

**Consumer Confidence Report  
Certification Form**  
(to be submitted with a copy of the CCR)

(To certify electronic delivery of the CCR, use the certification form on the State  
Water Board's website at  
[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/cert/cr/drinkingwater/CCR.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking_water/cert/cr/drinkingwater/CCR.shtml))

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Water System Name:   | City of San Luis Obispo |
| Water System Number: | 4010009                 |

The water system named above hereby certifies that its Consumer Confidence Report was distributed on 5/27/2021 to customers (and appropriate notices of availability have been given). Further, the system certifies that the information contained in the report is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

|               |                  |   |                       |
|---------------|------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Certified by: | Name:            | <b>Jason Meeks</b>                          |                       |
|               | Signature:       | <i>Jason Meeks</i>                          |                       |
|               | Title:           | <b>Water Treatment Plant<br/>Supervisor</b> |                       |
|               | Phone<br>Number: | <b>(805) 781-7566</b>                       | Date: <b>6/2/2021</b> |

*To summarize report delivery used and good-faith efforts taken, please complete the below by checking all items that apply and fill-in where appropriate:*

- ☒ CCR was distributed by mail or other direct delivery methods. Specify other direct delivery methods used: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ "Good faith" efforts were used to reach non-bill paying consumers. Those efforts included the following methods:
- ☒ Posting the CCR on the Internet at [www.slocity.org/government/departments-directory/utilities-department/water/water-treatment/water-quality](http://www.slocity.org/government/departments-directory/utilities-department/water/water-treatment/water-quality)
  - ☒ Mailing the CCR to postal patrons within the service area Postal Zip Codes 93401 & 93405
  - ☐ Advertising the availability of the CCR in news media (attach copy of press release)
  - ☐ Publication of the CCR in a local newspaper of general circulation (attach a copy of the published notice, including name of newspaper and date published)
  - ☐ Posted the CCR in public places (attach a list of locations)
  - ☐ Delivery of multiple copies of CCR to single-billed addresses serving several persons, such as apartments, businesses, and schools

- ☐ Delivery to community organizations (attach a list of organizations)
- ☐ Other (attach a list of other methods used)
- ☐ For systems serving at least 100,000 persons: Posted CCR on a publicly-accessible internet site at the following address: www. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ For investor-owned utilities: Delivered the CCR to the California Public Utilities Commission

*This form is provided as a convenience for use to meet the certification requirement of the California Code of Regulations, section 64483(c).*

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2020

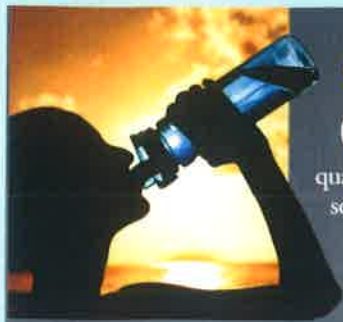
***Presented By***  
**City of San Luis Obispo**



**Utilities Department**

879 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401





## Quality First

Once again, we are pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

## Public Meetings

City Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo. A public comment period is held at the beginning of each meeting.

### Emergency Public Meeting Procedure due to COVID-19

Based on the threat of COVID-19, as reflected in the Proclamations of Emergency issued by the Governor of the State of California, the San Luis Obispo County Emergency Services Director, and the City Council of the City of San Luis Obispo as well as the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, relating to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of San Luis Obispo will be holding all public meetings via teleconference. There will be no physical location for the public to attend the meeting.

Using the most rapid means of communication available at this time, members of the public are encouraged to participate in council meetings in the following ways: View the webinar. Information is available on the city's website at <https://www.slocity.org/>

## Source Water Assessment

Assessments of the drinking water sources for the City of San Luis Obispo have been conducted. These sources include Salinas Reservoir, Whale Rock Reservoir, Nacimiento Lake, and Pacific Beach Well. These sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: grazing, managed forests, recreational areas, septic systems, sewer collection systems, gas stations.

A copy of the complete assessment is available from the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water, 1180 Eugenia Place, Suite 200, Carpinteria, California, 93013 or the City of San Luis Obispo, 879 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo, California, 93401.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of San Luis Obispo is fortunate to have several sources of water. The Salinas Reservoir (also known as Santa Margarita Lake, eight miles east of Santa Margarita), Whale Rock Reservoir (Cayucos), and Nacimiento Lake (16 miles northwest of Paso Robles) are the main supplies. The surface water from the three lakes is treated at the Stenner Creek Water Treatment Plant. During 2020, the treatment plant delivered 1.71 billion gallons of water to San Luis Obispo.

## The Benefits of Fluoridation

Our water system treats your water by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level to help prevent dental caries in consumers. State regulations require the fluoride levels in the treated water be maintained within a range of 0.6 to 1.2 ppm with an optimum dose of 0.7 ppm. Our monitoring showed that the fluoride levels in the treated water ranged from 0.0 to 0.9 ppm with an average of 0.59 ppm. Information about fluoridation, oral health, and current issues is available from [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml).

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Jason Meeks, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, at (805) 781-7566 or [jmeeks@slocity.org](mailto:jmeeks@slocity.org).

## Substances That Could Be in 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (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. 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.

