

2025 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Information

Water System Name: **Avila Valley Mutual Water Company (AVMWC)**

Report Date: **May 29, 2026**

Type of Water Source(s) in Use: **Surface Water and Groundwater Wells**

Name and General Location of Source(s): **Lopez Lake Water Supply Project (Lopez Project) and Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant. Groundwater wells (identified as Front Well and Back Well) are located in the apple orchard off of Belleview Orchard Lane.**

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: **A source assessment was performed in 2001; Lopez Lake and Lopez Terminal Reservoir were found to be the most vulnerable to wastewater generation at the Lopez Recreation Area, livestock near the reservoirs, and a roadway that bisects the Terminal Reservoir. To date, these activities have not adversely impacted the WTP treated water quality. A copy of the assessment can be found at the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department website or by contacting the Water Quality Laboratory at (805) 781-5111. Information on the State Water Project (CCWA) can be found at www.water.ca.gov/swp. Groundwater well source information is available from the SLO County Environmental Health Office.**

Time and Place of Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings for Public Participation: **Time and place of meetings varies; please contact Mitch Ardantz for meeting information at (805) 925-2478**

For More Information, Contact: **Mitch Ardantz at (805) 925-2478**

About This Report

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025, and may include earlier monitoring data.

Importance of This Report Statement in Five Non-English Languages (Spanish, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Hmong)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse Avila Valley Mutual Water Company a 1010 East Grand Avenue, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 o (805) 925-2478 para asistirlo en español.

这份报告含有关于您的饮用水的重要讯息。Avila Valley Mutual Water Company 以获得中文的帮助: 1010 East Grand Avenue, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420, (805) 925-2478.

Ang pag-uulat na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa inyong inuming tubig. Mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa Avila Valley Mutual Water Company, 1010 East Grand Avenue, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 o tumawag sa (805) 925-2478 para matulungan sa wikang Tagalog.

Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Xin vui lòng liên hệ Avila Valley Mutual Water Company tại 1010 East Grand Avenue, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420, (805) 925-2478 để được hỗ trợ giúp bằng tiếng Việt.

Tsab ntawv no muaj cov ntsiab lus tseem ceeb txog koj cov dej haus. Thov hu rau [Avila Valley Mutual Water Company ntawm 1010 East Grand Avenue, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420, (805) 925-2478 rau kev pab hauv lus Askiv.

Terms Used in This Report

| Term | Definition |
|--|---|
| 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 <i>E. coli</i> 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. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water. |
| 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 are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). |
| 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. |
| Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS) | MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements. |
| Public Health Goal (PHG) | The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency. |
| Regulatory Action Level (AL) | The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. |
| Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS) | MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels. |
| Treatment Technique (TT) | A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |
| Variances and Exemptions | Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions. |
| ND | Not detectable at testing limit. |
| ppm | parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| ppb | parts per billion or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) |
| ppt | parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L) |
| ppq | parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L) |
| pCi/L | picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation) |

Sources of Drinking Water and Contaminants that May Be Present in Source 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Regulation of Drinking Water and Bottled Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

About Your Drinking Water Quality

Drinking Water Contaminants Detected

Tables 1 – 6 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

Table 1. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Coliform Bacteria

| Microbiological Contaminants | Highest No. of Detections | No. of Months in Violation | MCL | MCLG | Typical Source of Bacteria |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----|------|------------------------------|
| AVMWC <i>E. coli</i> | (In the year) 0 | 0 | (a) | 0 | Human and animal fecal waste |

^(a) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*.

Table 2. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Lead and Copper

| Lead and Copper | Sample Date | No. of Samples Collected | 90 th Percentile Level Detected | No. Sites Exceeding AL | Range of Results | AL | PHG | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------|-----|-----|---|
| Lead (ppb) | 2025 (various) | 5 | 3.15 | 0 | ND – 3.3 | 15 | 0.2 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper (ppm) | 2025 (various) | 5 | 0.865 | 0 | 0.190 – 1.300 | 1.3 | 0.3 | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |

