SAWS Securing New, Future Water Resources

SAWS offers the public the opportunity to speak to us about your water needs. To find out when SAWS Board meetings and Town Hall meetings are scheduled, call SAWS Communications and Community Outreach Office at 233-3621. You can also visit our Web site on the Internet at www.saws.org.

SAWS is working to secure San Antonio’s water future. The SAWS Water Resource Plan looks toward the next 50 years, taking a leadership role in the protection and development of water supplies for the San Antonio and Bexar County area. The plan is to reduce reliance from the Edwards Aquifer and to develop new and affordable water resources for the future.

Just a few years ago, San Antonio was totally dependent on day-to-day pumping from the Edwards Aquifer for the city’s water needs. Now, as a result of extensive planning, and funding through the Water Supply Fee, SAWS is working to secure San Antonio’s water future.

In 1936, SAWS began taking water from the Edwards Aquifer for the city’s water needs. Now, as a result of extensive planning, and funding through the Water Supply Fee, SAWS is working to secure San Antonio’s water future.

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The SAWS Community Relations team extends its community outreach efforts with neighborhood leaders through homeowners associations and neighborhood meetings, schools and community gatherings. Call us for more information about how we can assist in your neighborhood.

Visit Us

Downtown: 2800 U.S. Hwy 281 N.
Eastside: 915 South W.W. White Rd.
Westside: Las Palmas Mall

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you would like more information or a copy of this Water Quality Report in Spanish, please call 704-7297.

En Español

Este reporte incluye información sobre su agua potable. Si desea más información o una copia de este reporte en español, por favor llame al 704-7297.

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What are Contaminants?

A contaminant is a technical term for anything detected other than water. It is natural for drinking water to contain some contaminants. But the presence of contaminants in drinking water and even bottled water does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Sources for 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 the naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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. Although these constituents are not causes for health concern and not required to be reported in this document, a table with this information is presented on page 3 of this report.

Water Quality Report 2007

San Antonio Water System

This is your annual water quality report from San Antonio Water System.
## Inorganic Contaminants (2004-2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Concentration Range Found</th>
<th>Avg. Conc. Found</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Possible Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barium (ppm)</td>
<td>0.033 – 0.033</td>
<td>0.033</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Discharge from drilling wastes, discharge from metal refinery, erosion of natural deposits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride (ppm)</td>
<td>0.3 – 0.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate (ppm)</td>
<td>1.34 – 4.39</td>
<td>2.87</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross alpha Adjusted (pCi/L)</td>
<td>3.7 – 3.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Organic Contaminants

Testing waived, not reported or none detected

## Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disinfectant</th>
<th>Test Year</th>
<th>Concentration Range Found</th>
<th>Avg. Conc. Found</th>
<th>MRDL</th>
<th>MRDLG</th>
<th>Possible Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine Residual, Free (ppm)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>0.5 – 1.9</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Disinfectant used to control microbes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constituent</th>
<th>Concentration Range</th>
<th>Average Concentration Found</th>
<th>Level (ppm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bicarbonate (ppm)</td>
<td>361 – 361</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium (ppm)</td>
<td>87.6 – 87.6</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloride (ppm)</td>
<td>16 – 16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (ppm)</td>
<td>0.017 – 0.017</td>
<td>0.017</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead (ppm)</td>
<td>0.002 – 0.002</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium (ppm)</td>
<td>23.9 – 23.9</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel (ppm)</td>
<td>0.003 – 0.003</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>7.6 – 7.6</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>8.5 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium (ppm)</td>
<td>7 – 7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfate (ppm)</td>
<td>12 – 12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate (ppm)</td>
<td>296 – 296</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)</td>
<td>536 – 336</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hardness as Calcium Carbonate (ppm)</td>
<td>517 – 517</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc (ppm)</td>
<td>0.053 – 0.053</td>
<td>0.053</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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## Turbidity

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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; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

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## Fecal Coliforms

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<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>90th Percentile</th>
<th>Action Level</th>
<th>Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level</th>
<th>Possible Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead (ppb)</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (ppm)</td>
<td>0.515</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Distribution Sampling for By-Products of Drinking Water Chlorination (Disinfection)

Not reported or none detected

## Unregulated Contaminants (2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Concentration Range Found</th>
<th>Average Level</th>
<th>Source of Contaminant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bromodichloromethane (ppb)</td>
<td>1 – 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bromiform (ppb)</td>
<td>2.1 – 2.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dichloromethane (ppb)</td>
<td>2.4 – 2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Your Water Quality Report

TCEQ has completed an assessment of SAWS source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants can be found in this report.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
- **Microbiological contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. Cryptosporidium is an example of a microbiological contaminant affecting surface water sources.
- **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 have a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential use.
  - **Organic chemical contaminants**, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and also can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems; and
  - **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us at 210-704-SAWS (704-7297).

### Understanding the Charts

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

**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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

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**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**MFL:** Million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

---

### Inorganic Contaminants (2004-2006)

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<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Concentration Range Found</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barium (ppm)</td>
<td>0.033 – 0.033</td>
<td>0.033</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Discharge from drilling wells, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride (ppm)</td>
<td>0.3 – 0.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate (ppm)</td>
<td>1.34 – 4.39</td>
<td>2.87</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross alpha Adjusted (pcURL)</td>
<td>3.7 - 3.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Organic Contaminants

<table>
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<th>Substance</th>
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### Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Disinfectant</th>
<th>Test Year</th>
<th>Concentration Range Found</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine Residual, Free (ppm)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>0.5 – 1.9</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Disinfectant used to control microbes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Secondary Constituents (2004)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constituent</th>
<th>Concentration Range</th>
<th>Average Concentration Found</th>
<th>Lead (ppm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bicarbonate (ppm)</td>
<td>361 – 361</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium (ppm)</td>
<td>87.6 – 87.6</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlordane</td>
<td>16 – 16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (ppm)</td>
<td>0.017 – 0.017</td>
<td>0.017</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead (ppm)</td>
<td>0.002 – 0.002</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium (ppm)</td>
<td>23.9 – 23.9</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel (ppm)</td>
<td>0.003 – 0.003</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>7.6 – 7.6</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>8.5 upper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium (ppm)</td>
<td>7 – 7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfate (ppm)</td>
<td>12 – 12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate (ppm)</td>
<td>296 – 296</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)</td>
<td>336 – 336</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hardness as Calcium Carbonate (ppm)</td>
<td>517 – 517</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc (ppm)</td>
<td>0.053 – 0.053</td>
<td>0.053</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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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; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

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### Fecal Coliforms

- Reported monthly tests found no fecal coliform bacteria.

### Total Coliforms

- Reported monthly tests found no coliform bacteria.

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<tr>
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<th>90th Percentile</th>
<th>Action Level</th>
<th>Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level</th>
<th>Possible Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead (ppb)</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Correction of household plumbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (ppm)</td>
<td>0.513</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Distribution Sampling for By-Products of Drinking Water Chlorination (Disinfection)

- Not reported or none detected

### Unregulated Contaminants (2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bromodichloromethane (ppb)</td>
<td>1 – 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2.1 – 2.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dibromochloromethane (ppb)</td>
<td>2.4 – 2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units

**ppb:** Parts per billion. One part per billion is equal to one teaspoon in 1,302,000,000 gallons – enough to fill a typical bathtub more than 40,000 times.

**ppm:** Parts per million. One part per million equals one teaspoon in 1,302 gallons, which is enough water to fill a typical bathtub more than 40 times.

**pCi/l:** Picocuries per liter. A measure of radioactivity in water.

**MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

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**MFL:** Million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

**Mean:** Average value

**Median:** Middle value

**Mode:** Most frequent value

**Standard Deviation:** Measure of dispersion of a distribution

**Coefficient of Variation:** Measure of relative dispersion

**Minimum:** Lowest value

**Maximum:** Highest value

**90th Percentile:** Value below which 90% of the data fall

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of drinking water disinfectants 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 contamination.

**Turbidity:** Not required

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**Understanding the Charts**

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**Points-of-entry:** Entry point to the distribution system which is representative of each well after disinfection.

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**Remember that substances are shown in parts per million or parts per billion.**

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Special Notice

For Elderly, Infants, Cancer Patients, People with HIV/AIDS or Immune Problems:

Some people may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain contaminants found in our drinking water. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders and some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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SAWS is genuinely committed to providing our customers with plentiful and quality drinking water. Historically, SAWS and its predecessors have been rated as a superior water system since 1936. Your confidence in San Antonio’s water supply is important to us.

Where Our Water Comes From

During 2006 – the testing period represented in this report when your system was part of BexarMet – most of your drinking water originated as ground water from the Trinity Aquifer.

Our drinking water meets all federal drinking water requirements. This Water Quality Report reflects information about the drinking water previously provided to you by Bexar Metropolitan Water District. San Antonio Water System — your new water provider — now presents you with this summary.

The data in this report was prepared from the most recent required tests set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Public water systems, like SAWS, are required by law to report every year on the type and quantity of substances that are in our water. This law — the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amended by Congress in 1996 — has specific guidelines concerning drinking water quality, as well as the methods and frequency of testing.

The EPA with assistance locally from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) administers the SDWA to ensure that tap water is safe to drink by restricting presence of contaminants in public water systems. In addition, SAWS tests the quality of water daily, and the TCEQ reviews the Edwards and Trinity aquifers as part of its source water assessment.

This is your annual water quality report from San Antonio Water System.