

Manager's Column

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### Bottled Water vs. Tap Water – What Do You Value?

The mission of the Nipomo Community Services District is to provide its customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.

When we think of value, we think of a lot of things: the value of a tank of gas, the value of our home, the value of our vehicle, the value of food in our refrigerator. Webster's Dictionary defines value as "the quality of something that makes it more or less desirable, useful, and a thing of quality having intrinsic worth." What about the value of running water in our home?

Did you know that it cost millions of dollars to operate and maintain Nipomo's water system? During the 2012-2013 fiscal year \$3.6 million from the District's water fund went to operate and maintain the water system. It's a 24/7 process of treating, analyzing, delivering, collecting, and returning water into the environment. To break it down more; before water is delivered through your faucets, it is treated and tested for quality and safety. Your used water is then collected, treated again, and returned safely to the environment. This process continues all day, every day.

When comparing water service to widely used consumer goods, the value of water service is clear. The average price per gallon of gas is \$4.00; the average price per gallon of coffee from a coffee shop is \$22.00; the price per gallon of bottled water can be as high as \$25.00. Now, what do you pay for a gallon of water delivered directly to your home? - \$0.004 per gallon. That's right; you pay less than one cent per gallon for treated, safe, drinking water delivered directly to your home. In addition to covering normal use of water, your cost of water funds 3 million gallons of water in storage which is ready should a fire breakout in your home or community. What a bargain.

We value water to support life; we value water to support health and safety; we value water to support our property values, landscaping and recreation. At any cost, the value of water service is incomparable.

If you have questions or comments about this column or NCS D services, please do contact me.

Until next time...

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