



# CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

## 2009 Water quality Report

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### General Information

All water sources (both tap water and bottled water) contain impurities. As water flows 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 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 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 stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### Public Participation Opportunities

To get involved in decisions affecting your drinking water, attend and comment at the Alamo Heights City Council meetings, the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. The meetings are held in the City Council Chambers located at 6120 Broadway and begin at 5:30 p.m. Agendas are available on the City's website at [www.alamoheightstx.gov](http://www.alamoheightstx.gov).

#### City of Alamo Heights Officials

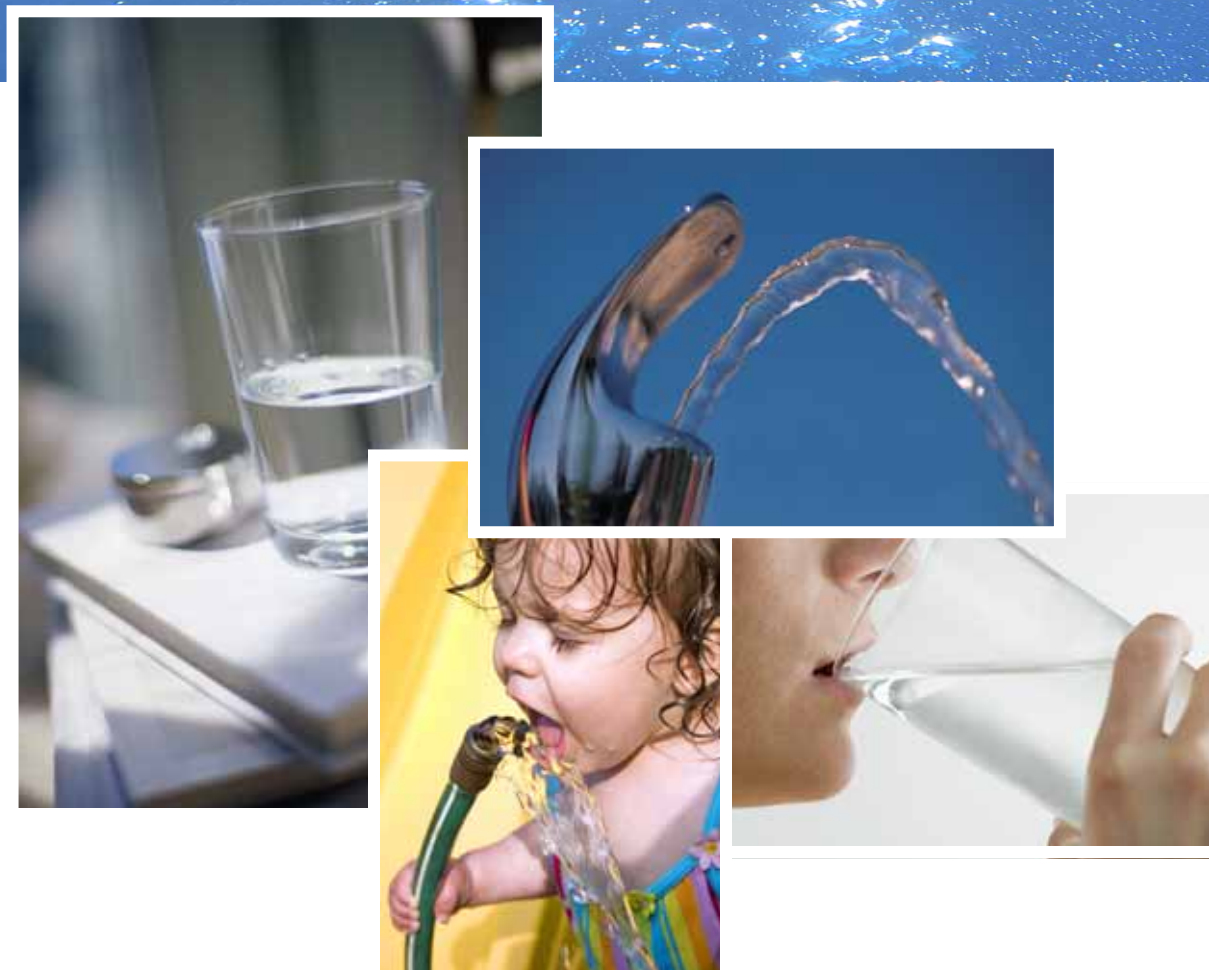
**Mayor:** Louis Cooper

**City Council:** Mayor Pro-Tem/Place 1 - Stan McCormick, Place 2 - Bobby Rosenthal, Place 3 - Fred Prassel, Place 4 - Dr. Elliot Weser and Place 5 - John Savage

*En Español*—Este informe incluye información importante sobre el potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. 882-1518 - para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

# CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

## 2009 Water quality Report



**The City of Alamo Heights Utilities Division is proud to report that the water you drink meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards.**

This report reflects all testing completed from January 1 through December 31, 2009. The City of Alamo Heights continually strives to adopt new and better methods of delivering the best quality drinking water to its residents. As regulations and drinking water standards change, it is the City's commitment to meet the challenges of source water protection, water conservation and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our residents. In complying with legislation, we have developed this report to provide valuable information about your drinking water.

