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

2025

Chorro Valley Pipeline

System Number CA4010030

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

Your 2025 Water Quality Report

The County of San Luis Obispo is pleased to present this annual report describing the quality of your delivered water. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to regulatory 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

The Chorro Valley Pipeline (CVP) delivers water from the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) State Water Project (SWP). SWP water originates in Northern California and travels hundreds of miles through a system of reservoirs and aqueducts. It is treated by the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) at the Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant and then conveyed via the SWP Coastal Branch Aqueduct to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

The CVP is a local water transmission system operated by the County of San Luis Obispo. It extends approximately 11.5 miles from its connection at the SWP Coastal Branch Aqueduct to its delivery point at the end of the pipeline serving the City of Morro Bay. The County works in coordination with DWR and CCWA to support the reliable delivery of treated SWP water through this system. In addition to Morro Bay, the CVP provides treated SWP water to the County Operations Center & El Chorro Regional Park, the California Men's Colony, and Cuesta College.

Additional information on the State Water Project and CCWA is available online:
SWP: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project
CCWA: https://www.ccwa.com

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 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, can naturally occur 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 applications, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, that can naturally occur 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 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. 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 of water quality constituents that were detected in 2025 from testing conducted or commissioned by the County of San Luis Obispo. Data in this table is collected from 3 sample locations at a frequency of once a week throughout 2025, unless otherwise noted. The presence of these substances in water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. For questions about this data, please contact the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works Water Quality Division at (805) 781-5111.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS					
Constituent (Units)	**MCL**	**PHG or (MCLG)**	**Range detected**	**Average detected**	**Potential Source of Contamination**
Total Coliform Rule					
Total Coliform (Presence/Absence)	TT	(0)	ND	ND	Naturally present in the environment
E. *coli* (Presence/Absence)	TT	(0)	ND	ND	Human and animal fecal waste
Heterotrophic Plate Count (CFU/mL)	TT = <500	---	ND - 12	1	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganics					
Nitrite as Nitrogen (mg/L)	1.0	1	ND – 0.03	< 0.01	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, natural deposits
Disinfection Byproduct[1]					
Trihalomethanes (THMs) Total (ppb)	80 (LRAA)[2]	---	41 - 72	55	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) Total (ppb)	60 (LRAA)	---	11 – 19	15	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine Residual (mg/L)	MRDL = 4.0 as Cl_2[3]	4	1.96 – 4.04[4]	3.08	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Monochloramine (mg/L)	---	---	1.31 – 3.3	2.28	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Free Ammonia (mg/L)	---	---	ND – 0.28	0.04	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Total Ammonia (mg/L)	---	---	0.14 – 0.89	0.64	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

[1] Disinfection byproduct sampling and analysis are done quarterly.
[2] Compliance is based on the locational running annual average of samples for THMs and HAAs
[3] The MRDL for total chlorine is based on a running annual average of distribution system samples.
[4] Chorro Valley Pipeline water was over 4.0 ppm on a single sample. MRDL regulations were met for Distribution samples.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS AND UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS				
Constituent (Units)	**MCL secondary**	**Range detected**	**Average detected**	**Potential Source of Contamination**
Color, Apparent (CU)	15	ND - 1	1	Naturally occurring organic materials
Odor - Threshold (TON)	3	ND - 2	1.1	Naturally occurring organic materials
Turbidity (NTU)[5]	1	0.07 – 0.64	0.11	Soil runoff, particulates from distribution

[5]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.

KEY terms and abbreviations

CCWA – Central Coast Water Authority, a public agency that treats SWP water for delivery to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

CVP – Chorro Valley Pipeline, a water transmission system, owned by the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and operated by the County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department.

CFU/ml – Colony Forming Units per milliliter.

CU – Color Units.

DWR – California 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.

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

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit.

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 pertains 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.

SWP – State Water Project, California's statewide water storage and delivery system that supplies water to public agencies throughout the state.

TON – Threshold Odor Number.

TT – Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking 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 people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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).

Lead Health Risks in Drinking Water

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 (1-800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. A lead service line inventory was conducted in October of 2024.

State Revised Total Coliform Rule

This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements that were made in 2022. These revisions add the requirements of the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule, effective since April 1, 2016, to the existing state Total Coliform Rule. The revised rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbials (i.e., total coliform and E. coli bacteria). The USEPA anticipates greater public health protection as the rule requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, these must be corrected by the water system. The state Revised Total Coliform Rule became effective July 1, 2022.

Operations

Chorro Valley Pipeline is assigned four California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) D3-certified operators. Our operators are knowledgeable professionals who have many years of experience. They are dedicated to maintaining an excellent water system and providing you with the best quality water possible.

Operators conduct weekly inspections of the distribution system. In addition, the SWRCB routinely inspects the facilities, operating procedures, and water quality monitoring records to verify compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements.

Water Quality Division

The Department of Public Works Water Quality Division 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, the Water Quality Division 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 2-3 times a month on Tuesday in the board chambers located in the County Government Center at 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. The Board holds budget hearings during June. Interested people 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 website at https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Administrative-Office/Board-of-Supervisors-Agenda.aspx

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

County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works
www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW.htm

County of San Luis Obispo Water Quality Division
805-781-5111
PW.labreports@co.slo.ca.us
http://slocountywater.org/WQL/wql.html

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