7.7	>7.0	Units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
Sulfate	25	25	25	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
Total Alkalinity as CaCo3	188	188	188	N/A		Naturally occurring; soluble mineral salts.
Total Dissolved Solids	271	271	271	1,000		Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.

Key Terms and Abbreviations:

- AL:** Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.
- MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level is 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.
- MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level is 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.
- ppb:** Parts per billion. Equal to 1 ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water. Often expressed as micrograms per liter.
- ALG:** Action Level Goal is 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.
- NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal is 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.
- MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal is 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.
- ppm:** Parts per million. Equal to 1 ounce in 7,350 gallons. Often expressed as milligrams per liter.

NOTE: All substances were sampled and analyzed during 2011 unless otherwise noted.