

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 San Luis Obispo 10A – Cayucos
System Number 4010901
2024



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



SLO CSA10/10A – Cayucos Treatment and Distribution CCR 2024

Your 2024 Water Quality Report

The County of San Luis Obispo is pleased to present this annual report describing the quality of your drinking water for the period between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. Our dedicated staff work hard every day to maintain your water system and deliver the best quality water possible to you and your family. 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 potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien***

Your Water Supply

The primary source of water for Cayucos is Whale Rock Reservoir. Whale Rock Reservoir has a total capacity of 39,967 acre-feet. The current storage is 36,116 acre-feet which is 92.7% full (as of April, 2025). The Whale Rock Commission manages the reservoir and is comprised of the City of San Luis Obispo, the California Men's Colony, and Cal Poly. No swimming or other body contact sports are allowed on the reservoir to minimize viral contamination from human contact. Water from the reservoir is piped downstream to the Cayucos Water Treatment Plant (WTP) where it is filtered and chlorinated. Prior to chlorination, a percentage of the water is passed through two granular activated carbon filters. In addition, Cayucos has a groundwater well, the Whale Rock Well (CAWO Well). The CAWO well contributed less than 1% of the total water production by CSA 10 in 2024.



A watershed sanitary survey is conducted every five years. The most recent watershed sanitary survey was published in March 2021 (please see link below) and a new watershed sanitary survey will be completed in March 2026.

Watershed Sanitary Survey

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

Operations

The Cayucos water system is assigned three 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 the high-quality tap water delivered to your home. Operators conduct weekly inspections of the well, tanks, and distribution system 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 routinely inspects the facilities, operating procedures, and water quality monitoring records to verify compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements.

Community Participation

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meets two to three times a month. All meetings are held in the Board Chambers located in the new County Government Center, 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: <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos.htm>

The Cayucos Citizens Advisory Council meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Cayucos School Cafeteria and via zoom at 7:00 p.m. The Cayucos Area Water Organization meets the first Monday of every other month (starting in January) at 1660 Cabrillo Avenue, Cayucos at 1:30 p.m.



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Water Quality

The following tables are a snapshot of drinking water constituents that were detected in your water in 2024, 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 County of San Luis Obispo Public Work Department Water Quality Section at (805) 781-5111.

Regulated Contaminants with Primary MCLs, MRDLs, TTs or RALs							
Constituent (Unit)	Where Sampled	MCL, TT, or [MRDL]	PHG, [MCGL] or [MRDLG]	Range Detected	Average Detected	Violation?	Potential Source of Contamination
Filter Performance							
Turbidity (NTU)	Filters	TT = 1 NTU	-----	0.04 – 0.07	0.05	No	Surface water runoff
		TT = 95% of samples ≤ 0.3	-----	100%	100%	No	
Microbiological							
Total Coliform Bacteria (Present or absent)	Distribution	> 1 positive per month	[0]	ND	ND	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Heterotrophic Bacteria (CFU/mL)	Distribution	TT ≤ 500	N/A	ND – 18	ND	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Inorganic							
Aluminum (ppm)	Treated ¹ and Delivered ²	1	0.6	ND – 0.160 (Treated) ND – 0.063 (Delivered)	0.078 (Treated) 0.063 (Delivered)	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Arsenic (ppb)	Source and Treated	10	0.004	2.2	2.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	Source and Treated	1	2	0.069	0.069	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium (hexavalent) (ppb)	Source	10	0.02	ND	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; transformation of naturally occurring trivalent Cr by natural processes and discharges from manufacturing.
Fluoride (ppm)	Delivered	2.0	1	0.29	0.29	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Selenium (ppb)	Source	50	30	44 – 52 ³ (CAWO Well) ND (Whale Rock Raw)	48 (CAWO Well) ND (Whale Rock Raw)	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers
Radioactivity							
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L) ⁴	Source (Sampled 2019)	15	N/A	3.3 - 3.5	3.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

¹ "Treated water" water samples collected at Cayucos WTP right after treatment process before delivered water

² Delivered Water samples are collected after GAC filter system, chlorination, and water storage tank to meet CT for the plant.

³ The MCL for Selenium is a locational running annual average (LRAA). CAWO Well did not exceed the LRAA and is only used as a water source in the event of an emergency.

⁴ Next sample event is scheduled for 2028.



