

# Ricardo Water Supply Corporation Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

For the Period of January 1 to December 31, 2015

(Consumer Confidence Report – PWS ID Number: TX1370006)

## 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 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 health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)426-4791.

### Our Drinking Water is Regulated

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 the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water. For more information regarding this report contact Carola Serrato, General Manager, at (361)592-3952.

**Water Sources:** 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 before treatment 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 RWSC business office at (361)592-3952.

### **RWSC is a purchased surface water system. Where do we get our drinking water?**

Our drinking water is obtained from surface water sources. In past years, the Corporation has used its own groundwater well. In 2008, that well was taken out of service for mechanical reasons. South Texas Water Authority provides the Corporation with treated water from the City of Corpus Christi whose surface water sources are Lake Corpus Christi, Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Texana. In addition, the City of Kingsville's groundwater wells can provide water by a pass through agreement as a backup. The TCEQ has completed a Source Water Assessment for all drinking water systems that own their sources. The report 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 system from which we purchase our water received the assessment report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact RWSC General Manager Carola Serrato at (361)592-3952. For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/swaview>. Further details about sources and source water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWWW/>.

**Water Loss:** In the most recent Water Loss Audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the period of January to December 2015, RWSC lost an estimated 11.5 million gallons of water.

### **About The Following Pages**

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.

## Definitions & Abbreviations

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

**Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which 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 MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**MFL** – million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

**na** – not applicable.

**NTU** – Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of turbidity)

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** – 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (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.

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

**ppm** – parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

**ppb** – parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

**ppt** – parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

**ppq** – parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)

### Ricardo Water Supply Corporation – Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids	2015	37	29.4 – 50.5	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes	2015	81	38.7 – 108	No goal for the total	80	ppb	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

### RWSC – Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	6/23/2010	3.75	3.75 – 3.75	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	6/23/2010	0.0347	0.0347 – 0.0347	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	6/23/2010	8.49	8.49 – 8.49	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	6/28/2011	0.59	0.59 – 0.59	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)	2015	1	0.3 – 0.93	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	6/23/2010	8.22	8.22 – 8.22	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Thallium	6/23/2010	0.104	0.104 – 0.104	0.5	2	ppb	N	Discharge from electronics, glass, and leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories.

### RWSC – Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	06/28/11	9.9	9.9 – 9.9	0	50	pCi/L*	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon & uranium	06/28/11	13.1	13.1 – 13.1	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

\*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

## RWSC – Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides

Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Dalapon	2015	1.3	0 – 1.3	200	200	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way.

## RWSC – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Avg Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2015	Chloramine, Residual	1.83	0.5	4	4	4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

## RWSC – Lead and Copper

Year	Lead & Copper	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	The 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# of Sites Over AL	Unit	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2015	Copper	1.3	1.3	0.4544	0	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
2015	Lead*	0	15	10.8	1	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

\*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 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>.

## RWSC Violations Table

### 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	Steps to Correct Violation
MCL, LRAA	07/01/2015	09/30/2015	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.	Increased flushing.

## City of Corpus Christi – Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Year	Mean	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2015	0.12	na	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling waste; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2015	0.13	na	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive.
Nitrate	2015	0.25	na	10	10	ppm	Petroleum/metal discharge, erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta Particle Activity	2011	5.4	na	50	0	pCi/L	Decay of natural/man-made deposits.
Cyanide (total)	2015	190	180 – 210	na	na	ppb	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories.

## City of Corpus Christi – Organic Contaminants

Contaminant	Collection Date	Average	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Contamination
Atrazine	2015	0.31	3	3	ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

## City of Corpus Christi – Turbidity

Year/Constituent	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest % of Samples Meeting Limits	Entry Point MCL	Single Measurement MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
2015 Plant 1 (NTU)	0.4	99.5	≤0.3	1.0	Soil runoff.
2015 Plant 2 (NTU)	0.33	100	≤0.3	1.0	Soil runoff.

Turbidity has no health effects but 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.

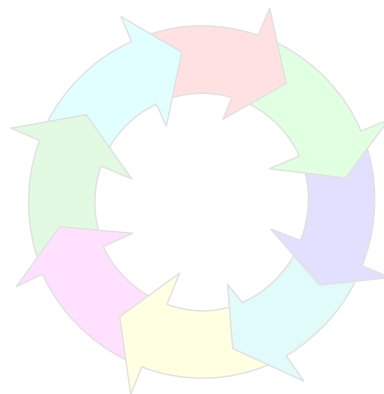
### **Public Participation Opportunity**

**Date:** Monday - Friday  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** South Texas Water Authority  
**Office:** 2302 E. Sage Road, Kingsville, Texas  
**Phone No:** 361-592-3952

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**En Español – Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (361)592-3952.**

### **RICARDO WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION**



### **2015 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT**