



BROWNSVILLE
PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

2026 Consumer Confidence Report

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ID NO. 0310001

Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) Provides Safe Drinking Water

Protecting our region's water supply is a central focus for the Brownsville Public Utilities Board as communities across South Texas navigate ongoing drought conditions. This annual Consumer Confidence Report provides a detailed look at the quality of your drinking water based on data collected throughout the 2025 calendar year. Because Brownsville relies on the Rio Grande River system to meet the everyday needs of our customers and businesses, long-term planning and conservation efforts are vital to our operations. Our current water supply remains stable, and these regional dry conditions underscore the importance of expanding and diversifying our water resources for the years ahead.

Over the past year, we advanced several major initiatives designed to improve water reliability and resiliency. Our team made progress on the Banco Morales Reservoir project, continued planning for potable water reuse, and moved forward with improvements at the Southmost Regional Water Authority (SRWA). The SRWA facility is a key asset that provides a critical source of treated groundwater for our area. Alongside these major projects, we continue investing in targeted infrastructure improvements throughout the city to modernize our systems, improve efficiency, and support local growth.

We also launched the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Smart Meter Program, which is a major modernization effort that improves our system operations and gives customers more detailed information about their water and energy usage. These tools support daily conservation efforts by helping you monitor consumption and identify potential leaks early.

While we build for the future, our commitment to delivering safe, high-quality drinking water remains steady. We monitor and test drinking water quality around the clock in accordance with all state and federal regulations. The results included in this report confirm that your drinking water meets or exceeds all regulatory requirements, and I encourage you to review the full testing data provided on the following pages.

Water conservation is a shared responsibility that plays a major role in preserving our region's resources. Simple everyday actions like repairing household leaks, reducing unnecessary outdoor watering, and watering landscaping during the cooler parts of the day collectively make a meaningful impact.

Thank you for the continued trust you place in our team and for your partnership in protecting our community's water resources. It is our privilege to serve you every day.

Sincerely,
Marilyn D. Gilbert
General Manager & CEO



SPECIAL NOTICE FOR SENSITIVE POPULATIONS: 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; 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 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.

We Welcome Comments

Public participation is an important part of our work.

To learn more about your drinking water, you are invited to attend the next meeting of the Public Utilities Board Consumer Advisory Panel (PUBCAP).

PUBCAP meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of every month. The BPUB Board of Directors meets on the second Monday of every month. Please check the BPUB website for agendas and meeting details: www.brownsville-pub.com

Location: Board Room, Annex Building,
1425 Robinhood Drive, Brownsville,
Texas 78520

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para beber. Para asistencia en español, llame al (956) 983-6100.



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Where Your Water Comes From

BPUB produces and delivers potable water to the residents and businesses of the greater Brownsville area using two primary water sources.



Surface Water: Rio Grande

The primary source is surface water from the Rio Grande. Raw water is drawn through two river pump stations and stored in reservoirs with a combined capacity of 187 million gallons, as well as in the local resaca system. Water is then treated at two treatment plants, each capable of producing up to 20 million gallons per day (MGD).



Brackish Groundwater Source: Southmost Regional Water Authority (SRWA)

A second source is the Southmost Regional Water Authority's Brackish Groundwater Treatment Facility, where brackish groundwater is treated by reverse osmosis. As the majority partner and operator of the facility, BPUB helps produce approximately 7.5 million gallons of drinking water per day from this source, accounting for nearly 30 percent of the community's water supply.

