COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

June 2004

2003 Water Quality Report
County Service Area #10A—Cayucos

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 informacíon muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.***

YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Your water comes from Whale Rock Reservoir and a groundwater well located adjacent to Cayucos on the east side of Highway One. Whale Rock Reservoir has a total capacity of 40,660 acre-feet and is managed by the Whale Rock Commission (City of San Luis Obispo, California Men's Colony, and Cal Poly). No swimming or other body contact sports are allowed on the reservoir in order 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 distribution.

Treated water is distributed to the Cayucos Area Water Organization (CAWO) which consists of three water agencies: Paso Robles Beach Water Association (PRBWA), Morro Rock Mutual Water Company (MRMWC), and the County of San Luis Obispo County Service Area 10A (CSA-10A). These three agencies have a combined entitlement of 582 acre-feet per year of Whale Rock Reservoir water plus access to a small amount of groundwater.

CSA 10A's allocation of Whale Rock water is 190 acre-feet per year (AFY) which falls short of the forecasted water needs of the service area at build-out. The most recent analysis of water consumption trends indicate that 250+ AFY will be required to meet CSA 10A customer water demands once all buildable lots within the existing service area are developed. CSA 10A needs supplemental water to reliably meet the needs of the community, especially if year-round occupancy of homes in Cayucos increases over time. For this reason, Public Works Department staff is evaluating options for securing supplemental water for CSA 10A customers. One option for securing additional water supply is the Nacimiento Water Project. The proposed Nacimiento project would make use of this County's 17,500 AFY entitlement in Lake Nacimiento by piping it to communities along the Salinas River corridor and into San Luis Obispo.

Although a dedicated pipe won't be built all the way up the coast into Cayucos, CSA 10A could participate in the project in exchange for increased Whale Rock deliveries in cooperation with the City of San Luis Obispo. Participation in the Nacimiento project is the preferred option for meeting CSA 10A water needs, especially considering the limited coastal ground water resources available and the cost of constructing and operating a coastal desalination unit.

The cost of securing Nacimiento water and other related issues are being discussed at town hall meetings and with the Board of Supervisors. Contact the Public Works Department at 781-5252 for more information.

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.

Running Annual Average (RAA) - Average data for last four quarters.

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

2003 Water Statistics

- **Water Delivered**
  - ⇒ **430 Acre-feet**
- **Average Daily Demand**
  - ⇒ **1.2 Acre-feet**

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 California Department of Health Services (DHS) prescribe regulations which limit 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.

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 www.co.slo.ca.us.

The Cayucos Citizens Advisory Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Cayucos Veterans Hall at 7:30 pm. The Cayucos Area Water Organization meets the first Monday of each month at the Cayucos Fire Station at 1:30 pm. Information on meeting agendas are published in the newspaper or can be obtained from the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works.

Much emphasis is being placed on future water needs for Cayucos, especially customers in CSA 10A. Look for special meeting to discuss supplemental water options both town hall meetings and Board of Supervisors meetings. Contact the Public Works Department at 781-5252 for details.

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 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.

PLANT UPGRADE

Water is a precious commodity in Cayucos. As part of the routine operation at the plant, filter backwash water is sent to reclaim basins were particulate matter is allowed to settle to the bottom. The clearer water on top can then be reclaimed and pumped back into the headworks of the plant. To minimize the potential risk of recycling contaminants along with the water, the State has set a minimum standard for the quality of the recycled water. To reliably meet this standard, a set of small sand filters are being installed to "pretreat" the reclaimed water. These filters should be operational by mid 2004.

Cayucos residents have often voiced concerns about taste and odor in the delivered water. We know that certain naturally occurring algae and bacteria can produce chemicals which impart undesirable tastes and odors to the water. These chemicals can be removed by filtering through a large granular activated carbon (GAC) filter. This filter can also reduce the level of organic compounds in the water which react with chlorine disinfectant to form carcinogenic disinfection by-products. By installing a GAC filter, we hope to address two problems with one solution. The challenge we face is finding enough space to install the necessary piping and filter modules. Design of the filter is in progress with construction and installation planned for later this year. When the filter is in place and operational, we hope you will notice the improvement in the taste and odor of your water!

The last inspection of the CSA-10A storage tank revealed the interior coating was deteriorating. Also noted was a need to bring the tank up to current operator safety standards. Repair and upgrades to the tank are planned for later this fall.

SANITARY SURVEY

Source assessments of selected CAWO wells were completed in 2002 by County staff and Boyle Engineering Corporation, with assistance from the CAWO. The wells were CSA 10A Wells No. 2 and 3, PRBWA Well No. 1, MRMWC Wells No. 1 and 3, and the Whale Rock Well. The assessment included a review of water system information, meetings with water system staff, global positioning system mapping, and field reconnaissance. The field surveys were conducted to locate and assess the vulnerability of the wells to possible contamination. The source assessment concluded that the wells were most vulnerable to the following activities for which no associated contaminant has been detected in the water supply: Sewer collection system, low-density septic systems, agricultural drainage and an agricultural well.

A copy of the complete assessment is available at: Department of Health Services, 1180 Eugenia Place, Suite 200, Carpinteria, California 93013 or County of San Luis Obispo, Department of Public Works, County Government Center, Room 207, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

FOOTNOTES

(a) Aluminum was found at levels that exceed the secondary MCL of 200 ppb; the aluminum secondary MCL was set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects such as color, taste, and odor. The high aluminum levels are due to residue from the water treatment process. Since violating this MCL does not pose a risk to public health, the State allows the affected community to decide whether or not to treat to remove it.

(b) Manganese was found at levels that exceed the secondary MCL of 50 ppb; the manganese secondary MCL was set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects such as color, taste, and odor. The high manganese levels are naturally occurring the source water and were not removed by the water treatment process. Since violating the MCL does not pose a risk to public health, the State allows the affected community to decide whether or not to treat to remove it.

(c) In 2004, the Cayucos system will be required to meet the new Federal total trihalomethane MCL of 80 ppb and the haloacetic acid MCL of 60 ppb as an running annual average (RAA). The County is currently investigating the use of granular activated carbon, chloramination, or operational changes to the system to reduce trihalomethane formation. Some people who use water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 207
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

GENERAL DRINKING WATER INFORMATION

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. The USEPA and 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/. Information can also be obtained by accessing 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 (805) 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