

# WATER QUALITY 2017

## Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

Lomas Water-Comal Trace

PWS #0460208

EXCELLENCE IN WATER QUALITY



Dear Customer,

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) is pleased to provide you with the 2017 Water Quality Report (January 1-December 31, 2017). We take all possible precautions to safeguard your water supply and hope you will be encouraged to learn about the high quality of water provided to you.

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires water utilities to issue an annual report to customers, in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report explains where your drinking water comes from, what it contains, and the health risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent.

We are committed to providing you with information about your water supply because informed customers are our best allies in supporting improvements needed to maintain the highest drinking water standards.



**We are proud to report that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has assessed our system and determined that your drinking water, meets or exceeds all federal and state water quality standards.**

The tables on this report list all substances that were detected in our treated water, and the highest level at which they were detected. The tables also reflect the highest levels allowed by federal regulatory agencies. Please read this information carefully and if you have questions, call the numbers listed in this report.

### Customer Views Welcome

The GBRA strongly supports the national primary water regulation compliance process. If you are interested in learning more about the water department, water quality, or participating in the decision-making process, there are a number of opportunities available.

Questions about water quality can be answered by calling the GBRA Division Manager at 830-885-2639 from 8 am – 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Inquiries about public participation and policy decisions should be directed to the GBRA Division Manager at 830-885-2639.

The GBRA Board of Directors meets every third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am in the GBRA River Annex located at 905 Nolan St., Seguin, Texas and all meetings are open to the public.

### En Español

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en Español, favor de llamar al tel. 512-398-3461 para hablar con una personal bilingue en español durante las horas regulares de oficina (8 am – 5 pm).

## Information about your 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.

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.

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.

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 the system's business office.

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 (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 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>.

## Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The Lomas Water/Comal Trace received its water from two sources. Groundwater is pumped from the Trinity Aquifer and blended with surface water from Canyon Reservoir treated at the GBRA Western Canyon Water Treatment Plant, operated by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

TCEQ completed a source water assessment of your source water, and the results indicate that our sources have a low susceptibility to contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system is based on susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections 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 the GBRA Division Manager at 830-885-2639.

Trained operators monitor and test the water, including the addition of chlorine, to ensure that our water meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. The treated water is delivered to the Lomas Water/Comal Trace water storage tank and delivered through its distribution system to you. For information on the treatment of your drinking water and water quality protection efforts, contact GBRA Division Manager at the GBRA Western Canyon Water Treatment Plant at 830-885-2639.

## What We Found

The following tables list the contaminants that have been found in your drinking water. USEPA requires water systems to test for more than 97 contaminants. The column marked “Highest Level at Any Sampling Point” shows the highest test results during the year. The “Source of Contaminant” column shows where the substance usually originates. In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of January 2017 through December 2017, our system lost an estimated 1,764,500 gallons of water or 4.2% water loss. If you have any questions about the water loss audit please call the GBRA Division Manager at 830-885-2639.

### **DEFINITIONS and ABBREVIATIONS**

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

**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.

**Avg** – Regulatory compliance with some MCL’s are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – the highest level of the contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s 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 health risk. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

**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.

**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.

**NA** – Not Applicable

**ND** – Not Detected

**NTU’s** – Nephelometric Turbidity Units

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

**ppm** – parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**ppb** – parts per billion (ug/L)



**TABLE I - Test results for the GBRA-Western Canyon Water Treatment Plant  
(sampled at the GBRA Western Canyon Water Treatment Plant)**

GBRA Lomas Water Co. Comal Trace purchases water from GBRA Western Canyon Water Supply. GBRA Western Canyon Water Supply provides treated surface water from Canyon Reservoir located in Comal County.

**Inorganic Contaminants (source water)**

Year	Detected Constituent	Measured Concentration	Number of Analyses	MCL	MCLG	Units of Measure	Violation	Source of Constituent
2017	Barium	0.0309	1	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits.
2017	Fluoride	0.2	1	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; runoff from fertilizer use.
2017	Nitrate	0.27	1	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; treated wastewater effluent; erosion of natural deposits.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**

Year	Constituent	Average	Range of Detects (Low -High)	MRDL	Violation	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2017	Chlorine	0.5	0.5 - 0.7	4	N	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

**Disinfectant Byproducts**

Year	Constituent	Measured Concentration	Range	No. of Analyses	MCL	Violation	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2017	Total Trihalomethanes	50	49.6 - 49.6	1	80	N	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2017	Total Haloacetic Acids	13	13.2 - 13.2	1	60	N	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Turbidity**

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.

