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

Water Quality Report

County of SLO CSA23 – Santa Margarita

System Number 4010024

2018

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

SLO CSA23 – Santa Margarita CCR 2018

Your 2018 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 informacíon muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.***

Your Water Supply

Your water comes from two groundwater wells located in Santa Margarita, Well #3 and Well #4. The water is cleaned through a natural filtration process as it trickles down through the ground. During this process, water may also pick up minerals or contaminants found in the soil, either natural or man-made. Groundwater is normally very clean and is simply disinfected with chlorine to help minimize the risk from viral and bacterial contamination. Additional treatment for removing iron, manganese and arsenic provided at the well sites.

The wells are routinely monitored for contaminants and the results are reported to the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water. The findings are evaluated relative to the California Drinking Water Primary and Secondary Maximum Contaminant Standards. ***All water quality standards were met in 2018.***

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, 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.

In order 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 amount 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. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-(800) 426-4791).

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Santa Margarita News

All water quality results, above established minimum detection levels, are published in annual Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) produced by the County. Santa Margarita's CCR is available at:

https://slocounty.ca.gov/ccr/margarita .

More information about your water quality can also be found at the website:

http://sdwis.waterboard.ca.gov/pdww/ .

Enter CA4010024 for the Water System Number or use **SLO CWWD NO. 23 - SANTA MARGAR** for the Water System Name. Information provided at the site includes: Water System Details, Water System Facilities, Monitoring Schedules, Monitoring Results, Lead and Copper Sample Summary Results, Violations/Enforcement Actions, and Site Visits.

Community Participation

The Santa Margarita CSA 23 Advisory Committee meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall on the corner of I and Murphy Streets. **The public is welcome to attend.**

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday (except the 5th Tuesday in a month) at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Chambers located in the new County Government Center, 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 internet web site at http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos.htm.

2018 Water Quality Data

The following tables are a snapshot of drinking water constituents that were detected in your water in 2018, 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 Laboratory at (805) 781-5111.

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

Unregulated Contaminants for which Monitoring is Required (UCMR)							
1,2,3-TCP (ppb)	Source and Distribution	2018	NS	0.0007	<0.005	<0.005	Manmade chemical found at industrial/hazardous waste sites.

Lead and Copper Monitoring at the Consumers' Tap (Sampled in 2017)						
Contaminant (Unit)	**Number of Samples**	**90th Percentile**	**Regulatory Action Level**	**PHG, (MCLG) or [MRDLG]**	**# of sites exceeding RAL**	**Potential Source of Contamination**
Lead (ppb)	14	<5.0	15	0.2	None	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (ppb)	16	390	1300	300	None	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Lead and Copper Monitoring at the Santa Margarita Elementary (Sampled in 2018)						
Contaminant (Unit)	**Number of Samples**	**90th Percentile**	**Regulatory Action Level**	**PHG, (MCLG) or [MRDLG]**	**# of sites exceeding RAL**	**Potential Source of Contamination**
Lead (ppb)	10	<5.0	15	0.2	None	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (ppb)	10	930	1300	300	None	Corrosion of household plumbing.