Your Water System at a Glance



3

storage tanks



2

water sources



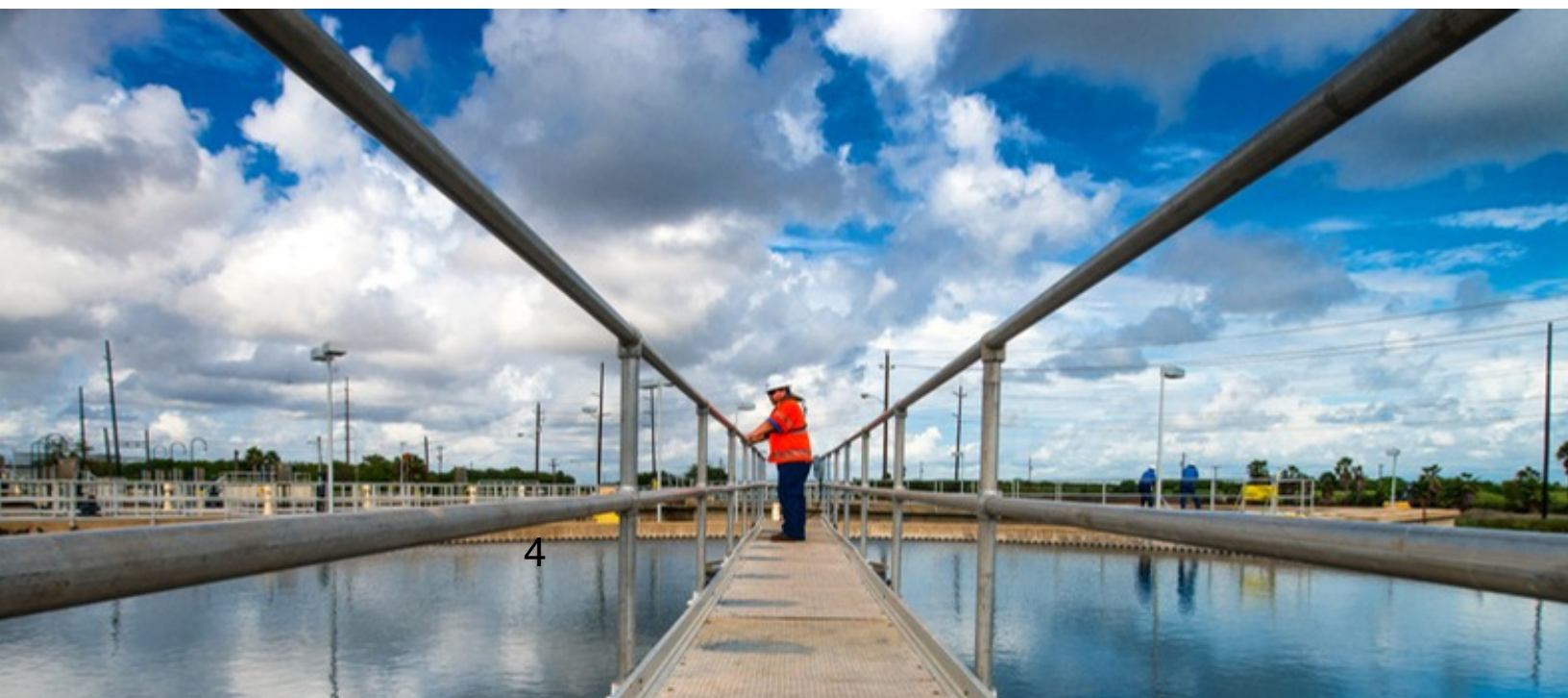
148.28

sq. mi service area



50 MGD

capacity



How BPUB Protects Your Water Quality

Protecting water quality requires ongoing attention at every stage of the process, from source water and treatment to storage and delivery. Multiple programs, monitoring systems, and regulatory requirements work together to ensure customers receive safe, high-quality drinking water.

Water Analytical Laboratory: BPUB's Analytical Lab is a critical component of the utility's water quality program, performing daily analyses seven days a week to support continuous monitoring of our drinking water. All analytical results undergo thorough validation by laboratory staff before release. The laboratory maintains accuracy, traceability, and compliance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements. Each sample is entered into a structured laboratory information system and assigned a unique identifier, allowing complete tracking from collection through final reporting. Quality control data is documented alongside results to support quality assurance standards and regulatory compliance.

Continuous Pressure Monitoring: Pressure throughout the water distribution system is monitored daily through a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. This real-time monitoring helps ensure proper system operation and supports prompt public notification, such as Boil Water Notices, if pressure falls below the required minimum of 20 psi.

Nitrification Action Plan: Chloramine, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, is used as the primary disinfectant within the distribution system. This disinfectant provides long-lasting protection throughout the water system but requires active management to prevent nitrification, a microbial process that converts ammonia into nitrite and nitrate, which can affect water quality.