### Drinking Water Source

The City of Alamo Heights' sole source of water is the Edwards Aquifer which is one of the world's most unique groundwater resources. The Edwards Aquifer has supported civilization for more than 8,000 years and today is the primary source of water for 1.3 million people. The aquifer is about 180 miles long and 5 to 40 miles wide at different points. It reaches from Brackettville in the west to Kyle in the east. The aquifer covers over a 3,000 square mile area. The primary geologic component of the Edwards Aquifer is Edwards Limestone. It occurs in three distinct segments: the drainage area, the recharge zone and the artesian zone. Each area is equally important to the health and viability of the Edwards Aquifer as a whole.

# Providing Quality Water

2009  
Water Quality Report

## Notice for High Health Risk Groups

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as a person with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons 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. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 at 1-800-426-4791.

## Safe Drinking Water Act

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), EPA is responsible for setting national limits for hundred of substances in drinking water and also specifying various treatments that water systems must use to remove these substances. Similarly, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Each system continually monitors these substances and reports directly to the EPA if they were detected in the drinking water. EPA uses this data to ensure that consumers are receiving clean water and verifies that states are enforcing the laws that regulate drinking water. When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amount 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 1-800-426-4791.

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor variations. 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, secondary constituents are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water. This report conforms to the federal regulation under SDWA requiring water utilities to provide detailed water quality information to each of their customers annually. For more information about this report, to request additional copies, or for any questions or concerns relating to drinking water, please contact Alamo Heights Utility Division at 882-1518 or [mmcginnis@alamoheightstx.gov](mailto:mmcginnis@alamoheightstx.gov).

## Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** The highest permissible level of a contaminant 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.

**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 contamination.

**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.

**Parts per Million (ppm)/ Parts per Billion (ppb)** A part per million means that one part of a particular contaminant is present for every million parts of water. Similarly, parts per billion indicate the amount of a contaminant per billion parts of water.

**Not Applicable (N/A)** Means EPA has not established MCLGs for these substances.

## Detected Regulated Contaminants

Parameter	Major Source	Units	Year	EPA Regulations		Alamo Heights Water Results		
				Ideal Level/ Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Allowable (MCL)	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level
<b>Organic Contaminants - Testing Waived, Not Reported, or None Detected</b>								
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Nitrate	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.	ppm	2009	10	10	1.98	1.94	2.00
Fluoride	Dental health additive.	ppm	2008	4	4	0.2	0.10	0.23
<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level</b>								
Chlorine Residual, Free	Disinfectant used to control microbes.	ppm	2009	4	4	0.88	0.50	1.53
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>								
Total Haloacetic Acids	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.	ppb	2008	N/A	60	0.5	0	2.1
Total Trihalomethanes	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.	ppb	2008	N/A	80	0	0	6.2
<b>Unregulated Initial Distribution System Evaluation for Disinfection Byproducts - Waived or Not Yet Sampled</b>								
<b>Unregulated Contaminants - Not Reported or None Detected</b>								

## Lead and Copper

Parameter	Major Source	Units	Year	EPA Regulations		Alamo Heights Water Results	
				Ideal Level/ Goal (MCLG)	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile Level	# of Sites Exceeding AL
Lead	Corrosion of plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.	ppb	2008	0	15	5.1	0
Copper	Corrosion of plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.	ppm	2008	0	1.3	0.138	0

*"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. This water supply is 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)."*

**Turbidity - Not Required**

**Total Coliform - Reported Monthly Tests Found No Coliform Bacteria**

**Fecal Coliform - Reported Monthly Tests Found No Fecal Coliform Bacteria**

## Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated - (No associated adverse health effects)

Parameter	Major Source	Units	Year	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit
Bicarbonate	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.	ppm	2008	206	202	211	N/A
Chloride	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; by product of oil field activity.	ppm	2008	15	14	15	300
Hardness as Ca/Mg	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.	ppm	2005	248	246	250	N/A
pH	Measure of corrosivity of water.	units	2008	7.6	7.4	7.7	>7.0
Sulfate	Naturally occurring; common industrial by product; byproduct of oil field activity.	ppm	2008	18.5	17	19.5	300
Total Alkalinity as CaCO3	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.	ppm	2008	206	202	211	N/A
Total Dissolved Solids	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.	ppm	2008	268	253	286	1000