

SCHIERTZ



WATER  
QUALITY  
REPORT 2011

# SCHERTZ BELIEVES IN BEING H<sub>2</sub>O WIZE

Schertz has “Superior” drinking water and that’s not just our assessment.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) gave that top rating to the City’s water quality after rigorous testing.

Turn on the tap and see and taste for yourself.

Having superior water takes work and vision. Schertz has a safe, high quality and dependable source of drinking water because the city took bold steps years ago to secure its water future for the next 50 years, and beyond.

The result is an excellent water quality system for a rapidly growing municipality. Before 1998, Schertz was like many San Antonio-area cities whose sole source of drinking water was the Edwards Aquifer. Pumping restrictions mandated by the Edwards Aquifer Authority posed an impediment to economic and residential development for those cities, but Schertz decided enough was enough.

The City prepared to spend millions of dollars to bring drinkable water from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in another county miles away. Seguin joined the effort and the Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corp. was formed.

Today, SSLGC is the premier example of a forward-thinking, action plan to address current and future water needs among Texas cities. In fact, SSLGC is a model operation for those other cities. In 2010, SSLGC signed an agreement for use of part of its pipeline system to San Antonio Water System.

And, Schertz’ network of nearly 200 miles of water main lines brings the high quality water to the thirsty homes and businesses of our dynamic city.

It has been nearly 12 years since Schertz and Seguin developed the Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corporation (SSLGC), a water supply project that provides water from the Carrizo Aquifer to the citizens of both cities.



With both Schertz and Seguin having an interest in tapping into the same water resource, the cost of the \$58-million project was split between the cities and the SSLGC was formed in December 1998.

“The creation of SSLGC has been one of the most significant events in our city’s history,” said Schertz Mayor Hal Baldwin. “It’s one of the most important partnerships that Schertz has.”

Today, the partnership between Schertz and Seguin is expanding to benefit other entities eager to become part of the unique collaboration. One of the first in line is the San Antonio Water System (SAWS), which will save \$128 million by using a SSLGC pipeline to transport water from Gonzalez County to citizens of San Antonio.

According to SAWS, this will be “one of the largest non-Edwards [Aquifer] supplies in its history” and will provide water for approximately 40,000 San Antonio households starting in 2013.

By entering an agreement with SAWS, which obtained the necessary permits in July 2010 from the Gonzalez County Underground Water Conservation District, SSLGC will earn revenue from the San Antonio public utility for the use of the excess capacity available in the Schertz-Seguin infrastructure.

Early in 2011 officials from Schertz, Seguin, San Antonio and SAWS finalized the historic agreement and started a new chapter in the history of water cooperation in Texas. Since then, other communities in the state and beyond have looked to the partnership as a model.

Along with gaining a new partner in SAWS, Seguin Mayor Betty Ann Matthies said the extra revenue earned through the SSLGC pipeline will ultimately benefit the residents and businesses of Schertz and Seguin.

“In the long run this will really help our customers because the cost of operation is always passed to them,” said Matthies. “By trying to operate

even more efficiently and by using the extra space we have in our pipeline we will be able to hold down the cost of water for our citizens. I think it’s a win-win situation for everyone.”

The project already is getting attention from other cities interested in creating something similar to what the SSLGC has been able to accomplish in the last decade. At a press conference in summer 2010 SAWS lauded Schertz and Seguin for promoting cooperation between different communities who share like goals.

After that July 14, 2010 press conference announcing the SAWS deal, Schertz Mayor Baldwin reflected on the SAWS salute to Schertz and Seguin. “The message I would like everyone to get from the press conference is the strong spirit of cooperation among Schertz, Seguin, San Antonio and SAWS. By combining the money and talents of our different communities we can build a water program to serve South Texas and get water for everyone.”

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

Infants, some elderly or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those 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 may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or 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.

**WATER SOURCES**

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) includes 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants and organic chemical contaminants.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES**

To learn about future public meetings concerning your drinking water or to request to a meeting, please call us.

Date: Monday – Friday  
 Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
 Location: 10 Commercial Place, Bldg 2  
 Phone Number: 210-619-1800

**EN ESPANOL**

Este informe incluye informacion importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en espanol, favor de llamar at tel. (210) 619-1110 - para hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.

**OUR DRINKING WATER MEETS OR EXCEEDS ALL FEDERAL (EPA) DRINKING WATER REQUIREMENTS**

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. 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 is in your drinking water.

**WHERE DO WE GET OUR DRINKING WATER?**

Our drinking water is purchased from SSLGC Ground water sources. It comes from the CARRIZO-WILCOX Aquifer. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information 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 information contained in the assessment allows us to focus our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information will be available later this year on Texas Drinking Water Watch at <http://dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/>.

For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

**ALL DRINKING WATER MAY CONTAIN CONTAMINANTS.**

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. 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.