Table 3. Sampling Results for Sodium and Hardness

| Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units) | Sample Date | Level Detected | Range of Detections | MCL | PHG (MCLG) | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|-------------|----------------|---------------------|------|------------|--|
| AVMWC – Sodium (ppm) | 4/8/2025 | 72.5 | 59 – 86 | None | None | Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Sodium (ppm) | 2025 | 60 | N/A | | | |
| Lopez Project – Sodium (ppm) | 2025 | 27 | N/A | | | |
| AVMWC – Hardness (ppm) | 4/8/2025 | 455 | 370 – 540 | None | None | Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Hardness (ppm) | 2025 | 90 | 42 – 146 | | | |
| Lopez Project – Hardness (ppm) | 2025 | 250 | 328 – 369 | | | |

Table 4. Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard

| Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units) | Sample Date | Level Detected | Range of Detections | MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG] | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Aluminum (ppm) | 2025 | ND | ND – 0.056 | 1 | 0.6 | Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes |
| AVMWC – Arsenic – Raw Water (ppb) | 4/8/2025 | 3.8 | ND – 7.6 | 10 | 0.004 | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes |
| AVMWC – Arsenic – Treated Water (ppb) | 1/30/2023 2/8/2023 | 3.0 | 2.6 – 3.4 | | | |
| Lopez Project – Arsenic (ppb) | 2025 | 3.3 | 2.6 – 3.8 | | | |
| AVMWC – Barium (ppm) | 4/8/2025 | 0.15 | 0.14 – 0.16 | 1 | 2 | Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| Lopez Project – Barium (ppm) | 2025 | 0.025 | N/A | | | |
| Lopez Project – Chlorine Dioxide (ppb) | 2025 | 219 | ND – 570 | [800 (as ClO ₂)] | [800 (as ClO ₂)] | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment |
| Lopez Project – Chlorite (ppm) | 2025 | 0.47 | 0.10 – 0.65 | 1.0 | 0.05 | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection |
| AVMWC – Copper (ppm) | 4/8/2025 | 0.00195 | ND – 0.0039 | AL = 1.3 | 0.3 | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| AVMWC – Fluoride (ppm) | 4/8/2025 | 0.22 | 0.21 – 0.23 | 2.0 | 1 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Lopez Project – Fluoride (ppm) | 2025 | 0.32 | N/A | | | |
| AVMWC – Free Chlorine Residual (ppm) | 2025 (various) | 1.08 | 0.34 – 1.81 | [4.0 (as Cl ₂)] | [4 (as Cl ₂)] | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment |
| Lopez Project – Free Chlorine Residual (ppm) ^{1, 2, 3} | 2025 | 3.69 | 3.10 – 4.22 | | | |

Table 4. Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard, Continued

| Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units) | Sample Date | Level Detected | Range of Detections | MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG] | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Lopez Project – Gross Alpha (pCi/L) | 2022 | 3.0 | 1.08 – 4.92 | 15 | (0) | Erosion of natural deposits |
| AVMWC – Haloacetic Acids – HAAs (ppb) | 7/9/2025 | 35 | N/A | 60 | N/A | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Haloacetic Acids – HAAs (ppb) | 2025 | 14 | 9.5 – 24 | | | |
| Lopez Project – Haloacetic Acids – HAAs (ppb) | 2025 | 20 | 20.2 – 59 | | | |
| AVMWC – Heterotrophic Plate Count – Raw Water (CFU/mL) | 2025 (various) | 154 | ND – 1,400 | TT | N/A | Naturally present in the environment |
| AVMWC – Heterotrophic Plate Count – Treated Water (CFU/mL) | 2025 (various) | 9.6 | ND – 220 | | | |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Heterotrophic Plate Count (CFU/mL) | 2025 | 0 | 0 – 1 | | | |
| Lopez Project – Heterotrophic Plate Count (CFU/mL) | 2025 | ND | ND – 6 | | | |
| AVMWC – Nickel (ppb) | 4/8/2025 | 1.15 | ND – 2.3 | 100 | 12 | Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Total Chlorine Residual (ppm) | 2025 | 2.90 | 0.05 – 3.64 | [4.0 (as Cl ₂)] | [4 (as Cl ₂)] | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment |
| Lopez Project – Total Chlorine Residual (ppm) | 2025 | 2.76 | 2.10 – 3.66 | | | |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Total Organic Carbon (ppm) | 2025 | 2.1 | 1.5 – 3.0 | TT | N/A | Various natural and manmade sources |

