

# 2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

CCR Direct Link: <https://www.clcwa.org/ccr>

Reporting Period: January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025

Clear Lake City Water Authority

900 Bay Area Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77058

281-488-1164

Mon - Fri: 8:00am - 4:30pm  
Sat and Sun: Closed



Serving the Community since 1963

## GENERAL INFORMATION

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) for the year, for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

For more information regarding this report contact:

**Clear Lake City Water Authority**  
**Phone: 281-488-1164**

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al teléfono, 281-488-1164.

## SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

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.

A service line inventory has been prepared and can be accessed at <http://www.clcwa.org/servicelineinventory>

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 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## CLCWA WATER SOURCE

Clear Lake City Water Authority provides approximately 98% purchased surface water and 2% groundwater from wells. The CLCWA purchases most of its drinking water from the City of Houston's Southeast Water Purification Plant (SEWPP) located near Ellington Field in Houston, TX. Approximately 1% of our drinking water is purchased from the City of Pasadena located in Pasadena, TX that also provides surface water from the SEWPP. The raw surface water comes from the Trinity River through Lake Livingston located in Livingston, TX. On occasion, the raw surface water may come from the San Jacinto River through Lake Houston located in Houston, TX. The Authority supplements surface water with ground water from their permitted wells during high demand in summer months. These are deep wells, producing water from the Gulf Coast Aquifer located beneath Montgomery County.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems (PWS). FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. 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 system's business office at 281-488-1164.

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/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).

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. HARRIS COUNTY WCID 156 is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact CLEAR LAKE CITY WATER AUTHORITY at 281-488-1164. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS

TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water, and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system is based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system contact CLCWA at 281-488-1164.

Further details about sources and source water assessments are available in Drinking Water Viewer at the following URL: <https://dvw.tceq.texas.gov/>

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

Board of Director's meetings are regularly scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at 900 Bay Area Boulevard. These meetings are subject to change, and anyone interested in attending should verify the meeting date by calling 281-488-1164. Time is allotted at Board meetings for public questions and comments. Your attendance is welcome.

## Definitions & Abbreviations

The Following Tables contain scientific terms, measures, and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

### Action Level (AL):

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

### Action Level Goal (ALG):

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Avg:** Average - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**RAA:** Running Annual Average.

**LRAA:** Locational Running Annual Average.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very 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 have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

### Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):

The highest level of a 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 a 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.

**MFL:** Million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

**mrem:** Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

**na:** Not Applicable

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of turbidity)

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity in water)

**ppt:** nanograms per liter or parts per trillion (one ounce in 7,350,000,000 gallons of water) (ng/L)

**ppb:** micrograms per liter or parts per billion (one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water) (ug/L).

**ppm:** milligrams per liter or parts per million (one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water) (mg/L)

**Treatment Technique or (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

## About The Following Tables

The following tables list all the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which were detected in your drinking water. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results. If a contaminant was reported in a prior year's report but is not detected in this year's samples, that contaminant may be removed from the list. The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with drinking water regulations.

### Inorganic Contaminants

| Collection Date | Contaminant                    | Highest Level Detected | Range of Individual Samples | MCLG | MCL | Unit of Measure | Violation | Likely Source of Contaminant   |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-----|-----------------|-----------|--|
| 2025            | Barium                         | 0.124                  | 0.0436 - 0.124              | 2    | 2   | ppm             | No        | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.                                |
| 2024            | Cyanide                        | <10                    | <10 - <10                   | 200  | 200 | ppb             | No        | Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.                                     |
| 2024            | Fluoride                       | 0.53                   | 0.53 - 0.53                 | 4    | 4   | ppm             | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| 2025            | Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) | 0.89                   | 0 - 0.89                    | 10   | 10  | ppm             | No        | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.                               |
| 2020            | Nitrate-Nitrite                | .17                    | 0.16 - 0.17                 | 10   | 10  | ppm             | No        | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.                               |
| 2025            | Nickel                         | 0.0031                 | 0 - 0.0031                  | 0.1  | 0   | ppm             | No        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.  |

### Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides

| Collection Date | Contaminant                 | Highest Level Detected | Range of Individual Samples | MCLG | MCL | Unit of Measure | Violation | Likely Source of Contaminant                  |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-----|-----------------|-----------|---|
| 2025            | Simazine                    | 0.08                   | 0 - 0.08                    | 4    | 4   | ppb             | No        | Herbicide runoff.                             |
| 2025            | Atrazine                    | 0.16                   | 0.11 - 0.16                 | 3    | 3   | ppb             | No        | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.      |
| 2024            | Dalapon                     | <1                     | <1 - <1                     | 200  | 200 | ppb             | No        | Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way.  |
| 2024            | Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate | <0.6                   | <0.6 - <0.6                 | 0    | 6   | ppb             | No        | Discharge from rubber and chemical factories. |

### Radioactive Contaminants

| Collection Date | Contaminant               | Highest Level Detected | Range of Individual Samples | MCLG | MCL | Unit of Measure | Violation | Likely Source of Contaminant           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-----|-----------------|-----------|--|
| 2023            | Combined Radium 226 / 228 | 1.5                    | 1.5 - 1.5                   | 0    | 5   | pCi/L           | No        | Erosion of natural deposits.           |
| 2023            | Beta/photon emitters      | 7.2                    | 0 - 7.2                     | 0    | 50  | pCi/L           | No        | Decay of natural and man-made deposits |

EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

### Coliform Bacteria

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.

| Microbiological | Results   | MCLG | MCL Treatment Technique Trigger | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination        |
|-----------------|---|------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Coliform (TCR)  | In the month of October, 1.11% of sample(s) returned positive | 0%   | 5% of Monthly Samples           | No        | Naturally present in the environment. |

### Disinfectant Residual

All public water systems in Texas are required to disinfect drinking water to ensure control of microbial contaminants. Disinfectants are water additives used to control microbes.

| Collection Date | Disinfectant        | Average Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MRDLG | MRDL | Unit of Measure | Violation | Likely Source of Contaminant             |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------|------|-----------------|-----------|--|
| 2025            | Chloramine Residual | 2.84                   | .50 - 4.40               | 4     | 4    | ppm             | No        | Water additive used to control microbes. |

### Payment Options

CLCWA has online, ACH draft, phone, mail, and in-office payment options (cash, check, money order or credit card/debit card) for our customers. Please visit our website at [www.clcwa.org](http://www.clcwa.org), or call us at 281-488-1164.

## Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products Sample Point: Timber Cove Dr, Clear Lake

| Collection Date | Disinfection By-Products      | Highest LRAA | Range       | MCLG                  | MCL | Unit of Measure | Violation | Likely Source of Contaminant               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----|-----------------|-----------|--|
| 2025            | Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | 35           | 19.6        | No goal for the total | 60  | ppb             | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2025            | Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)  | 38           | 26.2        | No goal for the total | 80  | ppb             | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2025            | Chloroform                    | 32.9         | <1.0 – 32.9 | na                    | na  | ppb             |           | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2024            | Bromoform                     | 1.2          | <1.0 – 1.2  | na                    | na  | ppb             |           | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2025            | Bromodichloromethane          | 12.8         | <1.0 – 12.8 | na                    | na  | ppb             |           | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2025            | Dibromochloromethane          | 3.4          | <1.0 – 3.4  | 60                    | na  | ppb             |           | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |

\*The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 and TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year

### Unregulated Contaminants

There is no maximum contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point to distribution. 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.

| Collection Date | Contaminant                         | Highest Level Detected | Range of Individual Samples | MCLG | MCL | Unit of Measure | Likely Source of Contaminant                             |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-----|-----------------|--|
| 2024            | Lithium                             | 11                     | <9 - 11                     | na   | na  | ppb             | Lithium is a naturally occurring element.                |
| 2024            | Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)       | 0.01                   | <0.005 - 0.01               | na   | na  | ppb             | Different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. |
| 2024            | Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) | 0.0039                 | <0.003 - 0.0039             | na   | na  | ppb             | Different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. |
| 2024            | Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)     | <0.003                 | <0.003 - <0.003             | na   | na  | ppb             | Different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. |
| 2024            | Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)      | 0.0078                 | <0.003 - 0.0078             | na   | na  | ppb             | Different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. |
| 2024            | Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)     | 0.0088                 | <0.003 - 0.0088             | na   | na  | ppb             | Different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. |

### Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

The CLCWA will continue to monitor any processes implemented by the City of Houston as they continue closely studying the results and preparing for solutions to best find, control, remove and prevent PFAS contamination. The latest information is available at [houstonpublicworks.org](http://houstonpublicworks.org).

