

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2025



Presented By
City of San Luis Obispo



Utilities Department

879 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse con la Ciudad de San Luis Obispo a (805) 781-7237 para asistirlo en español.

PWS ID#: CA4010009



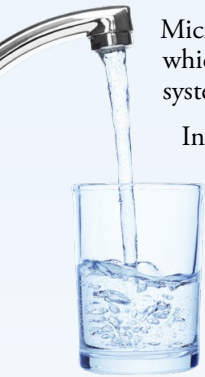
Our Commitment

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, 2025. Included are details about your source 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.

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, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which 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, which 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems; and

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the 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.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of San Luis Obispo is fortunate to have several water sources. The Salinas Reservoir (also known as Santa Margarita Lake, 8 miles east of Santa Margarita), Whale Rock Reservoir (Cayucos), and Nacimiento Lake (10 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 2025, the treatment plant delivered 1.73 billion gallons of water to San Luis Obispo.



Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. 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.

Important Health Information

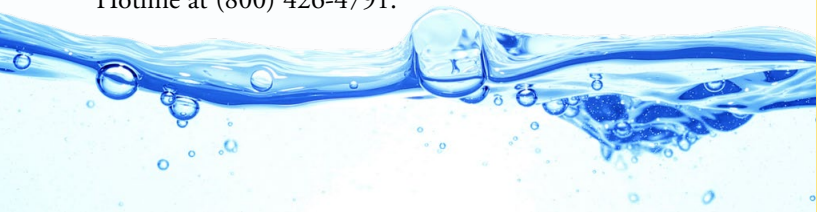
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants 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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Mychal Boerman, Deputy Director - Water, at mboerman@slocity.org or (805) 781-7237.



Lead in Home Plumbing

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. The City of San Luis Obispo 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, or 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 it tested, contact Mychal Boerman, Deputy Director - Water, at mboerman@slocity.org or (805) 781-7237. 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 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.

Source Water Assessment

Assessments of the drinking water sources for the City 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.

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 1.10 ppm, with an average of 0.71 ppm. Information about fluoridation, oral health, and current issues is available from waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html.



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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	2025	1	0.6	0.09	0.05–0.15	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residue from some surface water treatment processes
Chlorine (ppm)	2025	[4]	[4]	1.0	0.14–1.8	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Control of DBP Precursors [TOC] (ppm)	2025	TT	NA	29	17–35	No	Various natural and human-made sources
Fluoride (ppm)	2025	2.0	1	0.71	0.5–1.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2025	15	(0)	1.28	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2025	60	NA	35.9	19–68	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2025	80	NA	45.9	21–79	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ¹ (NTU)	2025	TT	NA	0.12	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2025	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)	2025	1.3	0.3	0.088	ND–0.246	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2025	15	0.2	ND	ND–ND	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2025	500	NS	18	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Seawater influence
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2025	1,600	NS	489	NA	No	Substances that form ions when in water; Seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2025	500	NS	74.2	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES²

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Hardness, Total [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2025	220	148–294	NA
Lithium (ppm)	2023	10	NA	Various natural and human-made sources
Sodium (ppm)	2025	23	NA	Naturally occurring

¹ 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.

² Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

Definitions

90th Percentile: 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.

Herbicide: Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

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.

Pesticide: Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

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.

µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.