To address this, a Nitrification Action Plan (NAP) is maintained in accordance with TCEQ requirements. The plan establishes procedures for:

- Routine sampling and monitoring
- Preventive maintenance flushing
- Disinfection effectiveness tracking
- Regulatory reporting

BPUB has continuously complied with all NAP requirements. Total chlorine residual is maintained at a minimum of 0.5 mg/L and a maximum of 4.0 mg/L based on the running annual average in the distribution system.

Dead-End Main Flushing: Routine flushing is another important tool used to maintain water quality throughout the distribution system. In accordance with American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards, crews flush 253 dead-end water mains each month to help maintain water freshness and disinfectant effectiveness. In addition to manual flushing activities, 17 automatic flushing devices operate on scheduled cycles in targeted areas of the system. Together, these efforts help reduce water age, maintain disinfectant residuals, and support overall water quality throughout the distribution network.

Customer Service Inspections: Before continuous water service is provided to new construction or following significant plumbing modifications, a Customer Service Inspection (CSI) is conducted as required by the Texas Administrative Code.

These inspections verify compliance with backflow prevention and cross-connection control requirements designed to protect the public water system from potential contamination. All inspections are performed by licensed inspectors to ensure installations meet applicable state regulations.

Lead and Copper Rule: Compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule remains an ongoing priority. Operations continue to meet all current requirements, including the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), which took full effect on Oct. 16, 2024.

Lead Service Line Inventory: An inventory of publicly and privately owned service lines has been completed to identify the materials used in the pipes that deliver water from the water main to homes and businesses. The initial inventory was submitted to TCEQ ahead of the regulatory deadline, and customers were notified of their results before Nov. 16, 2024.

As part of this notification effort, 18,134 letters and 6,347 emails were distributed to customers throughout the service area. Inventory improvement efforts continued in 2025 through a partnership with Allegiant, a contractor specializing in service line identification. Through this collaboration, 1,693 service lines previously classified as unknown were successfully identified, significantly improving inventory accuracy and completeness.

This work remains ongoing as efforts continue toward a fully classified service line inventory in accordance with state and federal requirements.

2026 Water Quality Data Tables

The following tables list the chemical and biological contaminants detected in the drinking water during the most recent monitoring period. **All detected levels met applicable state and federal drinking water standards.** In addition to the contaminants shown, testing was performed for 199 other contaminants, **none of which were detected in the water supply.**

Key Terms

- Avg - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of 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 risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – The highest level of a 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 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.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- Level 1 Assessment – Study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria were found.
- Level 2 Assessment – Detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria were found on multiple occasions.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) – A measure of turbidity.
- pCi/L – Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ppt – parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L).
- ppb – micrograms per liter or parts per billion
- ppm – milligrams per liter or parts per million
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- N/A – Not Applicable

Sources of Drinking Water

BPUB operates a surface water system. Our water source(s) and source water assessment information are listed below:

Source Name	Type of Water	Reported Status	Online Source Water Assessment
City of Brownsville Terminal Reservoir	Surface Water	YES	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310001
Resaca de la Palma	Surface Water	YES	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310001
Rio Grande Intake	Surface Water	YES	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310001
Southmost Regional Water Authority (SRWA)	Ground Water	YES	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
El Jardin Water Supply Corporation	Surface Water	YES	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310022

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant	Highest No. of Positive	MCL	MCLG	Range	Violation	Likely Source
Total Coliform*	In December, 1.54% of samples returned positive	5% or more of monthly samples	0	0% - 1.5%	N	Naturally present in environment
Fecal Coliform**	0.00%	A routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive and one is also fecal	0%	0.0% - 0.0%	N	Human and Animal fecal waste

*Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

**Escherichia (E. coli) are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Range	Units	Violation	Likely Source
Gross Beta	2023	7.1	50 pCi/L	0.0 pCi/L	4.8 - 7.1	pCi/L	N	Decay of natural/man-made deposits, erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 228	2023	< 1.0	5.0 pCi/L	0.0 pCi/L	< 1.0 - < 1.0	pCi/L	N	

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	MCL (AL for Copper)	MCLG	Range (Min-Max)	Units	Violation	Likely Source
Arsenic	2025	2.4	10	0	2.2 - 2.4	ppb	N	Runoff from orchards; natural deposits; electronics production waste
Barium	2025	0.101	2	2	0.089 - 0.101	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	2025	0.044	1.3	1.3	0.013–0.044	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide	2025	50	200	200	< 10.0 - 50.0	ppb	N	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories.
Selenium	2025	3.6	50	50	3.60 - 3.60	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	2025	0.74	10	10	0.65 - 0.74	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2025	0.54	4	4	0.45 - 0.54	ppm	N	Water additive for strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Range (Min-Max)	Units	Violation	Likely Source
Total Trihalomethanes	2025	48.1	80	No Goal for Total	8.7 - 48.1	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	17.3	60	No Goal for Total	6.8 - 17.3	ppb	N	
Dibromochloromethane	2025	0.0158	0	0.06	0.0017 - 0.0158	ppb	N	
Chlorite	2025	0.9	1	0.8	0.00 - 0.90	ppm	N	Byproduct of disinfection with chlorine dioxide

Disinfectants

Constituent	Collection Date	Annual Average	MRDL	MRDLG	Range Min - Max	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
Chloramines	2025	3.25	4	4	0.50 - 5.90	ppm	N	Disinfectant used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide	2025	44	800	800	0 - 400	ppb	N	Disinfectant used to control microbes

Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements.

Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range (Min-Max)	Units	Violation	Likely Source
Carbon, Total	2025	8.19	3.68 - 8.19	ppm	N	Naturally present in the environment

Turbidity

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

Percentage of samples in compliance with Std	Months Occurred	Violation	Highest Single Measurement	Month Occurred	Sources	Level Indicator
100	12	N	0.21	May	SWTP PLANT 1 - 94 W 13TH ST	Yes
100	12	N	0.16	December	SWTP PLANT 2 - 1425 ROBIN HOOD RD	Yes

Residential Lead and Copper Rule Monitoring

BPUB is scheduled by the TCEQ to collect and analyze residential Lead and Copper samples every 3 years.

Contaminant	Period	90th Percentile	Number Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Units	Violation	Likely Source
Lead	2022-2024	0	0	15	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper, Free	2022-2024	0.109	0	1.3	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated

Secondary contaminants have non-enforceable guidelines because they are not associated with health effects at the levels that trigger these standards. They may cause cosmetic or aesthetic issues—such as taste, odor, color, or staining—but are not considered a health risk.

Constituent	Average Level	Secondary Limit	Range (Min-Max)	Units	Violation	Likely Source
Aluminum	0.022	0.05 - 0.2	< 0.020 - 0.024	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from surface water treatment
Calcium	92.8	N/A	87.5 - 98.0	ppm	N	Abundant naturally occurring element
Chloride	170	300	137 - 203	ppm	N	Abundant naturally occurring element; byproduct of oil field activity
Hardness as CaCO ₃	358	N/A	341 - 374	ppm	N	Naturally occurring calcium
Nickel	0.004	N/A	0.0031 - 0.0048	ppm	N	Abundant naturally occurring element
pH	8	> 7.0 SU	7.9 - 8.1	S.U.	N	Measure of corrosivity of water
Sodium	162	N/A	158 - 165	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity
Sulfate	229	300	186 - 271	ppm	N	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct
Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	123	N/A	107 - 138	ppm	N	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts
Total Dissolved Solids	772	1,000	639 - 905	ppm	N	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water
Zinc	0.0191	5	0.0066 - 0.0316	ppm	N	Abundant naturally occurring element

Unregulated Contaminants (UCMR5)

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not yet established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Constituent	Collection Date	Average Level	Range (Min-Max)	Units
Lithium	2025	43.8	40.2 - 51.1	ppb
perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	2025	2.81	0 - 2.87	ppt
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS)	2025	5.30	0 - 7.99	ppt
perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	2025	3.90	0 - 4.72	ppt
perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2025	3.67	3.15 - 4.38	ppt
perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	2025	6.15	0 - 7.45	ppt
perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	2025	5.82	4.11 - 7.98	ppt
1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorodecane sulfonic acid (8:2 FTS)	2025	4.66	0 - 4.65	ppt
perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	2025	3.05	0 - 4.10	ppt
perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	2025	5.70	3.96 - 7.60	ppt

Special Notice for Availability of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Data

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for Brownsville Public Utilities Board

Our water system has been sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the EPA. The purpose of monitoring these contaminants is to help the EPA decide whether they should have a standard. As our customers, you have the right to know that this data is available. If you are interested in examining the results, please submit a request to our Open Records Department via email to openrecords@brownsville-pub.com.

