

# MORRO ROCK MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

## 2023 Water Quality Report

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(805) 995-3766



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To our customers: Morro Rock Mutual Water Company is pleased to present this annual report describing the quality of your drinking water.

***Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.***

### What is the source of my drinking water?

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 38,967 acre-feet and is managed by the Whale Rock Commission (City of San Luis Obispo, California Men's Colony, and Cal Poly University). 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 with a percentage of water passing through two granular activated carbon filters. Water is then chlorinated prior to distribution. Treated water is distributed to the Cayucos Area Water Organization (CAWO) which consists of three water agencies: Cayucos Beach Mutual Water Company (CBMWC), 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 Whale Rock watershed is approximately 20.3 square miles in size and is susceptible to the following contamination: wastewater, animal grazing, recreational activities, unauthorized activities, use of pesticides/ herbicides, geological formations and hazardous materials spills. The watershed is well managed and these potential sources of contamination are minimized.

Sanitary surveys of the watersheds above and below Whale Rock Reservoir were updated in 2021. The source assessments of selected CAWO wells were also updated in 2021. The surveys and assessments were conducted to locate potential sources of contamination and evaluate the ability of the water treatment plant and wells to handle the contamination. The updated studies included a review of water system information, meetings with water system staff, and field reconnaissance. No significant changes were noted in the watersheds. The source assessments continue to conclude 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 State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, 1180 Eugenia Place, Suite 200, Carpinteria, California 93013

or

Morro Rock Mutual Water Company  
425 S. Ocean Avenue, Cayucos CA 93430

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 source assessment report by contacting: Faith Zenker, Water Quality Manager, County of San Luis Obispo (805) 781-1576.



## Where is the water tested?

Water analyses are performed by the San Luis Obispo County Water Quality Laboratory or contracted to another certified laboratory. The county lab is certified by the CSWRCB-DDW 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. Faith Zenker, Water Quality Manager, can be reached at (805) 781-1576.

The water purveyors each monitor their water wells on a regular basis for regulated and unregulated chemicals and evaluate the findings relative to the California Drinking Water Primary and Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Standards. These monitoring results are then submitted to the California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

## Who operates the distribution system?

Ray Bruno is D3 certified by the California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (CSWRCB-DDW). Dan Musolf is D1 certified by the California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water. Ron Boyte, our contract employee who consults as needed, is D2 certified. Both Ron and Ray are knowledgeable professionals who have many years of experience. Dan is working hard to build up his knowledge and is learning a lot from them.

Daily and weekly inspections of the well, tanks and distribution system are done to ensure a safe and reliable water supply. The CSWRCB-DDW routinely inspect the facilities, operating procedures and water quality monitoring records to verify compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements.

## Where can the community participate in decisions regarding water quality or other water issues?

The Cayucos Area Water Organization (CAWO) meets the first Monday of every other month at 425 S. Ocean Avenue, Cayucos, CA 93430 at 1:30 p.m. (January, March, May, July, September and November) The Morro Rock Mutual Water Company Board of Directors meet the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at 425 S. Ocean Avenue. The Annual Shareholders meeting is held on the first Wednesday following the 15 of March at 7:00p.m. at 425 S. Ocean Avenue, Cayucos CA 93430.

## 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (CSWRCB-DDW) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CSWRCB-DDW regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

USEPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water  
[www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)  
California State Water Resources Control Board,  
Division of Drinking Water  
[www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/programs/index.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/index.shtml)  
San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department  
[www.slocountywater.org](http://www.slocountywater.org)

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 US EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791.

**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.**

Immune-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 (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.

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 CSWRCB-DDW website at [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/programs/index.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/index.shtml), or by calling Faith Zenker, San Luis Obispo County Water Quality Manager, at (805) 781-1576.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

The water company 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 it 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>.



## **HELP CONSERVE WATER**



- 1. Toilets should not be running more than a few seconds after a flush. If it continues to run beyond that, several components may be bad. A running toilet indicates that there is a leak somewhere between the tank and the bowl.*
- 2. Do not allow the application of potable water to outdoor landscapes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures.*
- 3. The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a vehicle, should have a shut off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use.*
- 4. Sweep walkways, driveways, patios and decks – do not wash with a hose.*
- 5. Don't let the water run – turn water off when brushing teeth or shaving and shower quickly.*

Throughout 2023, hundreds of water samples were collected in order to determine the presence or absence of any biological, radioactive, inorganic or organic contaminants in your drinking water. On the next page are the Tables that list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected from January 2023 through December 2023, unless otherwise noted. The presence of these contaminants in water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water does not require us to monitor for certain contaminants every year because the concentrations of these are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of this data may be more than one year old, but is still representative of the water quality. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included along with the year in which the sample was collected. Below is a list of Key Terms used in this report.

