

# Walnut Mountain Property Owners Association Water Quality Report 2008

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## **Is my water safe?**

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Local Water vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people 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. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

Lake Dakwa

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

All information is available at the water treatment plant

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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:

microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 stormwater 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **How can I get involved?**

Good communication with the treatment plant and staff is a must.

## **Conservation Tips**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the day. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving; 3-5 gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

## **Additional Information for Lead**

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. Walnut Mountain Water Plant 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

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## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

| <u>Contaminants</u>  | <u>MCLG<br/>or<br/>MRDLG</u>   | <u>MCL,<br/>TT, or<br/>MRDL</u> | <u>Your<br/>Water</u> | <u>Range<br/>Low High</u> | <u>Sample<br/>Date</u> | <u>Violation</u> | <u>Typical Source</u>                                       |
|--|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---|
| <b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>  |  |                                 |                       |                           |                        |                  |   |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.) |  |                                 |                       |                           |                        |                  |   |
| Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)   | 4  | 4                               | 2.12                  | 0.6 2.12                  | 2008                   | No               | Water additive used to control microbes                     |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)  | NA   | 60                              | 27                    | 9.4 27                    | 2008                   | No               | By-product of drinking water chlorination                   |
| Total Organic Carbon (% Removal)   | NA   | TT                              | 35                    | NA                        | 2008                   | No               | Naturally present in the environment                        |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)  | NA   | 80                              | 30.2                  | 15.6 30.2                 | 2008                   | No               | By-product of drinking water disinfection                   |
| <b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>  |  |                                 |                       |                           |                        |                  |   |
| Total Coliform (positive samples/month)  | 0  | 1                               | 0                     | NA                        | 2008                   | No               | Naturally present in the environment - agricultural runoff. |
| Turbidity (NTU)  | 98.47% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.34. Any measurement in excess of 5 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state. |                                 |                       |                           | 2008                   | No               | Soil runoff   |