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 can 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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

## Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps referred to as conventional surface water treatment. First, raw water is drawn from our water sources and sent to an ozone contact basin, which provides primary disinfection and oxidation of the high iron levels that are present in the water. The water then goes to a mixing tank, where aluminum sulfate and cationic polymer are added. The addition of these substances causes small particles (called floc) to adhere to one another, making them heavy enough to settle into a basin, from which sediment is removed. At this point, the water is filtered through layers of anthracite and silicate sand. As smaller suspended particles are removed, turbidity disappears and clear water emerges. Chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste. Finally, fluoride (to prevent tooth decay) and a corrosion inhibitor (to protect distribution system pipes) are added before the water is pumped to sanitized underground reservoirs and water tanks and into your home or business.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## Test Results

Drinking water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. The water delivered must meet specific health standards. This report only shows substances that were detected in the city's drinking water (a complete list of all analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; the goal is to keep all detects below respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

The City of San Luis Obispo participated in the fourth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water in order to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

| REGULATED SUBSTANCES   |                 |                                       |                           |                                   |                                   |           |   |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---|
| SUBSTANCE<br>(UNIT OF MEASURE)   | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | MCL<br>(MROD)                         | PHG<br>(MCLG)<br>(MROD/G) | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED                | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH                 | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE  |
| Aluminum (ppm)   | 2020            | 1                                     | 0.6                       | 0.079                             | 0.06–0.1                          | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes  |
| Chlorine (ppm)   | 2020            | [4.0 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )]           | [4 (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )] | 0.81                              | 0.02–1.6                          | No        | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment   |
| Control of DBP Precursors<br>[TOC] <sup>1</sup> (percent removal)  | 2020            | TT                                    | NA                        | 27                                | 3–54                              | No        | Various natural and human-made sources  |
| Fluoride <sup>2</sup> (ppm)  | 2020            | 2.0                                   | 1                         | 0.59                              | ND–0.9                            | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories  |
| Gross Alpha Particle Activity<br>(pCi/L)   | 2011            | 15                                    | (0)                       | 0.0145                            | ND–0.029                          | No        | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Haloacetic Acids <sup>3</sup> (ppb)  | 2020            | 60                                    | NA                        | 39                                | 16–77                             | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection   |
| Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)  | 2015            | 10 <sup>4</sup>                       | 0.02                      | 2.0                               | ND–12.0                           | No        | Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits |
| TTHMs [Total<br>Trihalomethanes] <sup>4</sup> (ppb)  | 2020            | 80                                    | NA                        | 43                                | 17–74                             | No        | By-product of drinking water disinfection   |
| Turbidity <sup>5</sup> (NTU)   | 2020            | TT                                    | NA                        | 0.18                              | 0.05–0.18                         | No        | Soil runoff   |
| Turbidity (lowest monthly percent<br>of samples meeting limit)   | 2020            | TT = 95% of samples<br>meet the limit | NA                        | 100                               | NA                                | No        | Soil runoff   |
| Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community |                 |                                       |                           |                                   |                                   |           |   |
| SUBSTANCE<br>(UNIT OF<br>MEASURE)  | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | AL                                    | PHG<br>(MCLG)             | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED<br>(POTH %ILE) | SITES<br>ABOVE AL/<br>TOTAL SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE  |
| Copper (ppm)   | 2019            | 1.3                                   | 0.3                       | 0.188                             | 0/30                              | No        | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives   |
| Lead (ppb)   | 2019            | 15                                    | 0.2                       | ND                                | 0/30                              | No        | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits   |



## SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

| SUBSTANCE<br>(UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | SMCL  | PHG<br>(MCLG) | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|---|
| Aluminum (ppb)                 | 2020            | 200   | NS            | 0.079              | 0.06–0.1          | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes |
| Chloride (ppm)                 | 2020            | 500   | NS            | 16                 | 16–16             | No        | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence                         |
| Specific Conductance (µmho/cm) | 2020            | 1,600 | NS            | 467                | 467–467           | No        | Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence                       |
| Sulfate (ppm)                  | 2020            | 500   | NS            | 78.2               | 78.2–78.2         | No        | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes                          |

## UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES\*

| SUBSTANCE<br>(UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR<br>SAMPLED | AMOUNT<br>DETECTED | RANGE<br>LOW-HIGH | TYPICAL SOURCE  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| Hardness (ppm)                 | 2020            | 184                | 120–300           | Polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, which are naturally occurring |
| Sodium (ppm)                   | 2020            | 23                 | 23–23             | Naturally occurring   |

\*Total 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's TOC reduction requirement was 25 to 35 percent based on a running annual average calculated quarterly.

<sup>2</sup>Our water system treats your water by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level to help prevent dental caries in consumers. State regulations require the fluoride levels in the treated water be maintained within a range of 0.6 to 1.2 ppm, with an optimum dose of 0.7 ppm. Our monitoring showed that the fluoride levels in the treated water ranged from below detection limits to 0.9 ppm, with an average of 0.59 ppm. Information about fluoridation, oral health, and current issues is available from [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certific/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking_water/certific/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml).

<sup>3</sup>Regulatory compliance is determined based on the locational running annual average (LRAA). Additional sample results are included in this report, along with regulatory compliance results.

<sup>4</sup>There is currently no MCL for hexavalent chromium. The previous MCL of 10 ppb was withdrawn on September 11, 2017.

<sup>5</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

<sup>6</sup>Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**AL (Regulatory Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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 (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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. EPA.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** 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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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.

**NA:** Not applicable

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NS:** No standard

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

**PHG (Public Health Goal):** 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 EPA.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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

**µmho/cm (micromhos per centimeter):** A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.