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Contaminant (Unit)	Where Sampled	Year Sampled	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG, (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	Range Detected	Average Detected	Potential Source of Contamination
Regulated Contaminants w/ Primary MCLs, MRDLs, TTs or RALs							
Turbidity (NTU)	Well 4	2018	TT = 1NTU	-----	0.05 - 0.44	0.11	Surface water runoff.
		2018	TT = 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	-----	-----	100.0%	
Microbiological							
Total Coliform Bacteria (Present or Absent)	Distribution	2018	> 1 positive sample per month	0	ND	ND	Naturally present in the environment.
Heterotrophic Bacteria (CFU/mL)	Distribution	2018	TT = < 500	-----	ND - 420	5.1	Naturally present in the environment.
Inorganic							
Arsenic (ppb)	Source	2018	10	0.004	ND - 11	5.02	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	Source	2017	2	1	0.17 - 0.20	0.190	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate as N (ppm)	Source	2018	10	10	ND	ND	From fertilizer use, septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection Byproducts							
Chlorine (ppm)	Distribution	2018	[4.0 as Cl_2]	[4 as Cl_2]	1.01 - 2.24	1.67	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Delivered	2018	-----	LRAA = 60	<1.0	<1.0 max LRAA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Delivered	2018	-----	LRAA = 80	<1.0	<1.0 max LRAA	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Corrsion Control Monitoring							
Ortho-phosphate (ppm)	Distribution	2018	Optimal Range (average 1.5 to 2.2)	-----	1.68 - 2.27	2.0	Byproduct of drinking water treatment.
pH	Distribution	2018	Optimal Range (average 7.4 to 8.0)	-----	7.04 - 8.1	7.67	From natural deposits; seawater influence.
Radio Activity							
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	Source	2014	15	N/A	1.24 – 3.29	2	Erosion of natural deposits.
Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard (Aesthetics)							
Color (CU)	Distribution	2018	15	-----	ND - 2	ND	Naturally occurring organic materials.
Chloride (ppm)	Source	2017	500	-----	17.5- 23.9	20.7	From natural deposits.
Copper (ppm)	Source	2017	1	-----	ND - 0.42	0.14	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.
Iron (ppm)	Source	2018	300	-----	ND - 0.28	0.67	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes.
Odor – Threshold (TON)	Distribution	2018	3	-----	ND - 3.0	1.4	Naturally occurring organic materials.
Manganese (µg/L)	Source	2018	50	-----	ND - 57	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	Delivered	2017	1600	-----	580 - 700	630	From natural deposits.
Sulfate (ppm)	Source	2017	500	-----	12.8- 71.8	42.3	From natural deposits.
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	Source	2017	1000	-----	320 - 420	370	From natural deposits.
Turbidity (NTU)	Distribution	2018	5	-----	0.04 - 0.48	0.17	Soil runoff.
Unregulated Contaminants for which Monitoring is Required (UCMR)							
Total Alkalinity as $CaCO_3$ (ppm)	Delivered	2017	NS	-----	234 - 266	248	From natural deposits.
Calcium (ppm)	Delivered	2017	NS	-----	39 - 57	45	From natural deposits.
Total Hardness (ppm)	Source	2017	NS	-----	196 - 258	227	From natural deposits.
Magnesium (ppm)	Source	2017	NS	-----	24 - 38	31	From natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	Source	2017	NS	-----	30 - 91	60.5	From natural deposits.

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KEY TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AL – Action Levels.

CFU/ml – Colony Forming Units per milliliter.

CU – Color Units.

DWR – Department of Water Resources

LRAA – Locational Running Annual Average. An average of quarterly samples from a particular monitoring location for a period of 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 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. 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.

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.

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

NA – Not Analyzed.

ND – Not Detected. Contaminant is not detectable at testing limit.

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit.

pCi/L – picocuries per liter (a 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 requirements. PDWS pertain to the following: Filtration Performance, Microbiological Contaminants, Inorganic Contaminants, Radioactive Contaminants and Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfection Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors.

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 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 contaminant level for 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.

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

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).

The County conducts monthly analysis of arsenic in both the source water and treated water before delivery. In May 2018, the source water had an elevated concentration of arsenic (11 ppb.) Source water arsenic levels ranged from Not Detected to 11 ppb with an average arsenic level of 5.0 ppb during the year. Arsenic levels of treated water delivered ranged from Not Detected to 5.1 ppb with an average arsenic level of 3.2 ppb, which is below the maximum contaminant level for arsenic.

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 http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Contact Information

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

Monitoring Requirement Not Met for

San Luis Obispo County Service Area No. 23 – Santa Margarita

State Water System ID 4010024

Our water system recently violated a monitoring standard. On January 7, 2019, a sample collected from the Santa Margarita distribution system tested positive for coliform bacteria. The County is required to perform follow-up testing within 24-hours of any coliform positive test result. Operations staff were not notified by the analytical laboratory of the positive test result, and therefore did not collect the required follow-up samples.

What should I do?

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. This is not an emergency. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever coliform bacteria are detected in any sample, we are required to do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in samples collected from the water wells and storage tanks during this week or subsequent testing later in the month.**

The table below lists the contaminant we did not properly test for in January, how many samples we are required to take and how often, how many samples we took, and when samples should have been taken.

Contaminant	***Required Sampling***	***Number of Samples Taken***	***Sample Should Have Been Taken***	***When Samples Were Taken***
Coliform Bacteria	3 follow-up samples for a coliform positive result	0	The week of January 7, 2019	The next set of required samples were collected on January 22, 2019.
Coliform Bacteria	5 routine samples following a coliform positive result in the previous month	3	The month of February 2019	The next set of required samples were collected in March 2019.

