

KEY TERMS (Continued)

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.

Variations and Exemptions - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Not Reported (NR) - Contaminant was not reported.

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 - picroCuries 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)

µmhos/cm - micromhos per centimeter (unit of specific conductance of water)

CU - color units

CFU/ml - Colony Forming Units per milliliter

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

TON - Threshold Odor Number

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

CCWA - Central Coast Water Authority

PPWTP—Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant

FOOTNOTES

- (a) Distribution system samples
- (b) Combined Filter Effluent turbidity monitoring is used as an indicator of filtration performance.
- (c) Compliance is based on the running annual average of samples computed quarterly.
- (d) TOCs are taken at the treatment plant's combined filter effluent.
- (e) CCWA has developed a flavor-profile analysis method that can more accurately detect odor occurrences. For more information, contact CCWA at (805) 688-2292.

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.



**Lopez Water Treatment Plant
PROJECTS FOR 2005**

Valve Replacement Project

In preparation for future pigging projects on the distribution line, three butterfly valves were replaced in January with gate valves. The replacement of

the valves went smoothly, with the outage to Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, and Avila Beach areas lasting less than one week. Many thanks go out to our local water agencies for all their support during this outage.

Domestic Storage Tank

The domestic water storage tank will be recoated in the fall. This tank supplies water to the Lopez WTP for operation and maintenance of the plant and for staff.

Lopez Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

The design is complete for the Lopez Water Treatment Plant upgrade. The new plant will use dissolved air floatation pretreatment combined with membrane filtration to meet more stringent State regulations.

We plan to advertise and bid the project in May 2005. The construction phase is scheduled to begin in September 2005. During construction, the existing plant will be operating as close to normal capacity as possible. The new plant will be on-line in 2007.

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN



Lopez Dam was built in 1968 to provide a reliable water supply for agricultural and municipal needs. The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone 3 (District) operates Lopez Reservoir for the following beneficial uses: municipal water supply, agricultural water supply, recreational activities including boating, water skiing, fishing, and habitat for fish and wildlife. Additionally, the District operates the Arroyo Grande Creek stream gauging station and performs maintenance activities at Lopez dam. These activities can sometimes affect the availability and quality of habitat

for fish and wildlife in the Arroyo Grande Creek watershed.

Before the dam was built (1940 – 1967), stream flow would sometimes cease in the Arroyo Grande Creek during a year with very little precipitation. After completion of Lopez Dam (1969 to 1996), stream flow in the creek was generally maintained above 1 cubic foot per second (cfs) or approx. 0.65 million gallons per day (MGD) during the summer months.

In 1994, the District was informed by the State Water Resources Control Board that the District's water rights permit did not reflect it's historical operations; and, in order to amend the permit, it would be necessary to conduct a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Subsequent to the decision to conduct the HCP, a complaint was filed with the State Board by the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CalSPA). The complaint alleges that the District's historic operations adversely impacted the fisheries habitat and steelhead trout in Arroyo Grande Creek.

Subsequently, the District contracted for the HCP (a series of scientific studies of Arroyo Grande Creek). In 1998 the District agreed with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), and California Department of Fish & Game (CDF&G) to maintain a minimum downstream release to Arroyo Grande Creek from Lopez Reservoir of 7.7 cfs (5 MGD) after two dead steelhead trout were found in the creek. Steelhead trout are listed for protection under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Steelhead trout are currently listed under the California Endangered Species Act as a species of special concern, but they may be listed in the future as endangered.

To comply with the Endangered Species Act, the District has submitted a HCP to the USFWS and the NOAA Fisheries. The HCP will provide assurances to minimize and mitigate impacts of the District's normal operations on steelhead trout in Arroyo Grande Creek. We have been told by the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries that they plan to review the submitted HCP within the next few years. Upon further consultation with the USFWS, CDF&G, and the NOAA Fisheries, the District adjusted the downstream releases to Arroyo Grande Creek to 6.2 cfs (4 MGD).

After the HCP is approved, the District will implement the plan. Some improvements that will be implemented as part of the plan include: varying releases into Arroyo Grande Creek based on hydrologic conditions and steelhead migration patterns and in-stream habitat improvements for steelhead. If you have any questions regarding the HCP, please contact Doug Bird, Hydraulic Operations Administrator of the Public Works Department at 781-5116.

2004 Water Statistics	
• Lopez Water Production	⇒ 3707 Acre-feet
• State Water Delivered	⇒ 1857 Acre-feet
• Total Water Delivered	⇒ 5564 Acre-feet
• Average Daily Demand	⇒ 15.2 Acre-feet
• Habitat Releases	⇒ 4493 Acre-feet
• Agricultural Releases	⇒ 225 Acre-feet
One Acre Foot = 325,850 gallons	

NEW ON THE WEB!

Lopez Lake precipitation, elevation, and current storage information may be viewed on the internet at www.slocountywaterdata.org/weather