

2024 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Information

Water System Name: The Morning Star Packing Company

Report Date: February 27, 2025

Type of Water Source: Groundwater

Name and General Location of Source: Morning Star Packing, a food processing and packaging facility located at 13448 Volta Road near Los Banos in the county of Merced owns and operates four wells.

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: Water source assessments were completed and reported on 04/25/2018. There has been no contamination detected in the water supply due to well construction and surrounding physical barrier effectiveness (PBE). Copies of the assessments are available by requesting a summary.

Time and place of colleague potable water meetings are posted on the Liberty and Morning Star Conference rooms' Outlook Calendar.

For more information, Contact Tod Harter, 209-829-5002, tharter@morningstarco.com

About This Report

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023, and may include earlier monitoring data.

Importance of This Report Statement in Five Non-English Languages (Spanish, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Hmong)

Language in Spanish: Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse Morning Star Packing Company, 13448 Volta Road near Los Banos, 209-826-8000 in Merced para asistirlo en español.

Language in Mandarin: : 这份报告含有关于您的饮用水的重要讯息。请用以下地址和电话联系 Morning Star Packing Company 以获得中文的帮助: 13448 Road near Los Banos, 209-826-8000.

Language in Tagalog: Ang pag-uulat na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa inyong inuming tubig. Mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa Morning Star Packing Company o tumawag sa 13448 Volta Road near Los Banos, 209-826-8000 para matulungan sa wikang Tagalog.

Language in Vietnamese: : Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Xin vui lòng liên hệ [Enter Water System's Name] tại 13448 Volta Road near Los Banos, 209-826-8000 để được hỗ trợ giúp bằng tiếng Việt.

Language in Hmong: Tsab ntawv no muaj cov ntsiab lus tseem ceeb txog koj cov dej haus. Thov hu rau **rau** Morning Star Packing Company ntawm 13448 Volta Road near Los Banos, 209-826-8000 rau kev pab hauv lus Askiv.

Terms Used in This Report

Term	Definition
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of contamination 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.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	The level of contamination in drinking water is below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)	The highest level of disinfectant is allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)	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.
Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS)	MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
Public Health Goal (PHG)	The level of contamination in drinking water is below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set up by the California Environmental Protection Agency.
Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS)	MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect health at the MCL levels.
Variances and Exemptions	Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.
ppm	parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Sources of Drinking Water and Contaminants that May Be Present in Source 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, 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 byproducts 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.

Regulation of Drinking Water and Bottled Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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.

About Your Drinking Water Quality

Drinking Water Contaminants Detected

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, list all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

Table 1. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Lead and Copper

Lead and Copper	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90 th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	08/10/2022	5	0	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	08/10/2022	5	0.19	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Table 2. Sampling Results for Sodium and Hardness

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	10/05/2023	96.6	45.0 – 96.6	None	None	Salt is present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	10/05/2023	220	130 - 220	None	None	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

Table 3. Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	10/05/2023	4.66	0.0 – 4.66	10	0.004	Leaching from natural deposits
Barium (ppb)	04/13/2022	150	88 – 150	1000	2000	Leaching from natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	04/13/2022	29.0	0 - 29	50	100	Leaching from natural deposits
Chromium Hexavalent (ppb)	10/05/2023	32.5	14.2 – 32.5	50	100	Leaching from natural deposits
Fluoride (Natural Source) (ppm)	04/13/1022	0.17	0.11 - 0.17	2	1	Leaching from natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	04/13/2022	2.30	0.0 – 2.30	50	100	Leaching from natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10/15/2024	5.26	1.22 – 5.26	10	10	Ground migration of fertilizers, food processing, and dairies

Table 4. Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity (NTU)	04/24/2019	0.40	0.15 – 0.40	5	None	Naturally occurring organic materials
Hardness, Total (As CaCo3))	10/05/2023	220	130 - 220	1000	None	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (uS/cm)	10/05/2023	1100	639 - 1110	1600	None	Leaching from natural deposits
Chloride (ppm)	10/05/2023	184.0	64.1 – 184.0	500	None	Leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	10/05/2023	113	63 – 113	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

Table 5. Detection of Unregulated Contaminants

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Notification Level	Health Effects
Boron (ppb) *	10/05/2023	1060	527 - 1060	1000	None

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. 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. Immuno-compromised people such as people 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. U.S. EPA/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).

*California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not regulate Boron and the notification level are non-regulatory health-based advisory level established by SWRCB for which the MCL has not been established. Boron is a naturally occurring element found in rocks, soil, and water.