Southmost Regional Water Authority (SRWA) Water Quality Data

Sources of Drinking Water

Southmost Regional Water Authority operates a groundwater system. Information regarding SRWA's water sources and source water assessments is provided below.

Source Name	Type of Water	Report Status	Online Source Water Assessment
C2	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
C3	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
D4B	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
D6	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
D7	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
G1	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
G2	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
G3	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
G4	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
G5	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
M1	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
M2	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
M3	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
M4	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
R3	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
S3A	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
S3B	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
S3C	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
S5	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150
SRWA7	Ground water	Yes	gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/swat/0310150

SRWA: Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant	Collection Date	Average Level	MCL	MCLG	Range	Units	Violation	Likely Source
Total Trihalomethanes	5/8/2025	0	80	No Goal for Total	0	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids HAA5	5/8/2025	0	60	No Goal for Total	0	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

SRWA: Disinfectant Residual

Contaminant	Collection Date	Average Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Range	Units	Violation	Likely Source
Chloramines	2025	3.5	4	4	3.13 - 3.93	ppm	N	Disinfectant used to control microbes

SRWA: Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated

No associated adverse health effects.

Constituent	Average Level	Secondary Limit	Range	Units	Violation	Likely Source
Calcium	29.5	N/A	29.5 - 29.5	ppm	N	Abundant naturally occurring element
*Chloride	266	300	266 - 266	ppm	N	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity
Hardness as CaCO ₃	109	N/A	109 - 109	ppm	N	Naturally occurring calcium
Manganese	0.01	0.05	0.01 - 0.01	ppm	N	Abundant naturally occurring element
pH	8.43	> 7.0	8.13 - 8.63	SU	N	Measure of corrosivity of water
Sodium	231	N/A	231 - 231	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity
*Sulfate	146	300	146 - 146	ppm	N	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct
*Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	76	N/A	76 - 76	ppm	N	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts
*Total Dissolved Solids	719	1,000	719 - 719	ppm	N	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water
Zinc	0.007	5	0.007 - 0.007	ppm	N	Abundant naturally occurring element

* Monitoring performed in 2024.

SRWA: Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant	Highest No. of Positive	MCL	MCLG	Range	Violation	Likely Source
Fecal Coliform	0	No more than 1 sample can be total coliform-positive	0	None detected	N	Human and animal fecal waste

SRWA: Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Range	Units	Violation	Likely Source
Copper	5/8/2025	0.009	1.3	1.3	0.009 - 0.009	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Barium	5/8/2025	0.0021	2	2	0.0021 - 0.0021	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	7/16/2024	0.2	4	4	0.2 - 0.2	ppm	N	Water additive for strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	5/8/2025	5	15	0	5.0 - 5.0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits

The tables in this report summarize the chemical and biological contaminants detected in drinking water during 2025 monitoring, except where otherwise noted.

All detected levels complied with applicable state and federal drinking water standards. As part of ongoing water quality monitoring, testing was conducted for 199 additional contaminants. **None of those contaminants were detected in the drinking water supply.** Most of the substances detected at low levels occur naturally in the environment.

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 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 include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may originate from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which may occur naturally or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming activities.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may enter source water through agricultural activities, urban stormwater runoff, and residential use.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic compounds, can result from industrial processes, petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which may occur naturally or be associated with oil and gas production and mining activities.

To help put water quality measurements into perspective, one part per million (ppm) is equivalent to one packet of artificial sweetener dispersed in 250 gallons of cooking oil, while one part per billion (ppb) is equivalent to one packet of artificial sweetener dispersed in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

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. Brownsville Public Utilities Board 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 two 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>.

A service line inventory has been prepared and can be accessed at www.brownsville-pub.com/lcr-map.

All Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

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 BPUB Analytical Laboratory at (956) 983-6100. For questions regarding this report, please contact Customer Service at (956) 983-6121.

State Water Loss Audit

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the period January through December 2025, BPUB's system lost an estimated 789,496,462 gallons (11.1%) of water due to main breaks, leaks, and other causes. If you have any questions about the state water loss audit, please call (956) 983-6100.



