

County of San Luis Obispo Department of  
Public Works  
County Government Center, Room 206  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
[www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW.htm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW.htm)

# Water Quality Report

County of San Luis Obispo 10A – Cayucos  
System Number 4010901  
2021



Public Works will be a valued community partner enhancing  
quality of life for our fellow county residents.



## Your 2021 Water Quality Report

The County of San Luis Obispo is pleased to present this annual report describing the quality of your drinking water for the period between January 1 and December 31, 2021. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. Our dedicated staff work hard every day to maintain your water system and deliver the best quality water possible to you and your family. 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 potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien***

## Your Water Supply

The primary source of water for Cayucos is Whale Rock Reservoir. Whale Rock Reservoir has a total capacity of 40,600 acre-feet. The current storage is 29,901 acre-feet which is 76.7% full (as of March 2022). The Whale Rock Commission manages the reservoir and is comprised of the City of San Luis Obispo, the California Men's Colony, and Cal Poly. No swimming or other body contact sports are allowed on the reservoir 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 chlorination, a percentage of the water is passed through two granular activated carbon filters. In addition, Cayucos has a groundwater well, the Whale Rock Well (CAWO Well). The CAWO well contributed 1.42% of the total water production by CSA 10 in 2021.



A watershed sanitary survey is conducted every five years. The first survey was completed by Boyle Engineering in 2001. The most recent watershed sanitary survey was published in March 2021 (please see link below).

### **Watershed Sanitary Survey**

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/PublicWorks/Services/Watershed-SanitarySurveys.aspx>

## Operations

The Cayucos water system is assigned three certified water system operators who strive to provide the highest quality drinking water without interruption. Our operators are knowledgeable professionals who implement new treatment technologies, system upgrades and undergo continual training to improve on the high-quality tap water delivered to your home. Operators conduct weekly inspections of the well, tanks, and distribution system to ensure a safe and reliable water supply. Our exceptional staff responds to all water system needs every day and at any hour. In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water routinely inspects the facilities, operating procedures, and water quality monitoring records to verify compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements.

## Community Participation

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meet two to three times a month. All meetings are held in the Board Chambers located in the new County 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: <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos.htm>

The Cayucos Citizens Advisory Council meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Cayucos Veterans Hall at 7:00 p.m. The Cayucos Area Water Organization meets the first Monday of every other month (starting in January) at 425 S. Ocean Avenue, Cayucos at 1:30 p.m.



# SLO CSA10/10A – Cayucos Treatment and Distribution CCR 2021

## Water Quality

The following tables are a snapshot of drinking water constituents that were detected in your water in 2021, unless otherwise noted. The State allows us to monitor for some substances less than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. Some of our data, although representative, may be more than one year old. The presence of these substances detected in water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. For questions about this data, please contact the County of San Luis Obispo Public Work Department Water Quality Laboratory at (805) 781-5111.

Regulated Contaminants with Primary MCLs, MRDLs, TTs or RALs							
Constituent (Unit)	Where Sampled	MCL, TT, or [MRDL]	PHG, [MCGI] or [MRDLG]	Range Detected	Average Detected	Violation?	Potential Source of Contamination
<b>Filter Performance</b>							
Turbidity (NTU) <sup>1</sup>	Filters	TT = 1 NTU	-----	0.07-0.19	0.10	No	Surface water runoff
		TT = 95% of samples ≤ 0.3	-----	100%	100%	No	
<b>Microbiological</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria (Present or absent)	Distribution	> 1 positive per month	[0]	ND	ND	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Heterotrophic Bacteria (CFU/mL)	Distribution	TT ≤ 500	N/A	ND – 186	6	No	Naturally present in the environment.
<b>Inorganic</b>							
Aluminum (ppm)	Source and Treated	1	0.6	ND-0.135	0.056	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Arsenic (ppb)	Source and Treated	10	0.004	1.5-2.9	2.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	Source and Treated	1	2	0.073-0.112	0.089	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	Delivered	2.0	1	0.29	0.29	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
<b>Radioactivity</b>							
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L) <sup>2</sup>	Source (Sampled 2019)	15	N/A	3.3 - 3.5	3.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Chlorine (ppm)	Distribution	[4.0 as Cl <sub>2</sub> ]	[4 as Cl <sub>2</sub> ]	0.27-1.54	1.17	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Distribution	LRAA <sup>3</sup> = 60	-----	1.4-11.6	9.4 max LRAA	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Distribution	LRAA = 80	-----	3.8-55.9	31.8 max LRAA	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

<sup>1</sup> See Turbidity definition under the *Additional Information* section on page 6.

<sup>2</sup> Next sample event is scheduled for 2023

<sup>3</sup> Locational Running Annual Average. An average of quarterly samples from a particular monitoring location for a period of one year.



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The Utilities Division Water Quality Laboratory provides laboratory and technical services to support the beneficial management of water and wastewater for the present and future residents of the County of San Luis Obispo.

Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard (Aesthetics)						
Contaminant (Unit)	Where Sampled	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG, (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	Range Detected	Average Detected	Potential Source of Contamination
Aluminum (ppb)	Source and Treated	200	N/A	ND-135	56	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Color (CU)	Distribution	15	-----	ND - 2.0	ND	Naturally occurring organic materials
Odor – Threshold (TON)	Distribution	3	-----	ND - 3.0	ND	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	Delivered	1600	-----	710	710	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	Delivered	500	-----	91	91	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	Delivered	1000	-----	410	410	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Boron (ppb)	Delivered	-----	RAL = 1000	96	96	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Turbidity (NTU)	Distribution	5	-----	0.05-0.29	0.09	Soil runoff
Other Parameters						
Total Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	232	232	Runoff/leaching from natural deposit.
Calcium (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	47	47	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Hardness (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	299	299	Generally found in ground and surface water
Magnesium (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	44	44	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	40	40	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

Lead and Copper Monitoring at the Consumers' Tap - Distribution (Sampled in 2020)					
Constituent (Unit)	Number of Samples	90th percentile	Action Level	PHG	Potential Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	10	5.3	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	10	0.40	1.3	0.30	

Some additional constituents monitored at our source water but did not detect above State reporting limits: 1, 2, 3-trichloropropane, chromium, copper, iron, lead, manganese, MBAS, nitrite, perchlorate, potassium, selenium, silver, VOCs, SOCs and zinc.



## KEY TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

**CFU/ml** – Colony Forming Units per milliliter.

**CU** – Color Units.

**DWR** – Department of Water Resources

**LRAA** – Locational Running Annual Average. An average of quarterly samples from a particular monitoring location for a period of one year.

**MCL** – Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**MCLG** – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**mg/L** – Milligrams per Liter.

**mL** – Milliliter.

**MRDL** – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG** – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**MPN/100mL** – Most Probable Number of organisms in a 100-mL sample.

**NA** – Not Analyzed.

**ND** – Not Detected. Contaminant is not detectable at testing limit.

**NTU** – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit.

**pCi/L** – picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

**PDWS** – Primary Drinking Water Standards. MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements. PDWS pertain to the following: Filtration Performance, Microbiological Contaminants, Inorganic Contaminants, Radioactive Contaminants and Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfection Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors.

**PHG** – Public Health Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

**ppb** – parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ).

**ppm** – parts per million, or milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ ).

**Primary MCL** – Maximum contaminant level 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.

**RAL** – Regulatory Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Secondary MCLs** – Maximum contaminant level for contaminants to protect the taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with secondary MCLs do not affect health at the MCL levels.

**TON** – Threshold Odor Number.

**TT** – Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**$\mu\text{S/cm}$**  – microsiemens per centimeter (unit of specific conductance of water).

**$\mu\text{g/L}$**  – Micrograms per Liter.

**USEPA** – United States Environmental Protection Agency

## Important Health Information

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 (CDC) 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).

## Drinking Water and Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water typically comes from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The County of San Luis Obispo is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot



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control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-425-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Substances That Could Be in 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, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, that 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**, that 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, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Turbidity** is a measure of cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfections.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

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).

### Contact Information

USEPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/index.cfm>

California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/publicwatersystems.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/publicwatersystems.shtml)

**Questions? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact the Cayucos WTP, at (805) 995-1007.**