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Regulated Contaminants with Primary MCLs, MRDLs, TTs or RALs							
Constituent (Unit)	Where Sampled	MCL, TT, or [MRDL]	PHG, [MCGL] or [MRDLG]	Range Detected	Average Detected	Violation?	Potential Source of Contamination
Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection Byproducts							
Chlorine (ppm)	Distribution	[4.0 as Cl ₂]	[4 as Cl ₂]	0.30 – 1.59	0.98	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Distribution	LRAA ⁵ = 60	-----	2.6 – 27	5.6 max LRAA	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Distribution	LRAA = 80	-----	14 - 90	21 max LRAA	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard (Aesthetics)						
Contaminant (Unit)	Where Sampled	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG, (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	Range Detected	Average Detected	Potential Source of Contamination
Aluminum (ppb)	Treated and Delivered	200	N/A	ND - 160 (Treated) ND - 63 (Delivered)	78 (Treated) 63 (Delivered)	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Color (CU)	Distribution	15	-----	ND – 2.0	ND	Naturally occurring organic materials
Odor – Threshold (TON)	Distribution	3	-----	ND – 1.7	ND	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	Delivered	1600	-----	660	660	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	Delivered	500	-----	86	86	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	Delivered	1000	-----	410	410	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	Distribution	5	-----	0.07 – 1.7	0.152	Soil runoff
Other Parameters						
Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	204	204	Runoff/leaching from natural deposit.
Calcium (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	49	49	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Hardness (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	280	280	Generally found in ground and surface water
Magnesium (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	37	37	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	34	34	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Boron (ppb)	Delivered	-----	RAL = 1000	75	75	Boron exposures resulted in decreased fetal weight (developmental effects) in newborn rats.

⁵ Locational Running Annual Average. An average of quarterly samples from a particular monitoring location for one year.



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Lead and Copper Monitoring at the Consumers' Tap - Distribution (Sampled in 2023)						
Constituent (Unit)	Number of Samples	90th percentile	Regulatory Action Level (RAL)	PHG	# of Sites Exceeding RAL	Potential Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	10	0.82	15	0.2	None	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	10	270	1,300	300	None	

Some additional constituents monitored at our source water but did not detect above State reporting limits: 1, 2, 3-trichloropropane, chromium, copper, iron, lead, manganese, MBAS, nitrite, perchlorate, potassium, selenium, silver, VOCs, SOCs and zinc.

Important Health Information

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 healthcare 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).

Drinking Water and Lead

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Cayucos CSA10/10A is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Cayucos CSA10/10A at (805) 995-1007. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Lead Service Line Inventory Requirement

The LCRR mandates that water systems conduct a comprehensive record review to identify service line materials. This inventory helps ensure accurate documentation and assessment of potential lead exposure risks.

Initial Lead Inventory Completion

As of October 2023, all water systems have completed their initial lead service line inventories. For more details and access to inventories, contact your water provider.



KEY TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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 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 disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the 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. The contaminant is not detectable at the 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 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.

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



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, 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 applications, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Turbidity** is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfection.

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. 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).

PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a series of man-made chemical compounds that persist in the environment for long periods. They are often called “forever chemicals.” For decades PFAS chemicals have been used in industry and consumer products such as nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, fire fighting foam at airports, and stain-resistant materials. The latest science shows that these chemicals are harmful to our health.

On April 10, 2024, the USEPA finalized national drinking water standards for five individual PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (known as GenX Chemicals) and a Hazard Index level for two or more of four PFAS as a mixture: PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS. These are legally enforceable drinking water limits and reduce PFAS exposure for approximately 100 million Americans served by public drinking water systems.

Additional information for PFAS may be found at the following links: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas> and <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/pfas>



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Cross Connection

What is a Cross-Connection?

A cross-connection is any actual or potential connection between a potable (drinking) water supply and a non-potable source that could allow contaminants to enter the drinking water system. Common household hazards include garden hoses submerged in pools, irrigation systems, and improperly installed plumbing fixtures.

Your Role in Protecting Our Water Supply

Everyone plays a role in maintaining safe drinking water. Be aware of potential cross-connections in your home and take preventive measures to protect your family and community.

For more information, contact your local water utility or visit <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/health-agency/public-health/environmental-health-services/cross-connection-control-program>



We need your help!

Please scan the QR Code to take a Cross Connection Survey for CSA 10A Cayucos.

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

Request the Report in a Different Language

This report contains important information about your drinking water.

Please contact the Department of Public Works at (805) 781-1406 for assistance in Spanish

Questions? For more information about this report, or any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact the Cayucos Water Treatment Plant at (805) 995-1007.