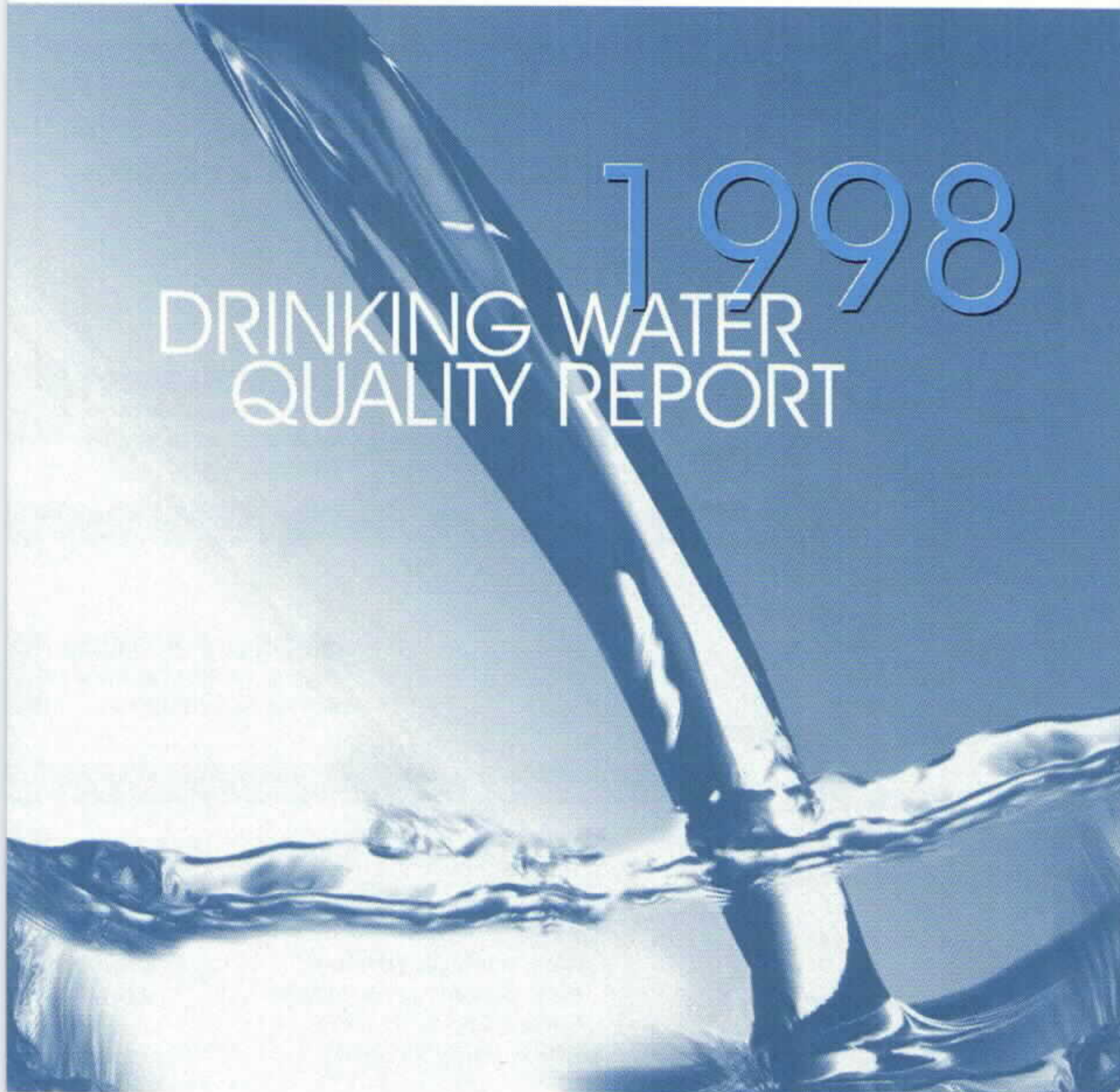




Questions: Call 361/ 857-1881

or visit our new Web site: www.cctexas.com



En Español:

Este reporte incluye información sobre su agua beber.

Para obtener una copia de este reporte en español, llame al 361/857-1881.

Your Water Is Safe To Drink.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

As rain water travels over the land's surface and down the river, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and picks up other contaminants. Untreated water may contain bacteria, viruses, salts and various organic chemical contaminants.

Corpus Christi and surrounding communities get their drinking water from a surface water impoundment system including Lake Corpus Christi, Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Texana. Water stored in Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon makes its way down the Nueces River to treatment plant intake pumps at Calallen. The water is moved by pipeline to the O. N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant located near Five Points.

Lake Texana water is pumped 101 miles through the Mary Rhodes Pipeline directly to the water treatment plant where it is blended with water from the Nueces River.

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires all states to establish Source Water Protection Programs that analyze existing and potential threats to the quality of public drinking water. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission has begun a review of all of the state's drinking water sources including those in the Coastal Bend. This source water assessment will be completed in three years.

A Review of Your Water System

The City of Corpus Christi Water Department is responsible for managing water resources for most of the Coastal Bend area. The Department is providing this first annual Drinking Water Quality Report to inform you about our water and how its quality compares to the guidelines set by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Most importantly, the Water Department wants you to know that when you drink tap water from the Corpus Christi system, you are drinking clean, high quality water that meets strict government standards. This report will help you understand the steps taken to deliver the safe drinking water that is essential to human survival. In fact, all drinking water providers are now required by federal law to issue annual quality reports like this one to their customers.

Many people are surprised to learn that ALL drinking water, including bottled water, is likely to contain some level of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the 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.

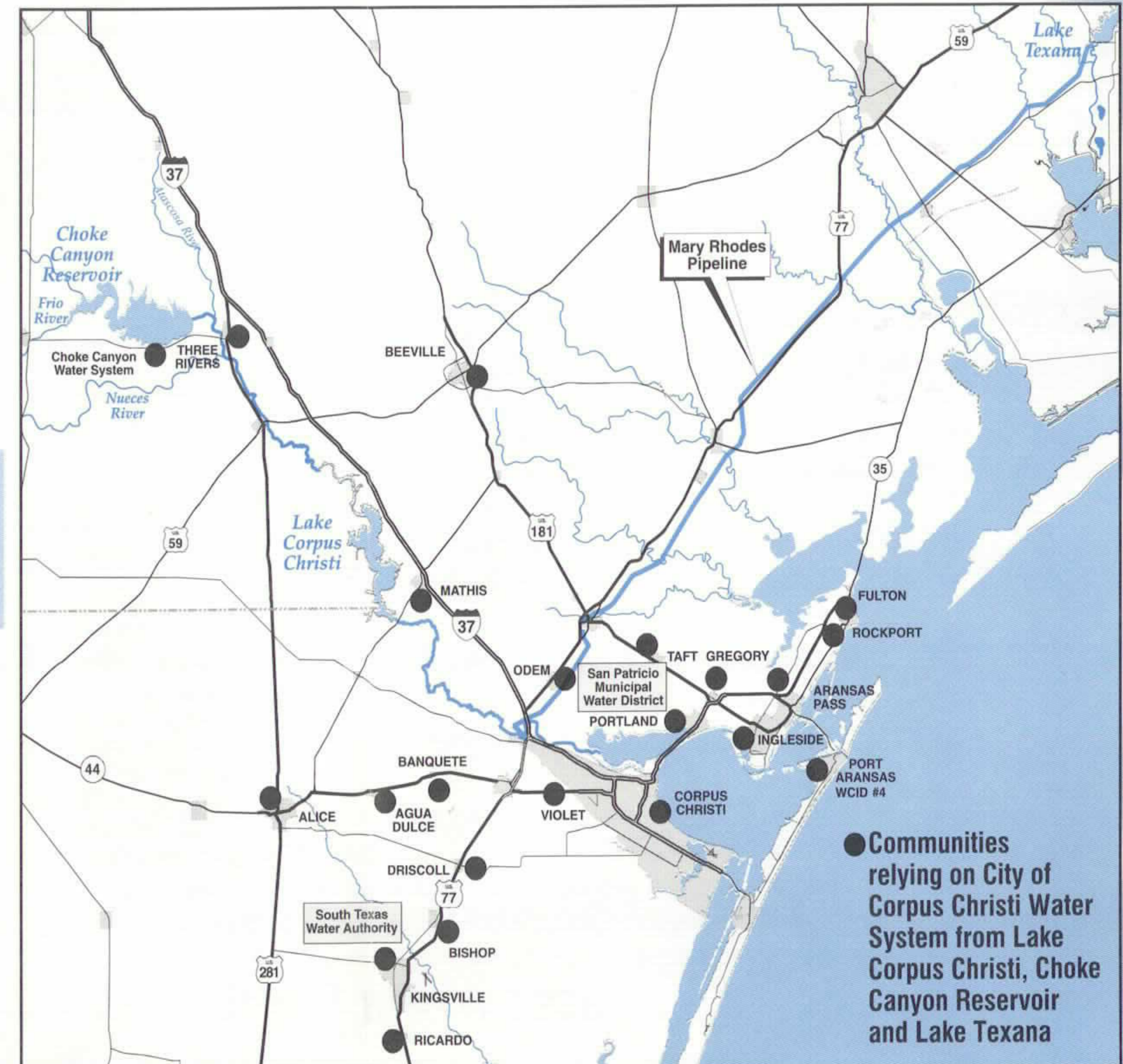
We Welcome Your Comments & Questions

There are several ways you can learn more about the Corpus Christi water supply system and the quality of our water. You can ask your questions and offer comments during a public meeting to be held on:

**Wednesday, October 20, 1999
at 7:00 p.m. at the
Water Utilities Conference Room
2726 Holly Rd., Corpus Christi, Texas**

You can also get answers to your questions by calling the Water Department at (361) 857-1881 or you can visit our web site at www.ci.corpus-christi.tx.us/services/water.