What is being done?

To comply with coliform monitoring regulations, the County is required to collect one sample from each water source (two wells) and two samples from the distribution system each month. The County resumed monthly coliform monitoring the week of January 22, 2019. Since coliform bacteria was detected in the distribution system in January, the County is required to conduct an assessment to identify potential problems and to correct any problems found during this assessment. The laboratory analyzing the sample investigated the reason why the client was not notified in a timely manner. As a result of this investigation, laboratory staff were retrained on mandatory client notification procedures, practices, and policies. Additional notification parameters were programmed into the laboratory's data management system.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. This notice is being sent to you by San Luis Obispo County Service Area No. 23 Santa Margarita.

For more information, please contact Faith Zenker at (805) 781-5111 or Charles Berna at (805) 438-5349.

INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE SOBRE SU AGUA POTABLE

Requisito de supervisión no cumplido para

San Luis Obispo County Service Area No. 23 – Santa Margarita

State Water System ID 4010024

Nuestro sistema de aqua potable violo un estándar de monitoreo. El 7 de enero del 2019, un sitio de muestra del sistema de distribución probó positivo para las bacterias coliformes. El Condado esta obligado a recolectar muestras de seguimiento dentro de las 24 horas porteriores a cualquier resultado positivo de coliformes. El laboratorio que analiza las muestras no pudo notificar al operador del sistema de agua del resultado positivo y no logramos recolectar las muestras de seguimiento requeridas.

¿Qué debo hacer?

Usted no necesita hervir su agua o tomar otra medidas correctivas. Esto no es una emergencia. Los coliformes son bacterias que están naturalmente presentes en el medio ambiente y se utilizan como un indicador de que otros, potencialmente dañinos, patógenos transmitidos por el agua pueden estar presents. Los coliformes tambíen son una señal de que podría haber un problema con el sistema de tratamiento o distribucíon (tuberías). Cuando se detectan bacterias coliformes en cualquier muestra, debemos realizer pruebas de seguimiento para ver si hay otras bacterias de mayor preocupación, como coliformes fecales o *E. coli*, presente. **No encontramos ninguna de estas bacterias en las muestras recolectadas de los pozos de agua y los tanques de almacenamiento durante esa semana o en las pruebas posteriors al fin del mes.**

La tabla a continuación incluye los contaminantes que no correctamente probamos en enero, cuántas muestras estamos obligados a tomar y cuantas veces, cuántas muestras tomamos, cuando las muestras deben haber sido tomadas, y la fecha en que las muestras de seguimiento fueron tomadas.

Contaminantes	***Frecuencia de muestreo deseada***	***Número de muestras tomadas***	***Muestra debe haber sido tomada***	***Cuando se tomaron muestras de***
Coliforme Bacteria	3 muestras de recordativa para un resultado positivo del coliforme	0	La semana de enero 7, 2019	No se recolectaron muestras de seguimiento; el siguiente conjunto de muestras requeridas fue recogidos el 22 de enero de 2019.
Coliforme Bacteria	5 muestras para un resultado positivo del coliforme en el mes anterior	3	El mes de febrero 2019	El siguiente conjunto de muestras requeridas fue recogidos en marzo del 2019.

¿Qué se está haciendo?

Para cumplir con las regulaciones de monitoreo de coliformes, el condado está obligado a recolectar una muestra de cada fuente de agua (dos pozos) y dos muestras del sistema de distribución cada mes. El Condado reanudó el monitoreo mensual de coliformes la semana del 22 de enero de 2019. Dado que se detectarion bacterias coliformes durante el mes de enero, se requiere que el condado realice una evaluación para identificar y corregir cualquier problema encontrado durante esta evaluación. El laboratorio ha completado la capacitación de requisitos de notificación de 24 horas para todos los empleados. El laboratorio ha programado parametros de notificación adicionales. Por favor comparta esta información con todas las personas que beben esta agua, especialmente aquellos que no han recibido este aviso directamente (por ejemplo, personas en apartamentos, hogares de ancianos, escuelas y empresas). Puede hacer esto mediante la publicación de este aviso público en un lugar público o distribuir copias a mano o por correo. Este aviso se envía a usted de San Luis Obispo County Service Area 23 Santa Margarita.

Para Preguntas por favor de llamar al (805) 788-2954, se habla español.