**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**

**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 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.

**Abbreviations**

- NTU- Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- MFL- million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
- pCi/l-picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ppm- parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- ppb- parts per billion, or micrograms per liter – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water
- ppt- parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
- ppq- parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
- na- not applicable

**Questions? Concerns?  
 Call Schertz Water Department at 210-619-1800**

**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 and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not cause for health concern. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.



**Inorganic Contaminants**

Year Tested	Contaminant	Violation	Level Found	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	Barium	No	0.0468	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wasters; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2011	Fluoride	No	0.15	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2011	Nitrate	No	1.84	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural Deposits
2011	Combined Radium 226 & 228	No	1	5	0	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.
2011	Gross Beta emitters	No	Less than Detection Limit	4	0	pCi/L	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

Nitrate Advisory- Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

## Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Systems must complete and submit disinfection data on the Disinfection Level Quarterly Operating Report (DLQOR). On the CCR report, the system must provide disinfectant type, minimum, maximum and average levels.

Year Tested	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2011	Chlorine	1.8	1.15	2.3	4.0	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

## Disinfection Byproducts

Year Tested	Contaminant	Highest Single Sample	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	Total Haloacetic Acids	1.1	0 – 1.1	No goal for the total	60	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
2011	Total Trihalomethanes	8.3	3.6 – 8.3	No goal for the total	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

“This evaluation is sampling required by EPA to determine the range of total trihalomethane and haloacetic acids in the system for future regulations. The samples are not used for compliance, and have been collected under non-standard conditions. EPA requires the data to be reported here. Please contact your water representative if you have any questions”.

## Unregulated Initial Distribution System Evaluation for Disinfection Products

### Unregulated Contaminants

Bromoform, chloroform, dichlorobromomethane and dibromochloromethane are disinfection byproducts. There is no maximum contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point to distribution.

Year Tested	Contaminant	Level Found	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	Dibromochloromethane	3.0	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

### Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 2 (UCMR2)

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. Any unregulated contaminants detected are reported in the following table. For additional information and data visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2/index.html>, or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

**Turbidity:** NOT REQUIRED

**Total Coliform:** REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO COLIFORM BACTERIA

**Fecal Coliform:** REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

**Organic Contaminants:** TESTING WAIVED, NOT REPORTED, OR NONE DETECTED

**CONTACT INFO:**  
**Schertz Public Works**  
**(210) 619-1800**

## Lead and Copper

Year Tested	Contaminant	The 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Violation	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	Lead	0.000336	0	No	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
2011	Copper	0.00137	0	No	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

### Required Additional Health 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. 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.”

## Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer Water Data- Taken from Schertz Seguin Local Government Corporation CCR #0940094

### Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated

(No associated adverse health effects)

Year Tested	Constituent	Violation	Level Found	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2010	Bicarbonate	No	72	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rock such as limestone
2007	Calcium	No	13.9	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element
2010	Chloride	No	21.9	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element, used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity
2007	Hardness as Ca/Mg	No	47	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium
2007	Magnesium	No	3.04	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element
2007	Manganese	No	0.0013	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element
2007	Nickel	No	0.0018	ppm	Erosion on natural deposits
2010	pH	No	8.1	units	Measure of corrosivity of water
2007	Sodium	No	31.9	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity
2010	Sulfate	No	22.3	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity
2010	Total Alkalinity As CaCO <sub>3</sub>	No	Less than detection limit	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts
2010	Total Dissolved Solids	No	141	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water
2007	Zinc	No	0.0316	ppm	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element used in metal industry

Schertz is proud of its water! Since March 2003, the City receives its water from the Carrizo Aquifer. Unlike other cities in the area that rely on the Edwards Aquifer, Schertz customers have high quality water with limited use restrictions.

Schertz encourages good stewardship of our water resource and promotes a year-round water conservation plan. The rules are simple to follow:

Year round outdoor sprinkler watering is prohibited between 10:00AM to 8:00PM daily. The use of a handheld hose or other handheld watering device or a drip irrigation system can be used at any time.

It shall be a violation if a person or customer allows water to run off into a non-pervious ditch, or fails to repair a controllable leak.

Re-use water usage is exempt from the water conservation plan.

Customers using water from private water wells must comply with all requirements of the water conservation plan.

All persons are urged not to waste water.

While not anticipated, the City reserves the right to impose further water use restrictions in emergency situations.

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## Other utility info:

### Garbage/Recycling

Residential and commercial garbage and recycling services are coordinated through our department.

Residential garbage and recycling pickup days are assigned by zone. Please call us at 210.619.1100 to determine your pickup days.

There will be no pickup on the following holidays: July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Years Day.

Residential recycling is strongly encouraged. A handout is available that describes what can be recycled.

Commercial waste services can be customized to fit your business needs, please contact us to provide you with a quote.

### Electric & Gas

Electricity is furnished by Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative, CPS Energy, and New Braunfels Utilities.

Natural Gas is supplied by Center-Point Energy in select areas of the City.

## CONTACT INFO:

**Schertz  
Public Works  
(210) 619-1800**

[www.schertz.com](http://www.schertz.com)