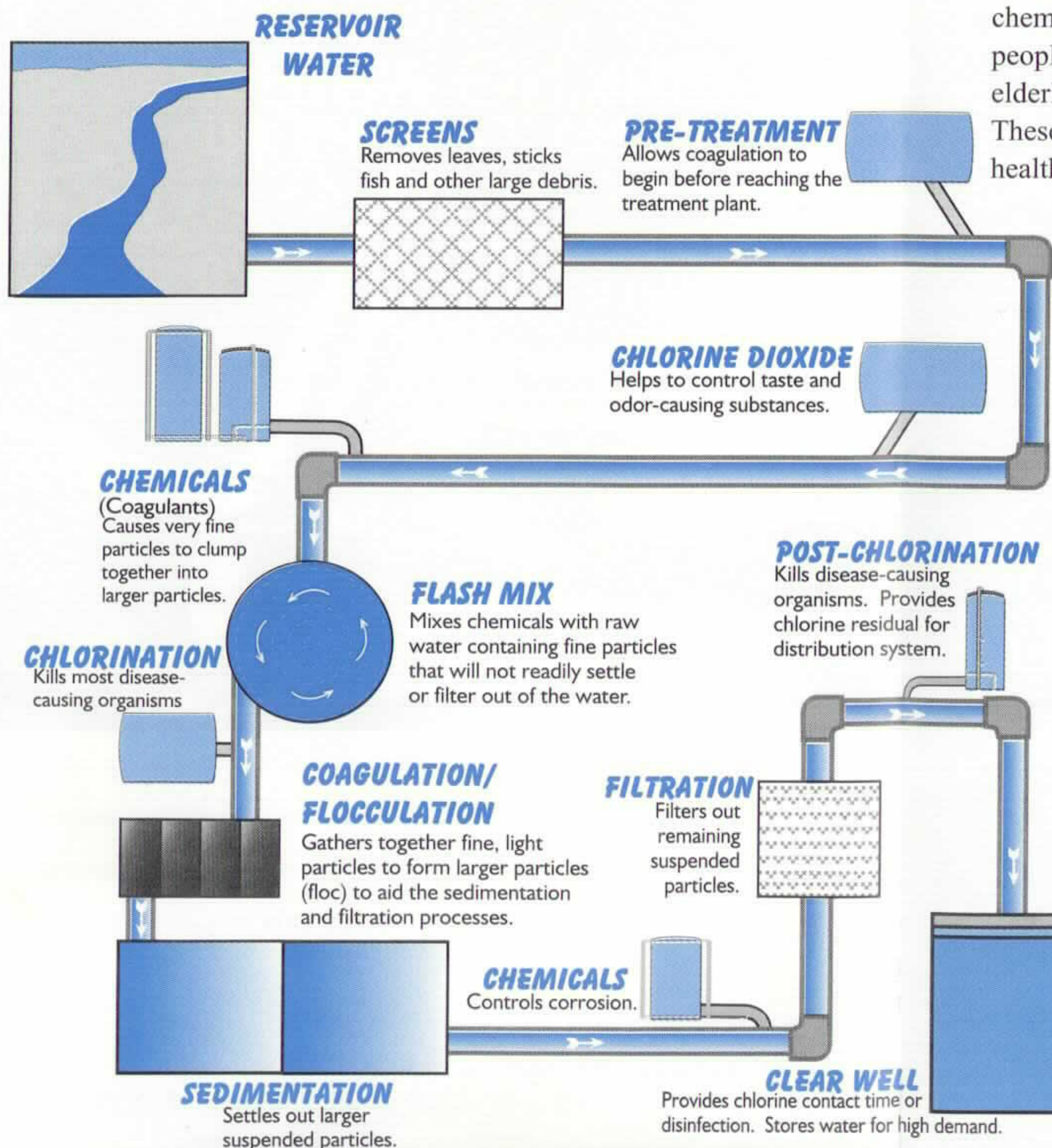
The Water Department is part of the local municipal government. The City Council meets on most Tuesdays at City Hall located at 1201 Leopard Street. For meeting dates and times, please call the City Secretary's Office at (361) 880-3105.



How Your Drinking Water Is Treated

Water from Lake Corpus Christi, Choke Canyon and Lake Texana is purified at the O. N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant through a process of chemical treatment, disinfection, settling and filtration. Water treatment chemicals are added to remove impurities, kill harmful bacteria, eliminate tastes and odors and help prevent tooth decay. The treatment process takes about 18 hours. During that time, more than 200 tests are conducted on the water including temperature, alkalinity, pH, turbidity, color and chlorine residual.

The O. N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant is capable of treating 167 million gallons of water each day. On an average day, it delivers 80 million gallons of treated water.



Other Water Quality Concerns

Your water can be very safe to drink and still have an unpleasant taste and odor. These are aesthetic – not health related – concerns. Occasionally, water systems experience taste and odor problems caused by such things as algae growth, a change in temperature and high rainfall.

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic parasite affecting the digestive tracts of humans and animals. Corpus Christi has tested for *Cryptosporidium* from April 1993 to December 1998 in both untreated river water and in our treated water. During that time, it was never detected.

Special Information for People with Weakened Immune Systems

Some people may be more vulnerable to certain 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. USEPA / 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 (800-426-4791).

Ways to Protect Our Water Quality

If possible, avoid the use of fertilizers and pesticides as runoff will cause pollution.

Do not apply pesticides or fertilizers before a heavy rain is expected.

Report illegal dumping.

Follow package instructions when applying pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

Consider landscaping your home with a Xeriscape-style garden to reduce maintenance, mowing, fertilizers, pesticides and other yard work.

