

WATER CONSERVATION

Saving water in the campground helps keep the lake full.

Tips to save water,
Keep the lake clean and
Still have fun!



- Don't work at the faucet.
- Keep water at your campsite for washing hands and dishes.
- Keep a pot of clean water at your campsite for drinking, cooking and brushing teeth.
- Take short showers.
- Consider using a solar shower for a quick rinse after being on the lake.
- Fill water toys from a bucket.

By conserving water, you help to ensure an adequate supply for all lake users.

ADDITIONAL GENERAL INFORMATION ON DRINKING WATER

All 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.

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 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.

Additionally, the EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water maintains a website with useful information on drinking water. The address is www.epa.gov/safewater/. Additional information can be obtained at the American Water Works Association's website at www.awwa.org, the DHS website at www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/index.htm, or by calling John Beaton, Water Quality Manager, at 781-5111.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding this report, please contact John Beaton, Water Quality Manager, at (805) 781-5111 or Email: jbeaton@co.slo.ca.us.

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WWW.SLOCOWATERQUALITYLAB.ORG



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

June 2003

2002 Water Quality Report Lopez Recreation Area

To our customers

The County of San Luis Obispo is pleased to present this annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. 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 de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Your water comes from groundwater wells located within the Lopez Recreation Area. The water is cleaned through a natural filtration process as it trickles down through the ground. During this process, water may also pick up contaminants found in the soil, either natural or man-made. Groundwater is normally very clean and is simply disinfected with chlorine to help minimize viral and bacterial contamination.

OPERATIONS

All operators who work for the County are certified by the California Department of Health Services (DHS). They are knowledgeable professionals dedicated to maintaining an excellent water system and providing you with the best quality water possible.

WATER TESTING

Water sampling and analyses are performed by the San Luis Obispo County Water Quality Laboratory. The lab is certified by the DHS as an environmental testing laboratory for bacteriological and chemical analyses. Federal and State requirements dictate that all regulatory analyses be performed by certified labs following approved procedures.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday (except the 5th Tuesday in a month) in the board chambers located in the Government Center Annex (1050 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.co.slo.ca.us>.

KEY TERMS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) and Public Health Goal (PHG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS) - MCLs 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.

KEY TERMS (Continued)

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS) - MCLs for contaminants to protect the taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect health at the MCL levels.

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

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

No Standard (NS) - Contaminant for which there is no established MCL.

Not Detected (ND) - Contaminant is not detectable at testing limit.

Not Analyzed (NA) - Contaminant was not analyzed.

pCi/L - picoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

CU - color units

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

TON - Threshold Odor Number

LI - Langelier Index; Noncorrosive = Any positive value, Corrosive = Any negative value

SOURCES OF DRINKING 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, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which 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*, which 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, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants* which 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 USEPA and the DHS regulate the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. DHS regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

WATER SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS

The County Public Works Department is currently making improvements to the water system at the Lopez Recreation Area. The improvements include the construction of a new well and installation of approximately 1,000 feet of pipeline.

The new well is necessary due to deficiencies in the existing two wells. The existing two wells are under the influence of surface water at certain times of the year, which violates the Surface Water Treatment Rule as defined by the State Department of Health Services. The new pipeline will be used to tie in the new well to the existing system and remove a troublesome creek crossing on the existing system. The water system improvements are expected to be completed by the end of 2003.

Tables 1,2,and 3 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected from **January 2002 through December 2002**, unless otherwise noted. The presence of these contaminants in water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Department of Health Services requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

Table 1 - Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard			Lopez Rec Wells		Potential Source of Contamination
Contaminant (reporting units)	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Range	Average	
Fluoride (ppb)	2000	1000	480-500	490	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha particle activity (pCi/L)	15	----	ND-9.17 (2000)	4.6	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	100	----	ND-0.7(2001)	0.4	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Table 2 - Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard					
Chloride (ppm)	500	----	17-20	18	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Color (CU)	15	----		2	Naturally occurring organic materials
Corrosivity (LI)	Noncorrosive	----	0.0-0.1	0.1	Natural or industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in the water; affected by temperature and other factors
Odor - Threshold (TON)	3	----	1.0-1.2	1.1	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (micromhos/cm)	1600	----	820-880	850	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	500	----	170-180	180	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1000	----	540-610	580	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5	----	0.09-0.21	0.15	Soil runoff
Table 3 - Detection of Contaminants without a Drinking Water Standard					
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	----	----	290-320	300	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Boron (ppb)	AL = 1000	----	ND-58	41	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Calcium (ppm)	----	----	93-110	100	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Hardness (ppm)	----	----	380-430	400	Generally found in ground and surface water
Magnesium (ppm)	----	----	42-44	43	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
pH	----	----	7.28-7.29	7.29	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	----	----		35	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Vanadium (ppb)	AL = 50	----	3.1-4.4	3.7	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits