

2023 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Information

Water System Name: **Fiero Lane Mutual Water Company**

Report Date: **June 26, 2024**

Type of Water Source(s) in Use: **Purchased water from the City of San Luis Obispo; San Luis Obispo's water resources include surface water and two groundwater wells.**

Name and General Location of Source(s): **San Luis Obispo supplies treated water from Santa Margarita Lake, Whale Rock Reservoir, and Nacimiento Lake, as well as two groundwater wells (Pacific Beach and Fire Station #4).**

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: **A source assessment for the City of San Luis Obispo's water resources found that they are most vulnerable to grazing, managing forests, recreational areas, septic systems, sewer collection systems, and gas stations; a copy can be obtained from the City of San Luis Obispo at 879 Morro Street in San Luis Obispo, CA.**

Time and Place of Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings for Public Participation: **Meetings are held annually in April and quarterly as necessary at 612 Clarion Court, San Luis Obispo, CA.**

For More Information, Contact: **Fiero Lane Mutual Water Company at (805) 544-4011**

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, 2023 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 Fiero Lane Mutual Water Company a PO Box 14704, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 o (805) 544-4011 para asistirlo en español.

这份报告含有关于您的饮用水的重要讯息。请用以下地址和电话联系 Fiero Lane Mutual Water Company 以获得中文的帮助: PO Box 14704, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, (805) 544-4011.

Ang pag-uulat na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa inyong inuming tubig. Mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa Fiero Lane Mutual Water Company, PO Box 14704, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 o tumawag sa (805) 544-4011 para matulungan sa wikang Tagalog.

Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Xin vui lòng liên hệ Fiero Lane Mutual Water Company tại PO Box 14704, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, (805) 544-4011 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 Fiero Lane Mutual Water Company ntawm PO Box 14704, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, (805) 544-4011 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, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 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
<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	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fiero Lane MWC – Lead (ppb)	2023 (various)	5	ND	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
City of San Luis Obispo – Lead (ppb)	2022	30	ND	0			
Fiero Lane MWC – Copper (ppm)	2023 (various)	5	0.07	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
City of San Luis Obispo – Copper (ppm)	2022	30	0.15	0			

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
City of San Luis Obispo – Sodium (ppm)	2023	31	N/A	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
City of San Luis Obispo – Hardness (ppm)	2023	246	160 - 310	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

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
City of San Luis Obispo – Aluminum (ppm)	2023	0.06	ND – 0.13	1	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
City of San Luis Obispo – Barium (ppb)	2017	0.043	ND – 0.13	1	2	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

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
City of San Luis Obispo – Chlorine Residual (ppm)	2023	0.99	0.14 – 2.4	[4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[4 (as Cl ₂)]	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fiero Lane MWC – Chlorine Residual (ppm)	2023 (various)	1.51	0.89 – 2.9			
City of San Luis Obispo – Control of DBP Precursors – Total Organic Carbon (percent removal) ¹	2023	34	22 – 43	TT	N/A	Various natural and manmade sources
City of San Luis Obispo – Fluoride ² (ppm)	2023	0.71	0.3 – 1.0	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
City of San Luis Obispo – Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2021	0.735	N/A	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
City of San Luis Obispo – Haloacetic Acids – HAA5 (ppb) ³	2023	34.7	21 – 53	60	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
City of San Luis Obispo – Nitrate as NO ₃ (ppm)	2022	0.2	N/A	45 (as NO ₃)	45 (as NO ₃)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fiero Lane MWC – Nitrate as N (ppm)*	5/13/21	30	N/A	10 (as N)	10 (as N)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
City of San Luis Obispo – Total Trihalomethanes – TTHMs (ppb) ^{3,4}	2023	55	27 – 84	80	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

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
City of San Luis Obispo – Turbidity (NTU) ⁵	2023	0.28	0.06 – 0.28	TT	N/A	Soil runoff
City of San Luis Obispo – Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2023	100	N/A	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit		

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
City of San Luis Obispo – Aluminum (ppb)	2023	60	ND – 130	200	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
City of San Luis Obispo – Chloride (ppm)	2023	27	N/A	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
City of San Luis Obispo – Manganese (ppb)	2022	23	N/A	50	N/A	Leaching from natural deposits
City of San Luis Obispo – Specific Conductance ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)	2023	645	N/A	1,600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
City of San Luis Obispo – Sulfate (ppm)	2023	100	N/A	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
City of San Luis Obispo – Total Dissolved Solids – TDS (ppm)	2019	327	160 – 460	1,000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

Table 6. Detection of Unregulated Contaminants

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Notification Level	Health Effects
City of San Luis Obispo – Chlorate (ppb)	2015	140	88 – 240	800	Animal studies demonstrated that chlorate exposure in rats caused adverse effects to the pituitary and thyroid glands.
City of San Luis Obispo – Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	2015	2.0	ND – 12.0	6	Some people who drink water containing hexavalent chromium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
City of San Luis Obispo – Lithium (ppb)	2023	10	N/A	N/A	N/A
City of San Luis Obispo – Molybdenum (ppb)	2015	3.33	ND – 4.5	N/A	N/A
Fiero Lane MWC – Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) – (ppt)	2/19/2020	5.1	N/A	5.1 ng/L**	Perfluorooctanoic acid exposures resulted in increased liver weight and cancer in laboratory animals.
Fiero Lane MWC – Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) – (ppt)	2/19/2020	160	N/A	6.5 ng/L**	Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid exposures resulted in immune suppression and cancer in laboratory animals.
City of San Luis Obispo – Strontium (ppb)	2015	412	290 – 450	N/A	N/A
City of San Luis Obispo – Vanadium (ppb)	2015	2.0	ND – 5.4	50	Vanadium exposures resulted in developmental and reproductive effects in rats.

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

** The July 2018 notification levels for PFOA of 14 ng/L and PFOS of 13 ng/L were superseded on August 22, 2019 by new notification levels of 5.1 ng/L for PFOA and 6.5 ng/L for PFOS.

¹Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products such as TTHMs and HAA5s. The City of San Luis Obispo's TOC reduction requirement was 25% - 35% based on a running annual average calculated quarterly.

²The City of San Luis Obispo treats water by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level to help prevent dental caries in consumers. State regulations require the fluoride levels in treated water be maintained within a range of 0.6 to 1.2 ppm, with an optimum dose of 0.7 ppm. Monitoring showed that the fluoride levels in the treated water ranged from 0.5 to 0.9 ppm, with an average of 0.7 ppm. Information about fluoridation, oral health, and current issues is available from http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml.

³Regulatory compliance is determined based on the locational running annual average (LRAA).

⁴Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

⁵*Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. The City of San Luis Obispo monitors it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of their filtration system.*

⁶*There is currently no MCL for hexavalent chromium. The previous MCL of 10 ppb was withdrawn on September 11, 2017.*

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).

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. Fiero Lane Mutual Water Company 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants. 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Fiero Lane purchases water from the City of San Luis Obispo and continues to maintain its well as a standby source should it need to be used in the event of emergency; this well has not supplied water to the distribution system since August 2016.

The unregulated contaminants PFOA and PFOS were detected in Fiero Lane's wells. Nitrate concentrations above the Maximum Contaminant Level were also detected in these wells. **Fiero Lane's wells did not provide water to the Fiero Lane MWC distribution system during 2023.** The unregulated contaminant PFOS was found at levels that exceeded the notification and response levels for the parameter set by the State of California. The health effects of PFOA and PFOS are described in Table 6 above. For more information regarding PFOA and PFOS, please visit <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/>. We will keep you updated as new results and/or monitoring requirements are available.