Review of Terms

The following list explains some of the terms used in the table below:

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 Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)

A measure of turbidity in water.

Parts Per Million (ppm)

Equivalent to milligrams per liter. One ppm is comparable to one minute in two years.

Parts Per Billion (ppb)

One ppb is comparable to one minute in 2,000 years.

PicoCuries Per Liter (pCi/L)

A measure of radioactivity. $\$ 50 \text{ pCi/L} = 4 \text{ mrems / year}$

Minerals, Metals and Other Constituents

Corpus Christi's water is also tested for all of the constituents listed below. They do not relate to public health but are important to the aesthetic quality of the water.

Constituent	Value
Bicarbonate	124 ppm
Calcium	66 ppm
Dilute Conductance	1,064 umho/cm
Magnesium	9 ppm
pH	7.4
Sodium	104 ppm
Total Alkalinity	102 ppm
Total Hardness	201 ppm or 11.8 grains per gallon

Corpus Christi's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 1998

To protect public health, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has identified acceptable levels for constituents in tap water. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has assessed our water system and determined that our water is safe to drink. All constituents in our water are well below federal and state maximum contaminant levels.

The following table contains the chemical constituents found in our drinking water. USEPA requires all water systems to test for up to 97 constituents. The following constituents were detected in our water, but each was within permissible levels. A review of terms are shown above.

Year	Constituent	Amount Detected		Maximum Contaminant Level	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Possible Source of Constituent
		Average	Range ⁽¹⁾			
Inorganic						
1998	Arsenic (ppb)	5.5	5.5 - 5.5	50	0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards or glass and electronic wastes.
1998	Barium (ppm)	0.059	0.059 - 0.059	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes or metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
1998	Fluoride (ppm)	1.1	1.1 - 1.1	4	4	Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
1998	Nitrate (ppm)	0.44	0.44 - 0.44	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, or natural erosion.
1998	Selenium (ppb)	7.1	7.1 - 7.1	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
1998	Lead (ppb)	4.1	0 ⁽²⁾	AL = 15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
1998	Copper (ppm)	0.18	0 ⁽²⁾	AL = 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Radioactive						
1997	Gross beta emitters (pCi/L) †	9.8	9.8 - 9.8	50	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Organic						
1998	Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	40.5 ⁽³⁾	26.7 - 48.4	100	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Microbial						
1998	Total Coliform Bacteria	1 ⁽⁴⁾	N/A	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% or more of the monthly samples	Presence	Naturally present in the environment.

What are coliforms? In the water industry, coliform bacteria are used as an indicator of microbial contamination of drinking water because it is easily detected and is found in the digestive tract of warm-blooded animals. While not themselves disease producers, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform

bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is safe for human consumption. Fecal coliform (mostly E-coli), is part of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals that passes into the environment as feces. Fecal coliform is often used as an indicator of fecal contamination of a domestic water supply.

Treatment Requirement		(5)	(6)			
1998	Turbidity (NTU)	0.62	98	TT/AL = 0.5	N/A	Soil runoff

Turbidity has no health effects; however, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. It may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms which

may include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches. Turbidity must be less than 0.5 NTU in 95% of monthly samples.

- (1) Range of detected levels, indicated for one or more samples collected for 1998
- (2) Number of sites exceeding action level.
- (3) Average of four quarterly water samples collected in the distribution system.
- (4) Highest monthly percent of total coliform positive samples.
- (5) Highest single measurement for turbidity.
- (6) Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limits.
- † 50 pCi/L = 4 mrems / year

Excellence in Water Quality

The City of Corpus Christi
Water Department is committed to
supplying safe drinking water that
meets or exceeds state and
federal standards.

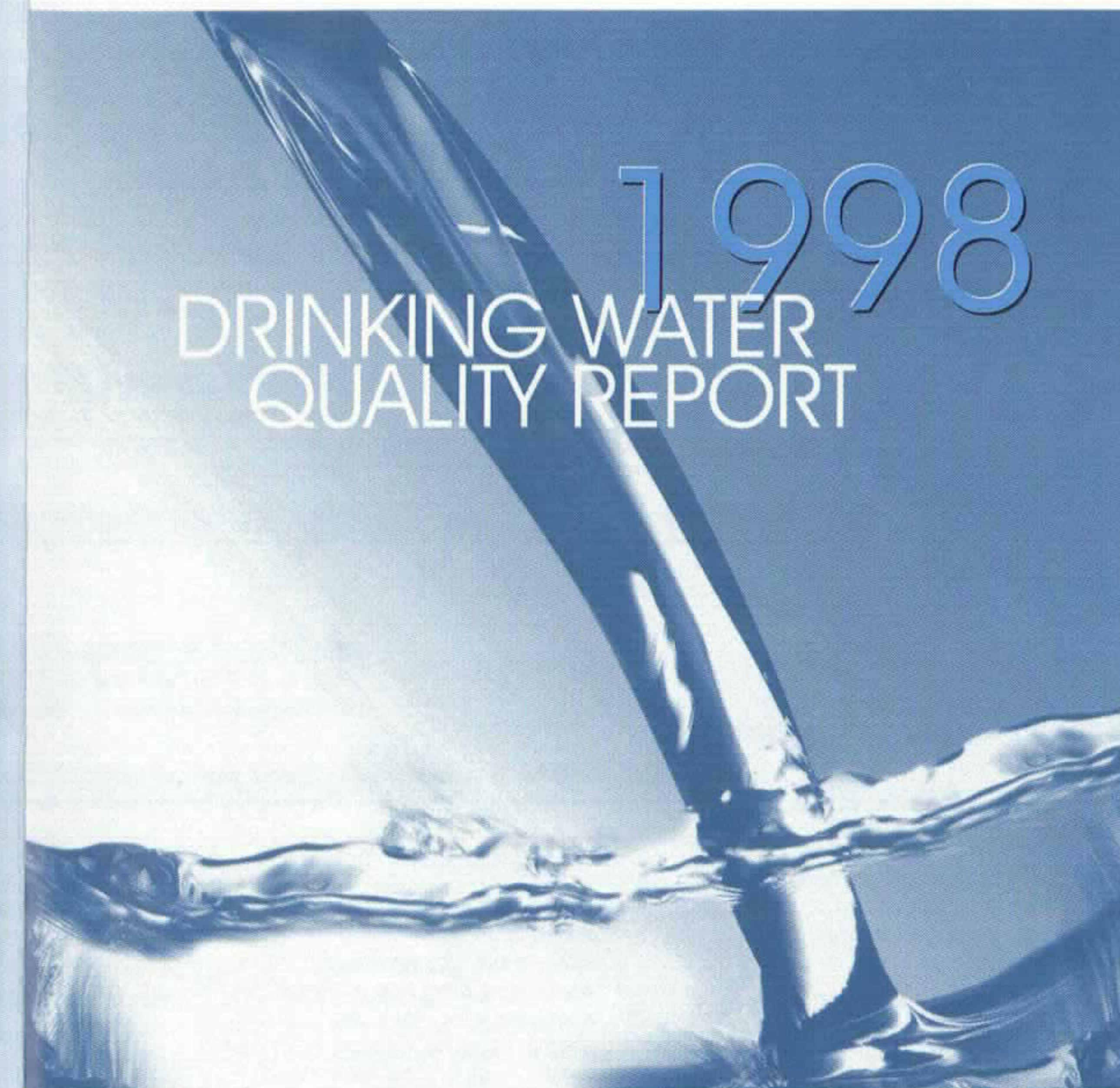
Our mission is to provide a safe
and dependable supply of water to
all customers of the Coastal Bend.

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City of Corpus Christi
Water Department
P. O. Box 9277
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