PFAS: What the New EPA Rule Means and How BPUB Is Responding

BPUB's drinking water continues to meet all current enforceable state and federal standards.

This update is provided to help customers better understand PFAS, recent federal regulations, and local monitoring efforts.

What Are PFAS?

You may have heard the term PFAS in the news lately and be wondering what it means for your drinking water. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals used for decades in products such as nonstick cookware, water-resistant fabrics, food packaging, firefighting foam, and various industrial applications. Because these compounds break down very slowly, they are now being detected at low levels in water systems throughout the United States.

The presence of PFAS does not automatically mean drinking water is unsafe. Research on the potential effects of long-term exposure is ongoing, and the EPA continues to refine regulations based on the latest scientific information.

What the EPA Is Requiring

Through the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5), the EPA required water systems nationwide to monitor for 30 contaminants, including 29 PFAS compounds, between 2023 and 2025. The information collected is helping regulators better understand the occurrence of PFAS across the country.

Under the current EPA PFAS rule:

- All Public Water Systems (PWS), including BPUB, must complete initial PFAS monitoring by 2027.
- If monitoring shows PFAS levels exceed the new maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), water systems must implement solutions to reduce them by 2029.
- All PWS must make PFAS monitoring results publicly available beginning in 2027.

What BPUB Found and What We Are Doing

PFAS monitoring was completed using EPA-approved laboratory methods with independent verification. Full results are included in the UCMR5 table within this report.

One monitoring sample showed PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid) at an average concentration of 5.55 parts per trillion (ppt), above the EPA's newly established Maximum Contaminant Level. As required, these results have been reported to regulatory agencies and are being addressed through ongoing evaluation and planning efforts.

Current actions include:

- Continued PFAS monitoring to track levels and trends over time.
- Independent laboratory verification to ensure data accuracy and reliability.
- Evaluation of treatment technologies, including granular activated carbon and reverse osmosis, to determine the most effective approach for the system.

Customers will continue to receive updates through future Consumer Confidence Reports and other public communications as additional information becomes available.

Additional PFAS Resources

- BPUB PFAS Explainer: www.brownsville-pub.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/final-virtual-pfas-explainer-508.pdf
- EPA PFAS General Information: www.epa.gov/pfas
- EPA PFAS Drinking Water Rule Fact Sheets: www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas
- EPA UCMR5 Monitoring Program: www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule

Understanding Yellow or Discolored Water

Seeing yellow or discolored water from your tap can be concerning. If you notice a change in your water's appearance, please contact BPUB so the issue can be investigated.

What Causes Yellow Water?

In many cases, yellow or brownish discoloration is caused by manganese, a naturally occurring mineral found in groundwater and surrounding soils. At the low levels typically found in treated drinking water, manganese does not pose a health risk, but it can affect the appearance of the water and may cause staining on laundry, fixtures, and appliances.

Other factors can also contribute to temporary discoloration, including:

- Corrosion or sediment disturbance in the distribution system. Over time, pipes can accumulate rust, scale, and mineral deposits. Activities like a nearby water main break, hydrant flushing operations, or major construction can temporarily stir up these deposits and send discolored water to taps in the area.
- Aged or infrequently used fixtures and water heaters. A hot water heater that has not been flushed in several years can harbor sediment that discolors the water. Faucets that are rarely used may also contribute to changes in taste or odor.
- Routine system maintenance. BPUB flushes water mains regularly to maintain water quality throughout the system. During or shortly after flushing near your address, you may temporarily notice changes in your water's appearance.

What BPUB Does When Yellow Water Is Reported

When reports of yellow or discolored water are received, crews investigate the issue and take corrective action as needed. Response efforts may include:

- Targeted flushing to clear discolored water from nearby water mains and restore normal water quality.
- On-site testing, upon request, to collect and analyze water samples and help determine whether the source is within the public water system or private plumbing.
- Ongoing monitoring and treatment adjustments to track manganese levels and optimize treatment processes when necessary.

