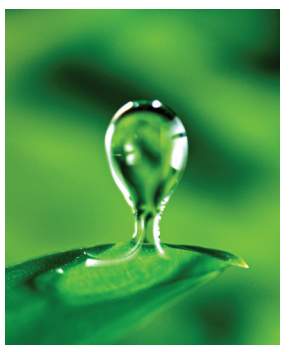
Utilities Department
879 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.



Presented By
City of San Luis Obispo

Utilities Department
879 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

PWS ID#: 4010009

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024

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Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

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. In 2024 the treatment plant delivered 1.73 billion gallons of water to San Luis Obispo.

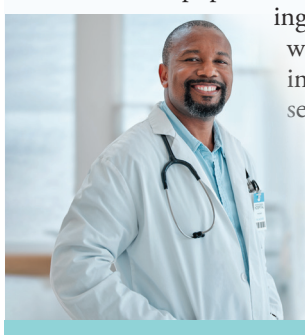
Source Water Assessment

Assessments of the drinking water sources for the City of San Luis Obispo have been conducted. These sources include Salinas Reservoir, Whale Rock Reservoir, and Nacimiento Lake. 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, and 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.

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, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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) or epa.gov/safewater.



Substances That Could Be in Water

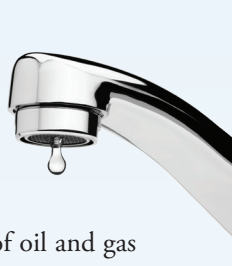
The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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 by-products 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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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. 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.

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. A public comment period is held at the beginning of each meeting.

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.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their 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 is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 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 to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public. Please feel free to contact Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Jason Meeks at jmeeks@slocity.org 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 (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	2024	1	0.6	0.068	0.05–0.15	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ppb)	2024	10	0.004	2	2–2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Chlorine (ppm)	2024	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	0.96	0.09–1.9	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Chromium, Total (ppb)	2024	50	(100)	24	24–24	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Control of DBP Precursors [TOC] (percent removal)	2024	TT[1]	NA	34	26–43	No	Various natural and human-made sources
Fluoride (ppm)	2024	2.0	1	0.63	ND–0.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2021	15	(0)	0.735	0.735–0.735	No	Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids] (ppb)	2024	60	NA	32.4[2]	21–49	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Selenium (ppb)	2024	50	30	6	6–6	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2024	80	NA	44.9[2]	27–75	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity[3] (NTU)	2024	TT	NA	0.18	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2024	TT = 95% of samples 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 (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	0.3	0.15	NA	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2024	200	NS	0.068	0.05–0.15	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2024	500	NS	27	27–27	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Manganese (ppb)	2024	50	NS	0.6	0.6–0.6	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	2024	1,600	NS	662	662–662	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2024	500	NS	104	104–104	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES[4]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Hardness (ppm)	2024	259	126–317	Sum of naturally occurring polyvalent cations, generally magnesium and calcium
Lithium (ppb)	2023	10	10–10	Various natural and human-made sources
Sodium (ppm)	2024	32	32–32	Naturally occurring

[1] Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects; however, it provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products such as TTHMs and HAA5s. The city's TOC reduction requirement was 25% - 35% based on a running annual average calculated quarterly.
[2] Regulatory compliance is determined based on the locational running annual average. Additional sample results are included in this report, along with regulatory compliance results.
[3] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it's an indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
[4] Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps the U.S. EPA and SWRCB 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.

DBP: Disinfection by-product.

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 (µg/L) (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (mg/L) (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.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. The City of San Luis Obispo's water treatment plant 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 it is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling 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, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead or galvanized service line requiring replacement, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead and wish to have your water tested, contact Jason Meeks, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, at (805) 781-7566 or jmeeks@slocity.org. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The lead service inventory, which documents City-owned and privately-owned water service line material for all properties within the City of San Luis Obispo, may be found at www.slocity.org/lslr. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done.

Water Treatment Process

The water treatment process follows a series of steps known as conventional surface water treatment. Raw water is drawn from our sources and initially treated in an ozone contact basin, where ozone provides primary disinfection and helps oxidize high iron levels. The water then moves to a mixing tank, where aluminum sulfate and cationic polymer are added, causing small particles to clump together into floc, which settles in a sedimentation basin. The water is then filtered through layers of fine coal and silicate sand, removing smaller particles and resulting in clear water. Chlorine is added to eliminate any remaining bacteria, with careful monitoring to ensure the minimum amount is used to maintain safety without affecting taste. Finally, fluoride is added to help prevent tooth decay, and a corrosion inhibitor is introduced to protect pipes in the distribution system before the treated water is pumped to sanitized underground reservoirs and water tanks and delivered to your home or business.

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 0.60 to 1.20 parts per million (ppm), with an optimum dose of 0.70 ppm. Our monitoring showed that the fluoride levels in the treated water ranged from below the detection limit to 0.90 ppm, with an average of 0.63 ppm. Information about fluoridation, oral health, and current issues is available from swrcb.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml.

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