### KEY TERMS

**AL (Action Level, Regulatory):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

**CDPH:** California Department of Public Health

**CFU/mL:** Colony Forming Units per milliliter

**CU:** color units

**DBP:** Disinfection By-Product

**LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average):** An arithmetic average is computed quarterly for each site and compliance is based on the running average of quarters,

**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.

**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 United States Environmental Protection Agency.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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.

**ND (Not Detected):** Contaminant is not detectable at testing limit. **NA:** Not Applicable **NL (Notification):**

The concentration of a contaminate that, if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow. **NS:** No Standard

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

**PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**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.

**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)

**RAA (Running Annual Average):** Average data for last four quarters.

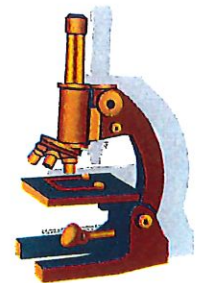
**SDWS (Secondary Drinking Water Standard):** MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect health at the MCL levels.

**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):** A measure of electrical conductance.

(1 S = 1 ohm<sup>-1</sup>)



**MORRO ROCK MUTUAL WATER COMPANY 2023 DATA SUMMARY TABLE**

Delivered Water is a combination of water from two sources, CAWO Well and Whale Rock Reservoir. In 2023, CAWO Well provided less than 1.00% and Whale Rock Reservoir (Treated) provided more than 99.00% of the water delivered. For questions about this data, contact Morro Rock Mutual Water Company (805) 995-3766 or San Luis Obispo County Water Quality Laboratory (805) 781-1576.

**DETECTION OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS**

TABLE 1: MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS			POTENTIAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION	
CONTAMINANT	UNITS	YEAR SAMPLED	AVERAGE DETECTED	RANGE DETECTED
Total Coliform	Present or Absent	2023	Absent	Absent
E. coli	Present or Absent	2023	Absent	Absent
Heterotrophic Plate Count (CFU/mL)	Absent	2023	Absent	ND - 10

**TABLE 2: LEAD AND COPPER FROM CONSUMERS' HOMES**

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	YEAR SAMPLED	NUMBER OF SAMPLES COLLECTED	90 <sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE COLLECTED	HIGHEST RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE	WHERE SAMPLED	RANGE DETECTED	MCL	ACTION LEVEL	NUMBER OF SITES EXCEEDING ACTION LEVEL	PUBLIC HEALTH GOAL	AVERAGE (RANGE)	POTENTIAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper	ppb	2022	10	80	35.7	19.0-52.1	10	1.300	0	300	ND	ND	Internal corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	ppb	2022	10	1.4	1.05 (Annual Average)	0.55-1.36	10	0.15	0	0.2	ND	ND	Internal corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits

**TABLE 3: DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS, DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS, and DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT PRECURSORS**

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	YEAR SAMPLED	HIGHEST RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE	RANGE DETECTED	WHERE SAMPLED	MCL	POTENTIAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Total Trihalomethane	ppb	2023	35.7	19.0-52.1	Source Water	15	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Halocetic Acids	ppb	2023	11	3.8-15.6	Source Water	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine Residuals	ppm	2023	1.05 (Annual Average)	0.55-1.36	Source Water	N/A	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment

**TABLE 4: RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS**

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	YEAR SAMPLED	Treated Water Average Detected (Range)	Where Sampled	MCL	POTENTIAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	pCi/L	2023	3.4 3.3-3.5	Source Water	15	Erosion of natural deposits

**TABLE 5: INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS**

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	YEAR SAMPLED	Average Detected (Range)	Where Sampled	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	POTENTIAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Arsenic	ppb	2023	2.1	Treated Water	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronic production wastes
Fluoride	ppm	2023	0.29	Treated Water	2	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer
Nitrates as NO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	ppm	2018	0.34 0.14-0.75	Source Water	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposit

**TABLE 6: DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	YEAR SAMPLED	Average Detected (Range)	Where Sampled	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	POTENTIAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Aluminum	ppm	2023	61 ND-110	Treated Water	200	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from surface water treatment processes
Color	CU	2023	ND	Delivered	15	N/A	Naturally occurring organic materials
Odor - Threshold	TON	2023	ND	Delivered	3	N/A	Naturally occurring organic materials
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	2023	640 640	Treated Water	1600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate	ppm	2023	80	Treated Water	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	2023	390 390	Treated Water	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	NTU	2023	0.10 0.06-0.24	Delivered	5	N/A	Surface water runoff

**TABLE 7: DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITHOUT A DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	YEAR SAMPLED	Average Detected (Range)	Where Sampled	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	POTENTIAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	ppm	2023	197 187	Treated Water	NS	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Calcium	ppm	2023	50	Treated Water	NS	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	ppm	2023	290 290	Treated Water	NS	N/A	Generally found in ground and surface water
Magnesium	ppm	2023	40 46	Treated Water	NS	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
pH		2023	36 35	Treated Water	NS	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sodium	ppm	2021	8.06 7.5-8.5	Treated Water	NS	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence