County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW.htm



Public Works will be a valued community partner enhancing quality of life for our fellow county residents.

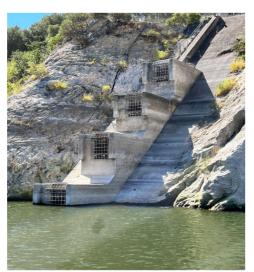


#### **YOUR 2022 WATER QUALITY REPORT**

The County of San Luis Obispo is pleased to present this annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. We sincerely hope this report gives you the information you seek and have a right to know. Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse con el Condado de San Luis Obispo, County Government Center, Room 206, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408, (805) 781-1406 para asistirlo en español.

#### YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Source water for Lopez Project comes from Lopez Lake, located approximately 10 miles east of Arroyo Grande. The lake is part of a 67-square mile watershed and has a storage capacity of 49,200 acre-feet, or about 16 billion gallons of water. The water is conveyed 3 miles by pipeline to the Lopez Terminal Reservoir adjacent to the Lopez Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The water is held in the Terminal for over a month before entering the WTP. During that time, particles settle out of the water and exposure to sunlight helps reduce the risk of bacterial and viral contamination from human contact in Lopez Lake.



Lopez Lake intake structure in 2022 during the drought month (picture taken September 2022)

A watershed sanitary survey is conducted every five years. The first survey was done by Boyle Engineering in 1996.

In March 2021, the most recent watershed sanitary survey was published (please see link below). A Drinking Water Source Assessment was also performed in 2003. The survey and assessment identify potential contaminating activities in the watershed and assess their impact on the raw and treated water quality. Lopez Lake and Lopez Terminal Reservoir were found to be the most vulnerable to wastewater generation at the Lopez Recreation Area, livestock near the reservoirs, and a roadway that bisects the Terminal Reservoir. To date, these activities have not adversely impacted the WTP treated water quality. A copy of the survey or assessment can be found at the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works website at or by contacting the Water Quality Unit at (805) 781-5111.

# **Drinking Water Source Assessment**

https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Forms-Documents/Water-Resources/Drinking-Water-Source-Assessments/Lopez-Project-DWSAP.pdf

#### **Watershed Sanitary Survey**

http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/PublicWorks/Services/Watershed-SanitarySurveys.aspx

# COUNTY SAN LUIS OBISPO

#### **Lopez Project Consumer Confidence Report 2022**

A portion of your water comes from the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant. The CCWA was formed to treat and deliver water from the State Water Project to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. Source water for the Polonio Pass plant comes from the California State Water Project operated by the California Department of Water Resources. The State Water Project consists of 21 different reservoirs throughout the State. Water is conveyed to the Polonio Pass WTP by the Coastal Branch Aqueduct completed in 1997. Additional information on the State Water Project can be found at <a href="https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project">https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project</a>.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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, 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, 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.
- Radioactive contaminants, which 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. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

# **WATER QUALITY**

The following tables are a snapshot of drinking water constituents that were detected in your water in 2022, unless otherwise noted. The State allows us to monitor for some substances less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. Some of our data, although representative, may be more than one year old. The presence of these substances detected in water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. For questions about this data, please contact the Water Quality Unit at (805) 781-5111.

#### REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

| Constituent (Units)                               | MCL, TT, RAL, or<br>[MRDL]   | PHG<br>(MCLG)<br>or<br>[MRDLG] | Lopez WTP-Treated<br>Water <sup>1</sup> |                     | Delivered Water <sup>2</sup> |                     | Distribution <sup>3</sup> |                     |   |  |
|---|--|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---|--|
|   |  |                                | Range<br>detected                       | Average<br>detected | Range<br>detected            | Average<br>detected | Range<br>detected         | Average<br>detected |   |  |
|   |  |                                |   |                     |                              |                     |                           |                     |   |  |
| Turbidity <sup>4</sup>                            | TT = 95% of<br>samples each<br>month ≤ 0.1 NTU                       | N/A                            | 100%                                    | 100%                | N/A                          | N/A                 | N/A                       | N/A                 | Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of water quality. |  |
|   | TT = 1 NTU   | N/A                            | 0.08-0.09                               | 0.08                | N/A                          | N/A                 | N/A                       | N/A                 |   |  |
|   |  |                                |   |                     |                              |                     |                           |                     |   |  |
| Total Coliform<br>Bacteria (Present<br>or Absent) | Not to exceed<br>5.0% of monthly<br>samples<br>positive <sup>5</sup> | (0)                            |   | ND                  |                              | ND                  |                           | ND                  | Naturally present in the environment.   |  |
| Heterotrophic<br>Bacteria (CFU/mL)                | TT = <500  |                                | ND-150                                  | 3.3                 | ND-420                       | 9.1                 | ND-3100 <sup>6</sup>      | 16                  | Naturally present in the environment.   |  |
|   |  | ,                              |   |                     |                              |                     |                           |                     |   |  |
| Aluminum (ppm)                                    | 1  | 0.6                            | ND-0.025                                | ND                  | ND-0.064                     | 0.027               |                           |                     | Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.               |  |
| Arsenic (ppb)                                     | 10   | 0.004                          | 3.4-6.0                                 | 5.3                 | 2.3-6.3                      | 3.5                 |                           |                     | Erosion of natural deposits   |  |

<sup>1</sup> Lopez WTP "Treated" water – Water samples collected from the Lopez Water Treatment Facility just prior to blending with State Water Project supply.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Delivered" Water - Water samples collected that represent the blending of "Treated" water and with water delivered through the State Water Project.

<sup>3 &</sup>quot;Distribution"- Delivered water collected at various turnouts in the distribution system to be used for daily operations and regulatory sampling.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.

<sup>6 3100</sup> CFU/mL for distributed water is an unusually high result for CSA 12. Due to this high value, a sample was recollected to verify the accuracy of the result. The recollected sample showed no detectable HPCs. The high result does not represent the usual water quality in the system for 2022.



| Constituent (Units)                      | MCL, TT, RAL, or<br>[MRDL]             | PHG<br>(MCLG) or<br>[MRDLG] | Lopez WTP Treated Water <sup>1</sup> |                     | Delivered Water <sup>2</sup> |                                    | Distribution <sup>3</sup> |                                 |  |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
|  |  |                             | Range<br>detected                    | Average<br>detected | Range<br>detected            | Average<br>detected (LRAA<br>High) | Range<br>detected         | Average detected<br>(LRAA High) | Potential Source of Contamination  |
| Barium (ppm)                             | 2                                      | 2                           |                                      | 0.034               |                              | 0.038                              |                           |                                 | Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Copper (ppm)                             | RAL = 1.3                              | 0.3                         |                                      | ND                  |                              | 0.084                              |                           |                                 | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits. |
| Fluoride (ppm)                           | 2                                      | 1                           |                                      | 0.37                |                              | 0.22                               |                           |                                 | Erosion of natural deposits.   |
|  | _                                      |                             |                                      |                     |                              |                                    |                           |                                 |  |
| Gross Alpha Particle<br>Activity (pCi/L) | 15                                     | N/A                         | 1.08-4.92<br>(2022)                  | 3.0<br>(2022)       | 3.1-4.7<br>(2022)            | 3.9<br>(2022)                      |                           |                                 | Erosion of natural deposits  |
|  |  |                             |                                      |                     |                              |                                    |                           |                                 |  |
| Total Trihalomethanes<br>(ppb)           | 80 (LRAA) <sup>7</sup>                 |                             | 13-75                                | 36.6                | 15-78                        | 48.2                               | 15-78                     | 41.3                            | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.                                      |
| Haloacetic Acids (ppb)                   | 60 (LRAA) <sup>8</sup>                 |                             | 15-36                                | 22.2                | 17-33                        | 23.9                               | 15.9-31.3                 | 23.0                            | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.                                      |
| Total Chlorine (ppm)                     | MRDL = $4.0 \text{ as } \text{Cl}_2^9$ | MRDL = 4.0 as<br>Cl2        | 2.18-3.60                            | 2.82                | 1.99-3.72                    | 2.69                               | 0.41-3.3                  | 7 35                            | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.                               |
| Free Chlorine (ppm) <sup>10</sup>        | MRDL = $4.0$ as $Cl_2$                 | MRDL = 4.0 as<br>Cl2        | 4.28- <b>4.55</b> <sup>11</sup>      | 4.41                | 3.00-3.96                    | 3.49                               | 0.98-3.15                 | 7 73                            | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.                               |
| Chlorite (ppm)                           | 1.0 (delivered and distribution avg.)  | 0.05                        | 0.28-0.86                            | 0.568               | ND-0.59                      | 0.31                               | ND-0.61                   | 0.33                            | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.                                      |
| Chlorate (ppb)                           | RAL = 800                              |                             |                                      |                     | 120- <mark>920</mark> 12     | 296                                | 110-990                   | 298                             | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.                                      |
| Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)                   | MRDL=800 as ClO <sub>2</sub>           | [800]                       | ND-390                               | 136                 | ND-110                       | ND                                 | ND-120                    | NI)                             | Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.                               |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Compliance is based on the locational running annual average of samples; elevated total trihalomethanes for one quarter due to annual disinfection change for pipeline maintenance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Compliance is based on the locational running annual average of samples; elevated total haloacetic acids for one quarter due to annual disinfection change for pipeline maintenance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The MRDL for free and total chlorine is based on a running annual average of distribution system samples.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Free chlorine was utilized from November 8th- November 29th as a routine maintenance procedure. This annual switchover of disinfectants helps to ensure water mains remain free of potentially harmful bacteria.

