

February 27, 2014
Your Water Supply #2
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Your water has several elements to it. Simply put, they are Clarity, Chemical Content, and Purity.

Clarity refers to whether there are particles in the water and any color to it. Chemical content can range from naturally occurring minerals to man-made chemicals. Purity addresses dangerous biological elements (such as E. Coli) and man-made chemicals. Any of these can affect the smell of the water.

States have guidelines that allow traces of various contaminants and they require periodic testing/reporting. These test reports, and the State requirements, should be made available to you by the Water District on a regular basis.

To reduce the chemical buildup, you can buy particle filters for some of your needs (cooking and drinking) or have water softening put in (adding more chemicals) or have the water district do some more filtering/dilution. The water purity is, however, largely a non-particle situation and unaffected by normal filtration.

Hundreds of leach fields, many years of pasturing thousands of cattle, and years of dumping of chemicals (cleansers, anti-freeze, etc.) can all eventually seep into your water supply. Escherichia coli(E. Coli) has been found in your water supply on several occasions.

"People of any age can become infected. Very young children and the elderly are more likely to develop severe illness and hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) than others, but even healthy older children and young adults can become seriously ill.

The symptoms of infections vary for each person but often include severe stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody), and vomiting. If there is fever, it usually is not very high (less than 101°F/less than 38.5°C). Most people get better within 5–7 days. Some infections are very mild, but others are severe or even life-threatening.

Prevention:

- WASH YOUR HANDS thoroughly after using the bathroom or changing diapers and before preparing or eating food. WASH YOUR HANDS after contact with animals or their environments (at farms, petting zoos, fairs, even your own backyard).
- COOK meats thoroughly. Ground beef and meat that has been needle-tenderized should be cooked to a temperature of at least 160°F/70°C. It's best to use a thermometer, as color is not a very reliable indicator of "doneness."

- AVOID raw milk, unpasteurized dairy products, and unpasteurized juices (like fresh apple cider).
- AVOID swallowing water when swimming or playing in lakes, ponds, streams, swimming pools, and backyard “kiddie” pools. (Note: this can also include your ACWD water.)
- PREVENT cross contamination in food preparation areas by thoroughly washing hands, counters, cutting boards, and utensils after they touch raw meat."

What is your ACWD doing about reducing these contaminants? Does the ACWD send you a periodic statement of State Requirements and the test reports supplied to the State?

Should the ACWD hold some community meetings and speak to these problem areas?

Should the ACWD make available copies of the State Requirements, the ACWD testing procedures, and the ACWD test reports?

Review ACWD monthly reports submitted to the state. Click start, and then click Accept. The Water System ID for ACWD is 00410 (enter it and click Submit).

- Exceedances - displays reports of ecoli and mercury findings
- Samples - reports the monthly report finding and where in the Cove the water was sampled