| Collection Date | Contaminant  | Highest Level Detected | Range of Individual Samples | MCLG | MCL | Unit of Measure         | Likely Source of Contaminant                             |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-----|-------------------------|--|
| 2024            | Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)                             | 4                      | <3 - 4                      | 10   | 10  | ppt                     | Different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. |
| 2024            | Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)                                    | <4                     | <4 - <4                     | 0    | 4   | ppt                     | Different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. |
| 2024            | Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)                              | 5.8                    | <4 – 5.8                    | 0    | 4   | ppt                     | Different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. |
| 2024            | Mixtures containing two or more (PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS) | 0.4                    | <MRL - 0.4                  | 1    | 1   | (unitless) Hazard Index | Different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. |

### Turbidity

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

| Collection Date | Contaminant | Highest Single Measurement | Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits | Turbidity Limits | Unit of Measure | Likely Source of Contaminant |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 2025            | Turbidity   | 0.14                       | 100%                                       | 0.3              | NTU             | Soil runoff.                 |

### Lead and Copper

**Lead and Copper Rule:** The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials. \* 90% of your water utility levels were less than.

| Period Sampled | Contaminant  | Range of Sampled Results (Low – high) | Action Level (AL) | 90th Percentile* | # Sites Over AL | Unit of Measure | Violation | Likely Source of Contaminant  |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|---|
| 2023           | Lead         | 0 – 8.6                               | 15                | 1.2              | 0               | ppb             | No        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.                                   |
| 2023           | Copper, Free | 0.0052 - 0.751                        | 1.3               | 0.407            | 0               | ppm             | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |

### STORM WATER *Dumping into storm drains is not just wrong, it's illegal.*

Storm water or rainwater flows into the storm drains and storm inlets that you see along streets and street corners or into roadside ditches.

Unlike the water that flows inside your home and, which goes to the sewer treatment facilities, the storm drain system is completely separate. Water in the storm drains receives no treatment or filtering process. This means that any pollution that gets washed into the storm drain goes directly to our creeks, rivers, bayous, and streams, ultimately ending up in Galveston Bay.

Examples of common storm water pollution come from construction debris, material stockpiles, automotive fluids, erosion, paints, pesticides, litter, or any other industrial and household materials. Pet waste contributes to pollution that can contaminate streams and bays and harm shellfish beds.

A storm drain system's purpose is to prevent flooding of streets and roadways by quickly and efficiently transferring rainwater into waterways. After the water has filled up the waterways, then the streets are designed to handle the overflow. Also, one can try and prevent flood damage to property by eliminating grass clippings, leaves, pine needles, trash, and debris in the storm drains that can cause slow drainage or flooding. Deposit of refuse into the Authority's storm sewer system or drainage ditches is punishable by a fine of not more than \$200 for each such violation.

Used oil can be taken to CLCWA's oil recycling drop-off point located at 17507 El Camino Real. Please leave the used oil in a sealed container (to prevent spills) outside the gate in the visibly marked concrete box. Please do not drop off any other chemicals including paints, antifreeze, hazardous liquids, or other items that need disposal. CLCWA is only able to recycle oil at this time.

**The choice is clear and you can do your part.** We all have a part to play in keeping our drainage system and our waterways clean. By understanding the problems and by being good neighbors, we can decrease storm water pollution. Please help clean up our waterways to ensure a brighter future for us all. For more information please see: [www.clcwa.org/storm-sanitary-sewer-systems](http://www.clcwa.org/storm-sanitary-sewer-systems).

Additional information is available on the Clear Lake City Water Authority website:

[www.clcwa.org](http://www.clcwa.org)

The current Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)) can be directly accessed at <https://www.clcwa.org/ccr>.

The current and previous CCR(s) for reporting years 2002 - 2024 can be accessed at <https://www.clcwa.org/ccr-water-quality>.

In addition, we have posted the Authority's Drought Contingency Plan for the Delivery of Water to Residential (Retail) Customers. This plan, approved by TCEQ, outlines the Authority's regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water during times of water shortage or other emergency water supply conditions and can also be accessed at <https://www.clcwa.org/ccr-water-quality>.

### Water Loss

CLCWA's annual Water Loss Audit Report submitted to the Texas Water Development Board showed a system loss of 66,412,065 gallons over the period January 1 – December 31, 2025. The loss was due to various major main breaks and leaks as well as loss from system maintenance and equates to 2.44% of the total system input in 2025.

