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

Water Quality Report

County of San Luis Obispo 10A – Cayucos
System Number 4010901
2025

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

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

Your 2025 Water Quality Report

The County of San Luis Obispo is pleased to present this annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. 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 o 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 39,967 acre-feet. The current storage is 35,242.9 acre-feet, which is 88.18% full (as of March 2026). The reservoir is managed by the Whale Rock Commission which is composed of the City of San Luis Obispo, the California Men's Colony, and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. No swimming or other body-contact sports are allowed on the reservoir to minimize contamination from human contact. Raw water from the reservoir is treated at the County Service Area 10 (CSA 10) Cayucos Water Treatment Plant (WTP) using a three-step process consisting of clarification, filtration, and activated carbon polishing. Treated water is then delivered to three water purveyors: Cayucos Beach Mutual Water Company, Morro Rock Mutual Water Company, and County Service Area 10A (CSA 10A). Cayucos WTP also operates a groundwater well, the Whale Rock Well (CAWO Well), which contributed less than one percent of the total water production in 2025

A **Watershed Sanitary Survey** is required to be conducted every five years. The most recent watershed sanitary survey was published in April of 2026. For more information, please visit the link below.

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

A **Drinking Water Source Assessment** was completed in 2022 and can be found at the link below:

Drinking Water Source Assessments - County of San Luis Obispo

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 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 applications, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Turbidity** is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfection.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the SWRCB-DDW prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as well as the SWRCB-DDW also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain 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).

Water Quality

The following tables are a snapshot of drinking water constituents that were detected in your water in 2025, unless otherwise noted. 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 Section at (805) 781-5111.

Regulated Contaminants with Primary MCLs, MRDLs, TTs or RALs							
Constituent (Unit)	Where Sampled	MCL , TT, or [MRDL]	PHG, [MCGL] or [MRDLG]	Range Detected	Average Detected	Violation?	Potential Source of Contamination
Filter Performance							
Turbidity (NTU)	Filters	TT = 1 NTU	-----	0.02 – 0.05	0.04	No	Surface water runoff
		TT = 95% of samples ≤ 0.3	-----	100%	100%	No	
Microbiological							
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 – 34	ND	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Inorganic							
Aluminum (ppm)	Treated	1	0.6	ND – 0.110	0.056	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes.
Arsenic (ppb)	Treated	10	0.004	2.4	2.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium (ppm)	Treated	1	2	0.070	0.070	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Boron (ppb)	Delivered	-----	RAL = 1000	84	84	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	Source	10	0.02	ND	ND	No	Erosion of natural deposits; transformation of naturally occurring trivalent Cr by natural processes and discharges from manufacturing.
Fluoride (ppm)	Delivered	2.0	1	0.32	0.32	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Selenium (ppb)	Source	50	30	38 - 49	41	No	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers
Radioactivity							
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	Source	15	N/A	< 3.0	< 3.0	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection Byproducts							
Free Chlorine (ppm)	Distribution	[4.0 as Cl_2]	[4 as Cl_2]	0.23 – 1.58	1.03	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Distribution	LRAA[1] = 60	-----	5.5 -20	20 max LRAA	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Distribution	LRAA = 80	-----	14 - 76	53 max LRAA	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

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)	Treated	200	N/A	ND - 110	56	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Color (CU)	Distribution	15	-----	1	1	Naturally occurring organic materials

[1] Locational Running Annual Average. An average of quarterly samples from a particular monitoring location for one year.

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
Odor – Threshold (TON)	Distribution	3	-----	ND – 1	ND	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	Delivered	1600	-----	650	650	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	Delivered	500	-----	93	93	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	Delivered	1000	-----	410	410	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	Distribution	5	-----	0.07 – 0.58	0.12	Soil runoff
Other Parameters						
Total Alkalinity as $CaCO_3$ (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	215	215	Runoff/leaching from natural deposit.
Calcium (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	48	48	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Hardness (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	282	282	Generally found in ground and surface water
Magnesium (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	40	40	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Delivered	NS	-----	37	37	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

Lead and Copper Monitoring at the Consumers' Tap - Distribution (Sampled in 2023)						
Constituent (Unit)	**Number of Samples**	**90th percentile**	**Regulatory Action Level (RAL)**	**PHG**	**# of Sites Exceeding RAL**	**Potential Source of Contamination**
Lead (ppb)	10	0.82	15	0.2	None	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	10	270	1,300	300	None	

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.

Operations

The Cayucos Water Treatment Plant is managed and operated by the County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department. It is a Grade 3 treatment facility staffed by three certified water treatment and distribution operators. All County operators are certified by the State Water Resources Control Board Department of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW) and are experienced professionals dedicated to providing you with the best quality water possible.

Operators conduct weekly inspections of the well, tanks, and distribution system to ensure a safe and reliable water supply. In addition, the SWRCB-DDW 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 meets 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 June. Interested people 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 website at: http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos.htm

The Cayucos Citizens Advisory Council meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Cayucos School Cafeteria and via zoom at 7:00 p.m. The Cayucos Area Water Organization meets the first Monday of every other month (starting in January) at 1660 Cabrillo Avenue, Cayucos at 1:30 p.m

Water Quality Section

The Department of Public Works Water Quality Division provides laboratory and technical support services for most County-operated water and wastewater systems. The lab is certified by the State of California's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). To remain certified by the State, the lab is required to annually demonstrate capability by analyzing unknown values for each constituent. In addition to analytical work, Water Quality also provides sampling, compliance reporting, watershed monitoring, and technical support services for Public Works systems.

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 healthcare 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 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead**.**

Lead Service Line Inventory Requirement

The LCRR mandates that water systems conduct a comprehensive record review to identify service line materials. This inventory helps ensure accurate documentation and assessment of potential lead exposure risks. As of October 2023, all County water systems have completed their initial lead service line inventories. For more details and access to inventories, contact your water provider.

Cross Connection

What is a Cross-Connection?

A cross-connection is any actual or potential connection between a potable (drinking) water supply and a non-potable source that could allow contaminants to enter the drinking water system. Common household hazards include garden hoses submerged in pools, irrigation systems, and improperly installed plumbing fixtures.

Your Role in Protecting Our Water Supply

Everyone plays a role in maintaining safe drinking water. Be aware of potential cross-connections in your home and take preventive measures to protect your family and community.

For more information, contact your local water utility or visit https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/health-agency/public-health/environmental-health-services/cross-connection-control-program

SCAN ME

We need your help!

Please scan the QR Code to take a Cross Connection Survey for CSA 10A Cayucos.

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 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 disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the 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. The contaminant is not detectable at the 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 pertains 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 (µg/L).

ppm – parts per million, or milligrams per liter (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.

µS/cm – microsiemens per centimeter (unit of specific conductance of water).

µg/L – Micrograms per Liter.

USEPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency

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

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

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