2025 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Information

Water System: The Morning Star Packing Company

Report Date: May 29,2026

Type of Water Source in Use: Groundwater

The Morning Star Packing Company, 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: A water source assessment was completed and reported on 12/19/2023. 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, phone 209-829-5002, email 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, 2025, to December 31, 2025, and may include earlier monitoring data.

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 [Morning Star Packing Company] tại 13448 Volta Road near Los Banos, 209-826-8000 để được hỗ trợ giúp bằng tiếng Việt.

Tsab ntawv no muaj cov ntsiab lus tseem ceeb txog koj cov dej haus. Thov hu Morning Star Packing Company ntawm 13448 Road near Los Banos, 209-826-8000rau 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 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.
ntu	Nephelometric Turbidity Units, how cloudy due to suspended particles
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, 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 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 naturally occur or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Regulation of Drinking Water and Bottled Water Quality

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 certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants does not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Table 6 is additional information regarding the violation Citation and Compliance Order No. 03_11_26J_004 Lead and Copper Monitoring Violation for #Y 2023 = 2025 Monitoring Period

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

Lead and Copper	Sample Date	No. of Samples	90th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	Range of Results	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	08/10/22	5	0	0	0 - 0	15	0.2	Corrosion of plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	08/10/22	5	0.19	0	0 - 240	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of 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)	10/14/25	110	54 - 110	None	None	Salt is present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)	10/5/23	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)	10/5/23	4.7	0 -4.7	10	0.004	Occurs naturally in certain geological formations, especially in the Central Valley. Groundwater in these areas can have elevated levels when water encounters arsenic-bearing minerals
Chromium (ppb)	4/16/25	29.0	15.4 – 29.0	none	2000	occurs naturally in the Earth's crust and can be released into groundwater or surface water through weathering and erosion of chromium-rich minerals
Chromium Hexavalent (ppb)*	10/7/25	33.0	13.9 – 33.0	10	100	Erosion of natural deposits; transformation of naturally occurring trivalent chromium to hexavalent chromium by natural processes and human activities such as discharges from

						electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production,
Nitrate (ppm)	10/7/25	4.48	1.49 – 4.48	10	10	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposit

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

Note: There are no PHGs, MCLGs, or mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents because secondary MCLs are set based on aesthetic concerns.

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Turbidity (ntu)	4/24/19	0.15	0.15 – 0.40	5	None	Soil runoff
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	10/5/23	612	459 - 612	1000	None	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (uS/cm)	10/5/23	1,110	639 – 1,110	1600	None	Substances that form ions when in water leaching from natural deposits
Chloride (ppm)	10/5/23	184	64 - 184	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	10/5/23	113	59 - 113	500	None	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

Table 5. Detection of Unregulated Contaminants

Note: There are no PHGs, MCLGs, or mandatory standard health effects language for these constituents because secondary MCLs are set on the basis of aesthetic concerns.

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).

Chromium Hexavalent – Specific Language *: Chromium Hexavalent is a heavy metal that has been used in industrial applications and found naturally occurring throughout the environment. While chromium can exist in a nontoxic, trivalent form, the hexavalent form has been shown to be carcinogenic and toxic to the liver (OEHHA, 2011). Hexavalent chromium is among the chemicals known to the state to cause cancer [Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 27001], pursuant to California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65").

Table 6. additional information regarding the violation Citation and Compliance Order No. 03_11_26J_004 Lead and Copper Monitoring Violation for #Y 2023 = 2025 Monitoring Period

Violation	Explanation	Duration	Actions Taken to Correct Violation	Health Effects Language
Lead and Copper Monitoring Violation	Did not sample and test	3Y2023 -2025	Sampling and testing will be completed by June 2026	Lead and copper are naturally occurring elements found in small amounts in Earth's crust. Lead and copper compounds can be found in all parts of our environment—the air, soil, water, and have been used in a variety of products in and around our homes, including paint, ceramics, pipes and plumbing materials, solders, gasoline, batteries, ammunition, and cosmetics. These elements have beneficial uses for product manufacturing but can also be harmful when ingested. However, lead can accumulate in the body over time, while copper eventually leaves the body. Lead particles can enter drinking water when plumbing materials containing lead are disturbed by corrosion, removal, or replacement.

Lead-Specific Language: 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 plumbing. Liberty Packing Company LLC is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components at our facility. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your colleagues from the lead in our facility's plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within the plumbing and taking steps to reduce your and our colleagues' risk. Before drinking tap water, flush the pipes for several minutes by running your tap, you can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in our water and wish to have your water tested, contact Liberty Packing Company, LLC and Tod Harter, phone 209-829-5002, email tharter@morningstarco.com Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.