Year	Detected Constituent	Highest Single Measurement	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Violation	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2017	Turbidity	0.1	1	100	0.3	N	NTU	Organic particles.

**Total Coliforms**

Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

Year	Constituent	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	MCL	Violation	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2017	TOTAL COLIFORM	Not Detected	*	N	Presence/	Naturally present in the environment.
2017	<i>E.coli</i>	Not Detected	*	N	Absence	

\* Two or more "coliform present" samples in any single month

**Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated**

No associated adverse health effects.

Year	Constituent	Measured Concentration	Number of Analyses	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2016	pH	8.4	1	7	units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2016	Total Alkalinity as CaCO3	167	1	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2016	Bicarbonate	204	1	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2016	Chloride	19	1	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element, used in water purification, byproduct of oil field activity.
2016	Sulfate	19	1	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2016	Total Dissolved Solids	232	1	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.



**TABLE II - Test results for the GBRA Lomas Water System (sampled in distribution system)**

**Inorganic Contaminants (source water)**

Year	Detected Constituent	Measured Concentration	Number of Analyses	MCL	Violation	Units of Measure	Source of Constituent
2016	Barium	0.0288	1	2	N	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits.
2017	Fluoride	0.27	1	4	N	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
2017	Nitrate	0.74	1	10	N	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; treated wastewater effluent; erosion of natural deposits.
2012	Chromium	0.001	1	1	N	ppm	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
2016	Selenium	3.6	1	50	N	ppb	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
2012	Thallium	0.00005	1	0.002	N	ppm	Leaching from ore processing sites; discharge from electronics; glass and drug factories.

**Radioactive Contaminants**

Year	Constituent	Highest or Average	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Constituent
2012	Combined Radium 226/ 228	1	1.0 - 1.0	0	5	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**

Year	Constituent	Average	Range of Detects (Low - High)	MRDL	MCRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Constituent
2017	Chlorine	1.03	0.72 - 1.32	4	4	ppm	N	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

**Unregulated Contaminants**

Year	Contaminant	Average Concentration	No. of Analyses	Unit of Measure	Reason for Monitoring
2016	Dibromochloromethane	12	4	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Disinfection Byproducts**

Year	Constituent	Measured Concentration	Range	No. of Analysis	MCL	Violation	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2017	Total Haloacetic Acids	15	3.7 - 16.2	4	60	N	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2017	Total Trihalomethanes	49	16.6 - 44	4	80	N	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Total Coliforms**

Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

Year	Constituent	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	MCL	Violation	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2017	TOTAL COLIFORM	Not Detected	*	N	Presence/	Naturally present in the environment.
2017	<i>E.coli</i>	Not Detected	*	N	Absence	

\* Two or more "coliform present" samples in any single month

**Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated**

No associated adverse health effects.

Year	Constituent	Measured Concentration	Number of Analyses	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2011	Bicarbonate	224	1	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2016	Calcium	68.3	1	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element
2014	Chloride	24	1	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element, used in water purification, byproduct of oil field activity.
2016	Copper	0.0026	1	1	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
2016	Hardness as CaCO3	241	1	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.
2016	Magnesium	17.2	1	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2011	pH	7.8	1	7	units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2016	Nickel	0.0016	1	0.1	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
2016	Sodium	9.56	1	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits. Byproduct of oil field activity.
2016	Zinc	0.0225	1	5	ppm	Moderately abundant naturally-occurring element; used in the metal industry.
2014	Sulfate	23	1	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2014	Total Alkalinity as CaCO3	170	1	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2014	Total Dissolved Solids	253	1	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.

**Lead and Copper**

Year	Detected Constituent	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Levels	MCLG	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Constituent
2017	Lead	3.5	1	0	15	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
2017	Copper	0.22	0	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Leaching from wood preservatives; erosion of natural deposits

**Violations Table**

None

