

Dear Raspberry Residents:

Hope this finds you well. Here is your latest water supply update.

Water Quality

Despite the rainfall/precipitation that's fallen in the last month, we have not yet been able to obtain a viable sample of bacteria for the MPA or source tracking analysis. While that may be frustrating for some, it actually means that we're not seeing much bacteria in the raw water lately. Rest assured we are watching the gauge closely and are prepared to continue the sampling protocol when the conditions for quality sampling are met.

Water Quantity

As reported to you last time, we are moving forward with a demand management plan to help you get to your permitted capacity. Many of you asked that we not consider regulation (mandatory restrictions) but rather, a conservation rate and give you the opportunity to choose with your wallet, how much you would water. Therefore, the cornerstone of the plan is a proposed change to the Community System rate structure. On February 12, staff will recommend to our Board of Directors the addition of two tiers to your rate structure.

Recall that you already have a base rate and a Peak Use rate. The 3rd tier, called the Conservation Tier, is being proposed at approximately 4x the base rate, and would kick in when you use 150% more than your winter quarter use – this is approximately 500 gallons per day, which is just a little higher than where we need each home in Raspberry to be on a daily basis, in order to meet permitted capacity.

The 4th tier, called the Excessive Use tier, is being proposed at 7X the base rate and would kick in when you use 300% more than your winter quarter use or an average of 800 gallons per day.

If the Board approves the Resolution of Intent to add these tiers to your structure, there will be a Public Hearing scheduled in April, which would provide an opportunity for customers to comment on it, prior to a Board vote at its May meeting.

Also mentioned last month - another part of the demand management plan - is to prohibit any new irrigation systems from being installed, from this point on. This will require a new policy be adopted and staff will make that recommendation to the Board for a vote this spring.

More to come through this email update and regular mail to all community members. I continue to appreciate the discussions we're having as a community and one-on-one. I am trying to keep the website updated with all one-on-one Q and As for the benefit of all, so check back often because it's updated after each call, typically weekly.

Thanks and until next time