<sup>11 &</sup>quot;Lopez WTP treated water" was over 4.0 ppm on a single sample. MRDL regulations were met for Delivered and Distribution samples.

<sup>12</sup> Chlorate level exceeded RAL on one grab sample during "free chlorine burn". Average chlorate levels in the Distribution for the year were met.



# Constituents with a Secondary Drinking Water Standards (Aesthetics)

| <b>2</b>                         | MCL, TT, RAL,<br>or [MRDL] | Lopez WTP Treated<br>Water <sup>1</sup> |                     | Delivered Water <sup>2</sup> |                     |            |   |  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------|---|--|
| Constituent (Units)              |                            | Range<br>detected                       | Average<br>detected | Range<br>detected            | Average<br>detected | Violation? | Potential Source of Contamination   |  |
| Aluminum (µg/L)                  | 200                        | ND-25                                   | ND                  | ND-64                        | 27                  | No         | Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes. |  |
| Chloride (mg/L)                  | 500                        |   | 40                  |                              | 56                  | No         | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.  |  |
| Color (CU)                       | 15                         |   | 1                   |                              | 2                   | No         | Naturally occurring organic materials.  |  |
| Odor - Threshold (TON)           | 3                          | ND-3.0                                  | 1.3                 | ND-3.0                       | 1.1                 | No         | Naturally occurring organic materials.  |  |
| Specific Conductance<br>(µS/cm)  | 1600                       |   | 890                 |                              | 810                 | No         | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.  |  |
| Sulfate (mg/L)                   | 500                        |   | 160                 |                              | 110                 | No         | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.                        |  |
| Turbidity (NTU)                  | 5                          |   | 0.08                |                              | 0.07                | No         | Soil runoff.  |  |
| Total Dissolved Solids<br>(mg/L) | 1000                       |   | 610                 |                              | 480                 | No         | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence.                        |  |

Some additional constituents monitored at our source water but did not detect above State reporting limits: antimony, beryllium, chromium, lead, mercury, MBAS, nickel, nitrite, nitrate, perchlorate, potassium, selenium, silver, VOC, and zinc.



The Utilities Division Water Quality Unit provides laboratory and technical services to support the beneficial management of water and wastewater for the present and future residents of the County of San Luis Obispo.

| Lead and Copper Monitoring (Distribution System) 2017 |                      |                 |                                     |     |           |  |  |  |  |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| Constituent (Unit)                                    | Number of<br>Samples | 90th percentile | Regulatory<br>Action Level<br>(RAL) | PHG | Violation | Potential Source of Contamination  |  |  |  |
| Lead (ppb)  | 6                    | 2.6             | 15                                  | 0.2 | None      | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing                                 |  |  |  |
| Copper (ppm)  | 6                    | 0.023           | 1.3                                 | 0.3 | None      | systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits |  |  |  |

Per California Assembly Bill 746 (AB 746) and at the request of <u>one</u> local school within our system, below is a summary of the lead and copper results for the sample locations at Bellevue-Santa Fe Charter School.

| Lead and Copper Monitoring (Bellevue-Santa Fe Charter School) 10/2018 |                      |                    |                                     |     |           |  |  |  |  |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| Constituent (Unit)  | Number of<br>Samples | Range<br>(Average) | Regulatory<br>Action Level<br>(RAL) | PHG | Violation | Potential Source of Contamination  |  |  |  |
| Lead (ppb)  | 10                   | 0-2.6 (0.7)        | 15                                  | 0.2 | None      | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing                                 |  |  |  |
| Copper (ppm)  | 10                   | 0.360 (0.190)      | 1.3                                 | 0.3 | None      | systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits |  |  |  |

