

Dear Raspberry Residents:

For your monthly update, I have no news on the quality front. Your drinking water continues to meet all standards and is safe to use and drink as normal. We have not had sufficient rain events to collect a viable sample as needed for the final MPA analysis to see if the raw water (prior to treatment) has excessive levels of bacteria and/or other contaminants. It's difficult to conclude what that means. It may be that the spike in bacti last year was an anomaly. We will just have to continue investigating and I will keep you posted on progress. With respect to alternative sources, recent drilling identified a well that could potentially meet your system capacity needs, and we have taken the treatment option as far as we can go for now, in terms of lining it up for State approval if it's deemed appropriate.

On the quantity front, I trust you have received the letter we sent mid-February announcing the resolution of intent to add two new tiers to your water rate structure to encourage conservation. Thanks to those who provided your feedback so far. I have been recording all comments and they have been forwarded to our Finance Committee for consideration.

I have so far only heard from residents who oppose the proposal. If you have comments to share please take a second to let me know by email, or plan to attend the Public Hearing on April 29 at 6:00 pm. If you have questions or want to understand the issue better, you may attend one of the three informational meetings we are hosting. Those meetings are March 12, March 23 and April 1 all at 7:00 pm at our office in Ashburn.

Sometime in March, we will be sending a meter reading device to households that typically use more than 700 gallons per day in the summer to help them track and gauge their use. We have a limited number of additional meters for other customers interested in tracking usage and conserving. Please contact me if you are interested in receiving one of these devices. We are also actively looking at implementing a monthly billing schedule so that it is easier to tie your usage to cost. Last, I am also hoping to schedule the first of a series of monthly landscape or irrigation demonstrations in late March. I am looking to hold the first one in your neighborhood. Details on that later.

With your permission, I would like to pause the monthly/bimonthly email update for the time being, in light of the series of meetings we're hosting over the next 2 months and other letters coming your way through the snail mail. Please let me know if there are any objections to this.

As always, thanks.