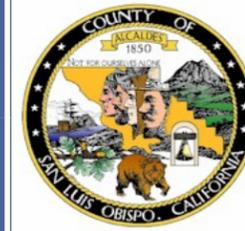




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COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

June 2005

## 2004 Water Quality Report County Service Area #10/10A—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 información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

### 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/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/). Information can also be obtained by accessing the American Water Works Association's website at [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org), the DHS website at [www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/index.htm](http://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](mailto:jbeaton@co.slo.ca.us).

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
[WWW.SLOCOWATERQUALITYLAB.ORG](http://WWW.SLOCOWATERQUALITYLAB.ORG)

### 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.

### SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

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.

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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDHS regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### 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.

**Notification or 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.

**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

**2004 Water Statistics**

1 Acre-foot (AF) = 325,851 gallons

- Total Water Delivered—427.65 AF
- Average Daily Demand—1.2 AF
- PRBWA Delivered—170.33 AF
- MRMWC Delivered—116.63 AF
- CSA 10A Delivered—138.59 AF

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday (except the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in a month) in the board chambers located in the new Government Center, 1055 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](http://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 discussion of supplemental water options at 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 CDHS. 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 CDHS 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.

**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 assessed 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: California 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.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Where disinfection is used in the treatment of drinking water, disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in the water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). The EPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and DBPs in drinking water, including haloacetic acids (HAAs) and trihalomethanes (THMs). In 2004, new EPA limits for DBPs took effect in small water systems like CSA 10A. The EPA standard or MCL is now 60 ppb for HAAs and 80 ppb for THMs, as measured quarterly in the distribution system, and averaged over the previous year. Testing results we received show that the CSA 10A system averaged 31 ppb for HAAs and 82 ppb for THMs in 2004. Although HAAs were well under the limit, THMs slightly exceeded the federal standard. Prior to the new EPA standard, the MCL for THMs had been 100 ppb. In 2003, the CSA 10A testing detected THM levels of 79 ppb. Some people who drink water with high levels of THMs over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

To address the problem, the District is installing two large granular activated carbon (GAC) filters at the plant. The GAC filters will reduce the level of organic compounds in the water which react with chlorine disinfectant to form DBPs. To help reduce THMs formation before the new filters are installed, we have made other changes in the treatment plant operations. These include introduction of powdered activated carbon and increased distribution line flushing.

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 also removed by filtering through the GAC filters. By installing the GAC filters, we hope to address two problems with one solution. Design of the filter system has been completed with construction and installation planned for this summer. When the filters are in place and operational, THM levels should be reduced and we hope you will notice an improvement in the taste and odor of your water!

In 2004, water from the Cayucos Water Treatment Plant (WTP) exceeded the secondary maximum contaminant level (MCL) for both manganese and aluminum. These secondary standards are not health related but are set to protect you against unpleasant aesthetic effects such as color, taste, and odor.

Manganese was found at a level (58 ppb) that exceed the secondary MCL of 50 ppb in a single sample collected in May. The source was traced to a faulty valve in Whale Rock Reservoir which allowed water from the bottom of the reservoir (with a manganese content of nearly 500 ppb) to be delivered to the plant. Manganese is a naturally occurring element in the source water and was not completely removed by the water treatment process. The problem was promptly identified and repaired. Subsequent sampling and analysis two weeks after the high value found that manganese in the delivered water was less than the detection limit of 5 ppb.

Aluminum was found at levels that exceed the secondary MCL of 200 ppb. The high aluminum levels are due to residue from the water treatment process. Aluminum levels were well under the primary MCL of 1000 ppb. Since violating secondary MCLs does not pose a risk to public health, the State allows the affected community to decide whether or not to treat to remove these contaminants.

At the end of 2004, the District installed a set of small sand filters to treat reclaimed water flow. As part of the routine operation at the plant, filter backwash water is sent to reclaim basins where 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 EPA and State have set standards for the quantity and quality of the reclaimed water. Since installation, the filters have been performing as expected and have allowed the District to meet the EPA and State standards.

The CSA10A water storage tank is scheduled to be recoated in the fall. Neighbors living near the tank will be contacted directly prior to construction. Preliminary engineering will begin in July of 2005 for improving fire protection to CSA 10A by upsizing the Shearer and Gilbert Avenue waterlines and installing a second tank.