

TRAVIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 17

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4/27/2021

Dear Customer,

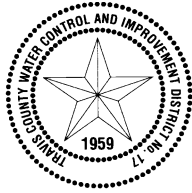
With the recent confirmation of the presence of blue-green algae (also known as cyanobacteria) throughout the highland lakes chain, there have been many questions concerning how this may affect the safety of the water here in Lake Travis. The Lower Colorado River Association (LCRA) is responsible for the management of the highland lakes and as such they monitor and collect samples at multiple locations. Recently, they have found blue-green algae blooms throughout all of the Highland Lakes (including Lake Travis). This particular form of algae gives off toxins referred to as cyanotoxins and has been shown to thrive in warm, shallow or stagnant water where it can present a danger to livestock, pets, animals and humans if ingested.

Understanding the obvious concerns this raises, we here at Travis County Water Control and Improvement District 17 (WCID No. 17) wanted to take a moment and discuss the issue with our customers. WCID No. 17, like many public water systems, uses Lake Travis for our source of raw water and we take pride in supplying our customers with the highest quality and best tasting water in the area. The location of our raw water intakes is important when considering the issues blue-green algae present. As our raw water intakes are deep below the water's surface and not in stagnant or shallow water, we are positioned in safe locations well within the natural flow of the Colorado river. This helps to ensure that our suction sources are well away from the presence of nearly all algae and specifically that of blue-green algae. In addition, our potable water is then treated by a variety of methods including flocculation, membrane filtration and chlorination, all of which help to eliminate cyanotoxins in the water.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not currently regulate cyanotoxins and public water systems are not required to monitor for cyanotoxins in their drinking water. However, the EPA is working on "Assessment Monitoring" for cyanotoxins under the Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4). WCID No. 17 was a full participant in this monitoring and we conducted multiple rounds of sampling from March 2020 to December 2020. Samples from our raw water source and our distribution system were taken and analyzed by our State certified laboratory.

All lab results were shown to be below the EPA minimum reporting limits (MRL) for the following constituents:

- Anatoxin – A	EPA MRL 0.03 µg/L	WCID17 results: <0.03 µg/L
- Cylindrospermopsin	EPA MRL 0.09 µg/L	WCID17 results: <0.09 µg/L
- Total Microcystins	EPA MRL 0.3 µg/L	WCID17 results: <0.3 µg/L



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As the above test results show, WCID No. 17 was below all EPA reporting limits for toxins produced by blue-green algae for the 9-month period ending in December of 2020. Out of an abundance of caution, we have recently implemented further testing for cyanotoxins and will continue to do so moving forward. We will update our website with the results as they become available. The LCRA additionally is continuing to monitor the highland lakes for the presence of algae and they have made the following web page available for the public's reference: <https://www.lcra.org/water/quality/algae-in-the-highland-lakes/>

Below you can find further links to the EPA's website for more information:

Cyanotoxin Monitoring Assessment: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-03/documents/ucmr4-fact-sheet-cyanotoxins.pdf>

Cyanotoxins and the Safe Drinking Act: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/cyanotoxins-and-safe-drinking-act>

Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fourth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

Below is a link to our most recent Consumer Confidence Report (CCR):

<https://www.wcid17.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/WCID17-2019WaterQuality.pdf>