# Constituents with No MCL

| Constituent (Reporting units) | Lopez WTP <sup>1</sup> |         | Delivered <sup>2</sup> |         | Potential Source of Contamination                          |  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|--|--|
| Constituent (Reporting units) | Range                  | Average | Range                  | Average | Potential Source of Containmation                          |  |
| Alkalinity as CaCO3 (ppm)     |                        | 275     |                        | 181     | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence. |  |
| Calcium (ppm)                 | 91-100                 | 97      | 61-100                 | 74      | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence. |  |
| Hardness as CaCO3 (ppm)       | 410-470                | 438     | 280-470                | 340     | Generally found in ground and surface water.               |  |
| Magnesium (ppm)               | 44-51                  | 48      | 31-54                  | 37      | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence. |  |
| рН                            |                        | 8.08    |                        | 8.20    | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence. |  |
| Sodium (ppm)                  |                        | 40      |                        | 52      | Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence. |  |





### Key Terms and Abbreviations

CFU/ml - Colony Forming Units per milliliter.

**CU** - Color Units.

**Delivered Water -** Water samples collected that represent the blending of "Treated" water and with water delivered through the State Water Project.

Distribution - "Delivered" water collected at various turnouts in the distribution system to be used use of disinfectants to control for daily operation or for any required compliance samples (i.e. quarterly Disinfection byproducts and monthly TCR samples).

**DWR** - Department of Water Resources.

**LRAA** - Locational Running Annual is not detectable at testing limit. Average. An average of quarterly samples from a particular monitoring location for a period of **pCi/L** - Picocuries per liter (a one year.

**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 are set to protect Performance, Microbiological the odor, taste, and appearance of Contaminants, Inorganic 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 **PHG** - Public Health Goal. The set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

mg/L - Milligrams per Liter. **mL** - Milliliter.

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. contaminant level for

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 microbial contaminants.

MPN/100mL - Most Probable Number of organisms in a 100-mL sample.

**NA** – Not Analyzed.

**ND** - Not Detected. Contaminant **NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity** Unit.

measure of radioactivity).

**PDWS - Primary Drinking Water** Standards. MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water Treatment Facility just prior to treatment requirements. PDWS pertain to the following: Filtration Contaminants, Radioactive Contaminants and Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfection Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors.

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. ppb - Parts per billion, or

micrograms per liter (µg/L).

ppm - Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L). **Primary MCL - Maximum** contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible.

**RAL** - Regulatory Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Secondary MCLs - Maximum contaminant level for contaminants to protect the taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with secondary MCLs do not affect health at the MCL levels.

**TON -** Threshold Odor Number. **Treated Water -** Water samples collected from the Lopez Water blending with State Water Project water.

TT - Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**μS/cm** - Microsiemens per centimeter (unit of specific conductance of water).

µg/L - Micrograms per Liter. **USEPA** – United States Environmental Protection Agency.



# **Process Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Lopez Project**

Our water system failed to monitor for a required process treatment standard on March 30, 2022. This failure resulted in a violation of our domestic water supply permit. This failure was not an emergency. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

## What happened?

The Lopez Water Treatment Plant is required to monitor the drinking water treatment process on a continuous basis. Results of treatment process monitoring are an indicator of whether our drinking water can meet health standards. On March 30, 2022, a required daily integrity test on one of the membrane filtration racks was not performed.

Membrane integrity tests are programmed to initiate daily on all membrane filtration racks to test the integrity of all membrane fibers. Due to an alert on membrane rack 6 on March 30, the shift operator should have initiated a manual integrity test for rack 6 but failed to do so. Membrane integrity testing the following day indicated the membrane rack met all performance standards.

#### What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do at this time.
- The table below lists the process we did not properly test, how many samples we are required to take and how often, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were taken.

| Treatment Process                 | Required<br>Sampling<br>Frequency | Number of<br>Samples Taken | When Samples<br>Should Have<br>Been Taken | When Samples<br>Were and Will Be<br>Taken |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Membrane Integrity Test<br>Rack 6 | Daily                             | 0                          | March 30, 2022                            | March 31, 2022;<br>daily                  |

# What is being done?

All shift operators have been retrained on permit standards.

