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

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WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

OUTSIDE	INSIDE
Water only as needed	Install low-flow toilets and fixtures
Mulch plants	Wash full loads of dishes and clothes
Water in the morning or evening	Fix leaks
Inspect for leaks and broken, blocked or misaligned sprinklers	Turn off the faucet while washing dishes, shaving, brushing your teeth, or soaping in the shower
Replace unused lawn with a ground cover	Take shorter showers

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.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.SLOCOWATERQUALITYLAB.ORG

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

June 2006

2005 Water Quality Report
County Service Area #16—Shandon

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 two groundwater wells located in Shandon. The water is cleaned through a natural filtration process as it trickles down through the ground. During this process, water may also pick up minerals or 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.

Source water assessments were completed for each well (Well #4 and Well #5) in August 2002. The wells are considered to be most vulnerable to the following activities for which no associated contaminants were detected: grazing, utility stations-maintenance areas, historic gas stations, and high density septic systems. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at:

California Department of Health Services
1180 Eugenia Place, Suite 200
Carpinteria, CA 93013

or

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

You may also request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting Kurt Souza, CDHS Regional Engineer, Santa Barbara District at (805) 566-1326, or John Beaton, Water Quality Manager, County of San Luis Obispo at (805) 781-5111.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday (except the 5th Tuesday in a month) at 9:00 a.m. in the board chambers located in the new Government Center, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. Agendas for all Board of Supervisors meetings are posted in some County libraries, the County Government Center, and on the County's internet web site at www.slocounty.ca.gov.

WATER NOTES

The water in Shandon is considered hard, with an average concentration of 205 parts per million or 12 grains per gallon of hardness. Hardness in water is usually associated with two chemicals – calcium and magnesium. Hard water can inhibit the cleaning action of soaps and cause scale formation on plumbing fixtures.

It is purely a matter of preference whether an individual wishes to reduce the hardness of the water by using a water softener. A typical home water softener unit replaces the calcium and magnesium ions in your water with sodium. Soft water is more corrosive than hard water and can cause plumbing and soldering to corrode. Use of a softener also introduces salts into the waste stream which further deteriorates the ground water quality. The water in Shandon meets all Federal and State drinking water requirements and overall can be considered very good water.

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.

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 or scaling tendancies = Positive values, Corrosive tendancies = Negative values, Stable waters = Values about 0.

2005 Water Statistics

- **Shandon Water Production**
  - ⇒ **50.5 million gallons**
- **Average Daily Demand**
  - ⇒ **139,000 gallons**

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 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.

OPERATIONS

The Shandon water system is assigned one primary operator who, like all operators who work for the County, is certified by the CDHS. Our operators are knowledgeable professionals, dedicated to maintaining an excellent water system and providing you with the best quality water possible.

Operators conduct weekly inspections of the wells, tank, and distribution system to ensure a safe and reliable water supply. In addition, the CDHS routinely inspects the facilities, operating procedures, and water quality monitoring records to verify compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements. The CDHS inspected the Shandon system in 2005 and found the water served, the water system facilities, and the water system operations met the CDHS standards for drinking water.

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.

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. 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/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants as well as additional information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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 by accessing the American Water Works Association's website at www.awwa.org, the DHS website at www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/default.htm, or by calling John Beaton, Water Quality Manager, at 781-5111.

WATER NEEDS

A Master Plan assessment of Shandon's existing water system was recently completed, identifying system strengths and shortcomings. The Master Plan showed that although the system is capable of meeting average daily demands at build-out, there are deficiencies that need to be addressed in order to meet fire-flow requirements and emergency needs, following a disaster.

It is common for a community to improve their water system, not only because it experiences growth, but because requirements become more stringent as time progresses. For example, in 1971 when Shandon's master plan was written, the fire-flow requirement was 500 gpm for residential areas and 1000 gpm for commercial areas and schools. In the current building and fire codes, these flow requirements have been doubled, depending on building size and type. The Master Plan identifies projects needed for improved fire flows and increased water storage.

The ultimate goal of assessing Shandon's water system is to identify and implement projects that will provide excellent service to the community, maintaining water quality while enabling the system to handle water needs in the event of a fire or other emergency.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Plans for the current year include looping water mains in the distribution system for improved fire flow and service and providing a back-up generator for the community's supply wells. Looping water mains also minimizes dead zones within the distribution system to help provide high quality water to consumers at all times.