

2025 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Information

Water System Name: Independence Water System

Report Date: June 5, 2026

Type of Water Source(s) in Use: Groundwater

Name and General Location of Source(s): Well 22 and Well 19 are located on the 5878 Edna Road property in San Luis Obispo.

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: Source water assessment information available at County of San Luis Obispo Environmental Health Services. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with detected contaminants: irrigated crops.

Time and Place of Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings for Public Participation: N/A

For More Information, Contact: George Donati, (805) 411-5910

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, 2024, and may include earlier monitoring data.

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

Language in Spanish: Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse Independence Water System a (805)411-5910 para asistirlo en español.

Language in Mandarin: 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 Independence Water System 以获得中文的帮助: (805)411-5910.

Language in Tagalog: Ang pag-uulat na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa inyong inuming tubig. Mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa Independence Water System o tumawag sa (805)411-5910 para matulungan sa wikang Tagalog.

Language in Vietnamese: Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Xin vui lòng liên hệ Independence Water System tại (805)411-5910 để được hỗ trợ giúp bằng tiếng Việt.

Language in Hmong: Tsab ntawv no muaj cov ntsiab lus tseem ceeb txog koj cov dej haus. Thov hu rau Independence Water System ntawm (805)411-5910 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.
Variations 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 (µg/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, 6, and 8 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

Complete if bacteria are detected.

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

Complete if lead or copper is detected in the last sample set.

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)	2024	5	2.7	0	0 – 2.9	15	0.2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2024	5	0.29	0	0.089 – 0.450	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
Sodium (ppm)	2020 2022	79	63 – 95	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	2020 2022	445	390 – 500	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
Barium (mg/L)	2023 2025	0.034	0 - 0.068	1	2	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
*Bromate (µg/L)	2025	13.8	0 – 160	10	0.1	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
*Chromium (hexavalent) (µg/L)	2025	5.06	0 – 12	10	0.02	Erosion of natural deposits; transformation of naturally occurring trivalent chromium to hexavalent chromium by natural processes and human activities such as discharges from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities.
Fluoride (mg/L)	2023 2025	0.32	0.21 - 0.42	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2024	0.60	0 – 3.62	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (µg/L)	2023 2025	1	0 – 2	100	12	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories
Nitrate (mg/L)	2025	2.7	0 – 5.4	10 (as N)	10 (as N)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Selenium (µg/L)	2023 2025	6.6	3.4 – 9.8	50	30	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)

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
Chloride (mg/L)	2020 2022	69	27 - 110	500	–	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Color (Units)	2020 2022	7.5	5 - 10	15	–	Naturally-occurring organic materials
*Iron (µg/L)	2020 2022	2,160	120 - 4,200	300	–	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
*Manganese (µg/L)	2020 2022	50	ND - 100	50	–	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor-Threshold (Units)	2020 2022	1.4	ND - 2.8	3	–	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2020 2022	1,135	870 - 1,400	1,600	–	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (mg/L)	2020 2022	105	100 - 110	500	–	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (mg/L)	2020 2022	640	560 - 720	1,000	–	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
*Turbidity (Units)	2020 2022	4.93	0.65 - 9.2	5	–	Soil runoff

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-Specific Language: 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. Independence Water System 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 George Donati, (805) 411-5910. 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>.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Summary Information for Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

Table 7. Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT or Monitoring Reporting Requirement

Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct Violation	Health Effects Language
Bromate MCL exceedance	Bromate exceeded the MCL during the month of December 2025. While compliance is determined by a running annual	1 month	The storage tank was drained to get rid of the high bromate water. In addition, the run time on the ozone was significantly reduced.	Some people who drink water containing bromate in excess of the MCL over many years may have an

Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct Violation	Health Effects Language
	average (RAA), this one result was high enough to put the RAA above the MCL. This only affected the Schoolhouse zone of the water system.		Procedures were added to the operations plan to alter the ozone timer based on irrigation usage in an effort to avoid bromate swings during periods of low water usage.	increased risk of getting cancer.
Chromium (hexavalent) MCL exceedance.	Levels of hexavalent chromium in Well 19, which serves the Daou Winery property, are above the MCL.	Ongoing	The system is currently in the process of providing point of use treatment in the form of a reverse osmosis system for drinking water. Drinking water is also delivered to the site for employee use.	Some people who drink water containing hexavalent chromium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Iron, Manganese, and Turbidity SMCL exceedance.	These secondary contaminants were found at levels that exceeded the SMCL.	Single Event	There is no action required as these constituents are secondary standards (not a risk to human health).	There is no mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents. Secondary MCLs are set on the basis of aesthetics.

Summary Information for Revised Total Coliform Rule Level 1 and Level 2 Assessment Requirements

Level 1 or Level 2 Assessment Requirement not Due to an *E. coli* MCL Violation

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year, one Level 2 assessment was required to be completed for our water system. One Level 2 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take two corrective actions and we completed both of these actions.