Table 4. Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard, Continued

| Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units) | Sample Date | Level Detected | Range of Detections | MCL [MRDL] | PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG] | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| AVMWC – Radium-226 (pCi/L) | 12/17/2025 | 0.562 | 0.286 – 0.838 | N/A | 0.05 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| AVMWC – Radium-228 (pCi/L) | 12/17/2025 | 0.292 | 0.153 – 0.43 | N/A | 0.019 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| AVMWC – Total Trihalomethanes – TTHMs (ppb) | 7/9/2025 | 42 | N/A | 80 | N/A | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Total Trihalomethanes – TTHMs (ppb) | 2025 | 49 | 32 – 71 | | | |
| Lopez Project – Total Trihalomethanes – TTHMs (ppb) ⁴ | 2025 | 34.4 | 20 – 92.7 | | | |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Combined Filter Effluent Turbidity (NTU) | 2025 | Percent below 0.3 NTU: 100% | 0.04 – 0.12 | TT: <1 every 4 hours TT: 95% of samples <0.3 NTU | | Soil runoff |
| Lopez Project – Combined Filter Effluent Turbidity (NTU) | 2025 | Percent below 0.1 NTU: 100% | 0.08 – 0.09 | TT: =1 NTU TT: 95% of samples <0.1 NTU | | |

Table 5. Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard

| Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units) | Sample Date | Level Detected | Range of Detections | SMCL | PHG (MCLG) | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|---|-------------|----------------|---------------------|------|------------|---|
| AVMWC – Chloride (ppm) | 4/8/2025 | 74 | 49 – 98 | 500 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Chloride (ppm) | 2025 | 68 | 26 – 155 | | | |
| Lopez Project – Chloride (ppm) | 2025 | 22 | N/A | | | |
| AVMWC – Color (units) | 4/8/2025 | 5 | ND – 10 | 15 | N/A | Naturally-occurring organic materials |
| Lopez Project – Color (units) | 2025 | 1.0 | 1.0 | | | |
| AVMWC – Foaming Agents [MBAS] (ppb) | 4/8/2025 | 31.5 | ND – 63 | 500 | N/A | Municipal and industrial waste discharges |

Table 5. Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard, Continued

| Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units) | Sample Date | Level Detected | Range of Detections | SMCL | PHG (MCLG) | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|---|
| AVMWC – Iron – Raw Water (ppb)* | 2025 (various) | 1,579 | 510 – 3,100 | 300 | N/A | Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| AVMWC – Iron – Treated Water (ppb)* | 2025 (various) | 170.6 | ND – 660 | | | |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Iron (ppb) | 2025 | ND | N/A | | | |
| Lopez Project – Iron (ppb) | 2025 | ND | ND | | | |
| AVMWC – Manganese –Raw Water (ppb)* | 2025 (various) | 544.3 | 500 – 600 | 50 | N/A | Leaching from natural deposits |
| AVMWC – Manganese –Treated Water (ppb)* | 2025 (various) | 48 | ND – 190 | | | |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Manganese (ppb) | 2025 | ND | N/A | | | |
| Lopez Project – Manganese (ppb) | 2025 | ND | ND | | | |
| Lopez Project – Odor (TON) | 2025 | 1.6 | ND – 3.0 | 3 | N/A | Naturally-occurring organic materials |
| AVMWC – Specific Conductance (µS/cm) | 4/8/2025 | 1,150 | 1,000 – 1,300 | 1,600 µS/cm | N/A | Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Specific Conductance (µS/cm) | 2025 | 470 | 243 - 684 | | | |
| Lopez Project – Specific Conductance (µS/cm) | 2025 | 700 | N/A | | | |
| AVMWC – Sulfate (ppm) | 4/8/2025 | 115.5 | 71 – 160 | 500 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Sulfate (ppm) | 2025 | 29 | 29 | | | |
| Lopez Project – Sulfate (ppm) | 2025 | 100 | N/A | | | |

Table 5. Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard, Continued

| Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units) | Sample Date | Level Detected | Range of Detections | SMCL | PHG (MCLG) | Typical Source of Contaminant |
|--|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|-------|------------|--|
| AVMWC – Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) | 4/8/2025 | 690 | 580 – 800 | 1,000 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) | 2025 | 260 | 260 | | | |
| Lopez Project – Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) | 2025 | 460 | 420 – 500 | | | |
| AMVWC – Turbidity (NTU)* | 4/8/2025 | 22 | 18 – 26 | 5 | N/A | Soil runoff |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Turbidity (NTU) | 2025 | 0.05 | ND | | | |
| Lopez Project – Turbidity (NTU) | 2025 | 0.08 | N/A | | | |
| AVMWC – Zinc (ppm) | 4/8/2025 | 0.0075 | 0.0073 – 0.0076 | 5 | N/A | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes |

Table 6. Detection of Unregulated Contaminants

| Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units) | Sample Date | Level Detected | Range of Detections | Notification Level | Health Effects |
|---|-------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| CCWA Polonio Pass – 2-Methylisoborneol (ppt) | 2023 | 2.8 | ND – 8 | N/A | N/A |
| CCWA Polonio Pass – Geosmin (ppt) | 2023 | 0.3 | ND – 2 | N/A | N/A |

*Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

¹ Free chlorine was utilized from November 12 – December 2, 2025, as a routine maintenance procedure. This annual switchover of disinfectants helps to ensure water mains remain free of potentially harmful bacteria.

² Compliance with the MRDL for free and total chlorine is based on a running annual average of distribution system samples. Running annual averages for 2025 were in compliance with the MRDL.

³ Lopez WTP treated water was over 4.0 ppm on a single sample in 2025. MRDL regulations were met for all Delivered water and Distribution samples in Avila Valley.

⁴ Compliance with the MRDL for total trihalomethanes is based on the locational running annual average of samples. Total trihalomethanes were elevated for one quarter due to annual disinfection change for pipeline maintenance.

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to 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. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (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 (1-800-426-4791).

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. Avila Valley Mutual Water Company is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Avila Valley MWC at (805) 925-2478. 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>.

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Turbidity, Iron, and Manganese were found at levels that exceeded the secondary MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) standards in various samples collected during 2025. The secondary MCLs were set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects (e.g., color, taste, and odor) and the staining of plumbing fixtures (e.g., tubs and sinks) and clothing while washing. The high levels are most likely due to naturally occurring organic materials, leaching from natural deposits and industrial wastes, and soil runoff. In addition to filtration, Avila Valley Mutual Water Company blends groundwater from local wells (which naturally contain elevated levels of iron and manganese) with imported surface water supplied from Lopez Project and Central Coast Water Authority at Polonio Pass. During 2025, staff continued troubleshooting and performing repairs and operational adjustments to the iron and manganese treatment system. As a result, water from the Lopez Project and Polonio Pass sources was utilized for the majority of the year to help maintain consistent water quality to customers. The notification level for manganese is used to protect consumers from neurological effects. High levels of manganese in people have been shown to result in adverse effects to the nervous system. (The notification level for manganese is 500 ppb.)

On April 28, 2025, routine water quality monitoring within the Lopez Project distribution system, one of our water suppliers, detected total coliform bacteria at 5 of 13 sampling locations, with one site also testing positive for *E. coli*. San Luis Obispo County immediately notified the SWRCB, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), and initiated systemwide sampling. Because coliform bacteria persisted following the initial *E. coli* detection, DDW required a precautionary Boil Water Notice. Nearly 50,000 residents were alerted through AlertSLO, Reverse 911, and Wireless Emergency Alerts. During this event, all samples collected within our own distribution system tested negative for coliform bacteria and *E. coli*. The contamination was confined to the Lopez Project transmission and distribution infrastructure. Following a comprehensive review on May 2, 2025 and a formal assessment report issued May 9, 2025, DDW identified four corrective actions for the Lopez system: replacement of aging sampling stations; upgrades to air and vacuum relief valves; increased facility inspections; and development of a long-term maintenance strategy for the main transmission line, which is over 50 years old. The county has begun implementing all four measures. *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short term effects such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.