

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SAN MARCOS PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the **CITY OF SAN MARCOS** water system that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for total trihalomethanes at 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on locational running annual average (LRAA), and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for total trihalomethanes indicates a compliance value of 0.081 mg/L in the second quarter of 2014 for a sample collected from the 345 Champions Blvd (DBP2-04) site location.

Trihalomethanes are a group of volatile organic compounds that are formed when chlorine, added to the water during the treatment process for disinfection, reacts with naturally-occurring organic matter in the water.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in **excess of the MCL over many years** may experience problems with their liver, kidney, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

You do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.

The City taking the following actions to address this issue:

The City identified the flood event of October 31, 2013 in the Guadalupe-Blanco Watershed as the root cause of the elevated total trihalomethanes (TTHM) running annual average for the 345 Champions Boulevard testing location. Floodwaters washed naturally occurring organic matter from the watershed into Lake Dunlap, the raw water source for the City's Surface Water Treatment Plant, and temporarily affected water quality.

As a result, the City's treated drinking water had elevated levels of TTHM at the time samples were taken on November 7, 2013. The City's water utility is required to use the high sample result from November 2013 to calculate the running annual average for compliance purposes. **At no time was the City's drinking water unsafe to consume.**

The City collected additional drinking water distribution samples at the eight designated sites on the City's TCEQ approved monitoring plan and at the Surface Water Treatment Plant on January 15, 2014, February 13, 2014, March 12, 2014, and on June 19, 2014. **All of the individual samples collected have been below the TTHM MCL of 0.080 mg/L.** The June analysis of the sample collected by TCEQ at the 345 Champions Blvd location showed a result of **0.052 mg/l**. However, the running annual average is 0.081 mg/l, slightly above the MCL.

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and the City continue to diligently work together to optimize the drinking water treatment process and continue to make improvements within the distribution system to deliver drinking water to its customers that meets or exceeds Federal and State drinking water standards.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact Jon Clack, Assistant Director of Public Services Water/Wastewater at 512-393-8010.