What You Can Do

If you notice yellow or discolored water at your tap:

- Run a cold water faucet for 2 to 3 minutes. In many cases, temporary discoloration will clear as fresh water moves through the plumbing.
- Avoid using discolored water for laundry, as minerals such as manganese and iron can stain fabrics.
- Report the issue to BPUB by calling (956) 983-6100 or visiting www.brownsville-pub.com. Customer reports help identify patterns and support faster response efforts.
- Request an inspection if the issue persists after flushing. Water samples can be collected and evaluated at no charge.

Is Yellow Water Safe?

The manganese levels that may cause temporary discoloration in the water system remain within limits established by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

While yellow or discolored water can be unpleasant and may stain laundry or fixtures, it does not necessarily indicate a water quality or public health concern. Customers who notice discolored water are encouraged to avoid using it for drinking or laundry until it runs clear and to report the issue to BPUB so it can be investigated promptly.



We're Here to Help

Your water quality is our top priority. Our team of Water Quality Specialists responds to hundreds of customer inquiries each year and is available to help identify and resolve water quality concerns as quickly as possible.

Many questions can be answered over the phone, while others may require an on-site inspection or laboratory testing. In every case, the goal is to determine the cause of the issue and provide customers with clear answers.

While many common water quality concerns have simple at-home solutions, customers are encouraged to contact BPUB if:

- The issue persists after following the recommended troubleshooting steps.
- Discoloration, odor, or taste changes are present at multiple faucets within the home.
- Neighbors are experiencing similar issues at the same time.
- Water testing or an on-site inspection is requested. These services are provided at no charge.

The Analytical Laboratory is equipped with advanced testing capabilities and can perform specialized analyses to investigate concerns that cannot be resolved through standard troubleshooting.



To reach us: Call (956) 983-6100, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For urgent or after-hours issues, report water quality concerns online at <https://assist.brownsville-pub.com>

Our specialists typically respond within a few hours during regular business hours.



Common Water Quality Concerns and What to Do

If you are experiencing a water quality issue, the guide below can help you identify the likely cause and the recommended first step.

What You Are Seeing	Likely Cause	What to Do
Cloudy or milky water	Air trapped in the water (harmless and very common after main repairs or pressure changes)	Let a glass of water sit for a minute. If the cloudiness clears from the bottom up, it is just air. Clean or replace your faucet aerator. If it persists, call BPUB at (956) 983-6100.
Yellow or brown discoloration	Manganese or iron minerals in the distribution system; sediment stirred up by nearby main work or flushing	Run your cold tap for 2 to 3 minutes. Avoid using for laundry until clear. Report to BPUB at (956) 983-6100.
Black floating particles	Deteriorating braided supply line under the sink, or a deteriorating toilet flapper valve	Check and replace your flexible supply lines and toilet flapper. These are standard hardware store items.
Small black particles (not floating)	Activated charcoal from an in-line water filter that has reached end of life	Bypass or replace your filter cartridge and flush your lines. Contact your filter service provider.
White floating particles	A deteriorating dip tube inside your water heater	Contact your water heater manufacturer or a licensed plumber.
White or light-colored sediment	Hard water deposits (calcium carbonate). Our local water supply is moderately to very hard.	Flush your water heater 2 to 3 times per year to remove loose deposits. Consider a water softener if scaling is a concern.
Brown, uniform-sized particles	Resin beads from a malfunctioning water softener	Bypass your water softener, flush all lines, and have the unit serviced.
Rust-colored water after a shutdown	Rust particles from galvanized pipes inside your home, loosened when water flow stopped and restarted	Flush your cold water taps for several minutes. If it does not clear, call BPUB at (956) 983-6100.
Sand or grit	A water main break nearby, calcium buildup in hot water heater, or a water softener malfunction	Call BPUB at (956) 983-6100. Flush your hot water heater.
Low water pressure	Water main construction or repair nearby, a line break, or a clogged faucet aerator	Call BPUB at (956) 983-6100. Check for a possible leak on your property and clean your aerator.
Unusual taste	Recent internal plumbing work	Flush your internal water lines thoroughly. If the taste persists more than 24 hours, contact BPUB.
Unusual odor	Odor often comes from sink drains, not tap water itself	Run your cold water into a glass away from the sink. If the water in the glass smells fine, the issue is your drain. Pour baking soda followed by hot water down the drain. If the water itself has an odor, call BPUB at (956) 983-6100.





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