ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2015

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
Meeting the Challenge

Once again we are proud to present our annual drinking water report, covering all drinking water testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2015. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to your homes and businesses. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

Please remember that we are always available to assist you, should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) 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 must 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.

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 can 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 which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

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

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Community Participation

City Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, California. A public comment period is held at the beginning of each meeting.
Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are 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 do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.) 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 or at www.epa.gov/lead.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of San Luis Obispo is fortunate to have several sources of water. The Salinas Reservoir (also known as Santa Margarita Lake, eight miles east of Santa Margarita), Whale Rock Reservoir (Cayucos), and Nacimiento Lake (16 miles northwest of Paso Robles) are our main supplies. The surface water from the three lakes is treated at the Stenner Creek Water Treatment Plant. In 2015, well water was used to meet a small percentage (1%) of the City's demand for water. The active well was the Pacific Beach Well #1 (Los Osos Valley Road). During 2015, our treatment plant and well delivered 1.69 billion gallons of water to San Luis Obispo.

Source Water Assessment

Assessments of the drinking water sources for the City of San Luis Obispo have been conducted. These sources include Salinas Reservoir, Whale Rock Reservoir, Nacimiento Lake, Pacific Beach Well, and Fire Station #4 Well. To request a summary of an assessment, contact Jeff Densmore, District Engineer, Santa Barbara District, at (805) 566-1326, or the City of San Luis Obispo at (805) 781-7215.

A copy of the complete assessment is available from the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water, 1180 Eugenia Place, Suite 200, Carpinteria, California 93013; or the City of San Luis Obispo, 879 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401.

Fluoridation

Our water system treats your water by adding fluoride to the naturally occurring level to help prevent dental caries in consumers. State regulations require the fluoride levels in the treated water be maintained within a range of 0.6 - 1.2 ppm with an optimum dose of 0.7 ppm. Our monitoring showed that the fluoride levels in the treated water ranged from 0.1 to 0.8 with an average of 0.6 ppm. Information about fluoridation, oral health, and current issues is available from http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.shtml.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Dean Furukawa, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, at (805) 781-7566 or dfurukawa@slocity.org.
Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The State requires us to monitor for certain substances less often that once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the 3rd stage of the EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR3 benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Contact us for more information on this program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGULATED SUBSTANCES</th>
<th>SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)</th>
<th>YEAR SAMPLED</th>
<th>MCL (MRDL)</th>
<th>PHG (MCLG) (MRDLG)</th>
<th>AMOUNT DETECTED</th>
<th>RANGE LOW-HIGH</th>
<th>VIOLATION</th>
<th>TYPICAL SOURCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum (ppm)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.068</td>
<td>ND–0.13</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barium (ppm)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.043</td>
<td>ND–0.13</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine (ppm)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>[4.0 (as Cl2)]</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.1–1.4</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromium (ppb)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>ND–14</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control of DBP precursors [TOC]' (％removal)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>ND–14</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Various natural and man-made sources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride' (ppm)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>TT</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>11–31</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>(0)</td>
<td>0.0145</td>
<td>ND–0.029</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haloacetic Acids' (ppb)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>8.0–23.0</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>ND–12.0</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate [as nitrate] (ppm)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>4.87</td>
<td>0.5–9.1</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]' (ppb)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>30.4–115.0</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbidity' (NTU)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>TT</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.03–0.12</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Soil runoff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>TT = 95% of samples &lt; 0.3 NTU</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Soil runoff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)</th>
<th>YEAR SAMPLED</th>
<th>AL</th>
<th>PHG (MCLG)</th>
<th>AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)</th>
<th>SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES</th>
<th>VIOLATION</th>
<th>TYPICAL SOURCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copper (ppm)</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.114</td>
<td>0/30</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead (ppb)</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0/30</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Definitions

AL (Regulatory Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as LRAAs.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.

micromhos: A measure of electrical conductance.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

PHG (Public Health Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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