## Clear Lake City Water Authority

900 Bay Area Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77058-2691

## 2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

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### United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Public Notice

The EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) to collect data for contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water and do not have regulatory standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The monitoring provides the EPA and other interested parties with nationally representative data on the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water, the number of people potentially being exposed, and an estimate of the levels of that exposure. These data can support future regulatory determinations and other actions to protect public health.

UCMR 5 requires monitoring for 30 chemical contaminants between 2023 and 2025, 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium. Sampling results for U.S. EPA's Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) are available to the public (approximately quarterly) via EPA's UCMR Occurrence Data webpage and National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD) at <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/occurrence-data-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>. Results can also be requested by calling 281-488-1164 or emailing PR@clcwa.org.

### Let's All Do Our Part In Keeping Our Water Clean **STOP THE LEAK, SAVE THE LAKE.**

Never put grease, oil, or so-called flushable wipes down your toilets. This can cause blockage in the main sewer lines resulting in backups and overflows which will eventually reach our waterways.

Be wise when setting automatic sprinkler systems. This helps conserve water and prevent erosion in overwatered lawns. Have your sprinkler company perform an audit annually to make sure you are watering efficiently.

Always apply fertilizers and pesticides per the manufacturer's specifications to avoid excessive chemical runoff to our waterways.

When performing maintenance on vehicles or other equipment, be sure not to spill pollutants such as oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, etc. which can be washed down the catch basins and end up in our streams and bayous. These spills can be easily cleaned up just by using a small amount of kitty litter or sand.

Always check cars, boats, or other recreational vehicles parked in the driveway or streets for leaking fluids and make repairs as soon as possible.

## Sewer Education Program

### Storm and Sanitary Sewer Systems

The storm and sanitary sewer systems are two separate systems that do very different and very important jobs. The storm sewer system is a large diameter pipe network designed to handle rainwater that collects in yards and streets and then drains untreated to waterways such as bayous, drainage channels, detention ponds, and lakes. Keeping street drains clear of pine needles, leaves, grass clippings, trash, and any other debris will help the streets drain faster and keep from having costly rehabilitation to clear out blockages in the storm sewer system.

The sanitary sewer system is a smaller diameter pipe network designed to handle sewer waste from homes and businesses that will eventually go to the Wastewater Treatment Plant for processing before being recycled back into the environment. The Clear Lake City Water Authority (CLCWA) has almost 200 miles of underground sanitary sewer pipes!

Utility providers such as cities, MUD's, WCID's, and CLCWA maintain the main sanitary sewer lines located in easements in front or behind your property. The connections from your property to the main line belong to the owners and the maintenance or replacement of that line is the responsibility of the homeowner or business.

Sometimes connections other than sanitary sewer lines are illegally connected to the sanitary system, but it was never designed or built to handle large volumes of rainwater. Below are a few examples of illegal connections.

### What should I look for?

- Do you see gutter downspouts that go underground, and you are not sure what they connect to?
- Is there a cap missing on the sewer clean out pipe which is typically located in the backyard? Not only is this an injury hazard, but it leaves the sanitary system open in your backyard for contaminants and can allow your yard to drain into the system, easily overwhelming it. Yard debris like dirt, grass clippings, and leaves can also enter through the sewer cleanout on your service line, causing blockages.
- Do you know how your yard drains are connected underground?
- Have you had your sewer service line inspected? Service lines in poor condition could be caused by aging pipes failing, tree roots growing inside the line, the ground shifting and causing low areas or pipe separations. These can all cause an infiltration from underground openings. A plumber would have to be hired to televise the sewer lines under and around your home to assess the condition.

### Why is this an issue? Sanitary Sewer lines in poor condition can:

- Cause sewer backups in your home.
- Add rainwater to the sanitary sewer system that was not built for that much water flow, causing the system to be overwhelmed and start overflowing.
- Thousands of tax dollars are spent every year trying to find the source of sanitary sewer overflows and rehabilitation projects on sewer main lines. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) can also impose fines for repeated overflow events.
- Millions of tax dollars will have to be spent on upgrading and expanding wastewater treatment plants if these high flow situations are not resolved with the sanitary sewer system.

We are asking all residents to please help keep water and tax rates low by inspecting and maintaining your sanitary sewer service lines and correcting any deficiencies or illegal connections. If you need more information, please call our office, or visit our website at

[www.clcwa.org/storm-sanitary-sewer-systems](http://www.clcwa.org/storm-sanitary-sewer-systems).