# COUNTY SAN LUIS OBISPO

#### **Lopez Project Consumer Confidence Report 2022**

# **Chlorate above the Drinking Water Notification Level**

The County routinely monitors for the presence of chlorite and chlorate, disinfection by-products from the use of chlorine dioxide as a disinfectant in the water treatment process. Water sample results on 11/14/22 showed chlorate levels as high as 0.99 mg/L in the water distribution system. This is above the notification level of 0.8 mg/L. Although this was not an emergency, as our customer, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

#### What is a notification level?

The California State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Drinking Water establishes health-based advisory levels, called "notification levels", as needed. Notification levels are used to provide information to public water systems and others about certain non-regulated chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

Monitoring for chemicals with notification levels is not required for Lopez Project. The County of San Luis Obispo monitors for chlorate because it is a disinfection byproduct formed resulting from the use of chlorine dioxide. Chlorine dioxide is used as a primary disinfectant at the Lopez Water Treatment Plant.

#### What should I do?

This was not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. The chlorate notification level was established in 2002. Chlorate is considered noncancerous but may contribute to pituitary or thyroid gland issues. This chemical may be given a maximum contaminant level at some time in the future once more information becomes available on the possible risk to human health. If you have other health concerns about the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

# What happened? What was done?

The County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works changed disinfectants in the distribution system from chloramines to free chlorine on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in order to use a stronger disinfectant in the water mains for routine maintenance. This is considered a best management practice in the water industry. When adding extra sodium hypochlorite to water disinfected using chlorine dioxide, a reaction may occur which can shift the ratio of the disinfection byproduct from chlorite to chlorate. Additionally, concentrated chlorine solutions may contain or produce chlorate levels as the solution degrades in storage.

On November 29, 2022, the treatment plant returned to using a combined chlorine (chloramines) in the distribution system.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps USEPA and the State Water Resources Control Board to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

# COUNTY SAN LUIS OBISPO

#### **Lopez Project Consumer Confidence Report 2022**

#### DRINKING WATER AND HEALTH RISKS

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. USEPA/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).

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effect of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water typically comes from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The County of San Luis Obispo 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 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 (1-800-425-4791) or at <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead</a>.

# SOURCE WATER PROTECTION TIPS FOR CONSUMERS

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one.
   Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.

# COUNTY SAN LUIS OBISPO

#### **Lopez Project Consumer Confidence Report 2022**

#### **OPERATIONS STAFF**

The Lopez Project is assigned eight certified water system operators who strive to provide the highest quality drinking water without interruption. Our operators are knowledgeable professionals who implement new treatment technologies, system upgrades and undergo continual training to improve on the high-quality tap water delivered to your home.

Operators conduct weekly inspections of the reservoirs, clear well, tanks, and distribution system, collect samples, and analyze parameters in the field to ensure a safe and reliable water supply. Our exceptional staff responds to all water system needs every day and at any hour. In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW) routinely inspects the facilities, operating procedures, and water quality monitoring records to verify compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements.

# WATER QUALITY SECTION

The Department of Public Works Water Quality Section provides laboratory and technical support services for most County operated water and wastewater systems. The lab is certified by the State of California's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). To remain certified by the State, the lab is required to annually demonstrate capability by analyzing unknown values for each constituent. In addition to analytical work, Water Quality also provides sampling, compliance reporting, watershed monitoring, and technical support services for Public Works systems.

#### **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

The County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors meets in the Board chambers located in the County Government Center at 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. The Board holds budget hearings during the month of June. Interested persons should check the Board's agendas for specific dates. Agendas for all Board of Supervisors meetings are posted in some County libraries, the County Government Center, and on the Board of Supervisors website at <a href="http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Clerk-Recorder/All-Services/Board-of-Supervisors-Meetings.aspx">http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Clerk-Recorder/All-Services/Board-of-Supervisors-Meetings.aspx</a>

The public can also participate in the Zone 3 Advisory Group meetings. This group is composed of representatives from the Five-Cities area. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Information on meeting times and places are published in the newspaper or can be obtained from the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works Zone 3 web page at <a href="https://www.slocounty.ca.gov\PW\Zone3">www.slocounty.ca.gov\PW\Zone3</a>.



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW.htm

#### **INTERNET SOURCES:**

# **USEPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water**

http://water.epa.gov/drink/index.cfm

#### **California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)**

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/publicwatersystems.shtml

# **County of San Luis Obispo Water Quality Section**

805-781-5111

PW\_SLO\_WQL@co.slo.ca.us

http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Our-Divisions/Water-Quality-Lab.aspx



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