

Manager's Column

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### **Insuring Safety of the Water Supply – no easy task**

*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.*

The words “safe reliable water supply” roll off the tongue easy enough, however ‘easier said than done’ applies in a big way when it comes to public water supply. In our proud Country we have grown accustomed to having water at our finger tips 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year with the additional expectation that the water supply is safe to drink.

Meeting these expectations is a big job and the employees of Nipomo Community Services District approach this responsibility with great pride and professionalism. Every day of the week, operators inspect supply well sites. The supply system function is monitored continuously through a radio and web based data acquisition system that allows our operators to monitor and control the system remotely if needed.

Samples of source water (from supply wells) and system water (from multiple randomly selected sample ports throughout the distribution system) are collected on a daily basis to insure the supply is safe. More comprehensive sampling and analyses for a broad list of potential contaminants analyzed at very low levels of detection (“parts per billion” or about a drop in a swimming pool) are carried out routinely as well.

The District’s wells and water system are permitted and regulated by the CA Department of Public Health. The District prepares monthly reports summarizing sampling and provides the reports to the Health Department. Conducting the routine and more comprehensive sampling required to make sure our supply is safe, and making regular written reports to the Health Department, costs tens of thousands of dollars every year - money that I think we can all agree is well spent.

With over 4,000 water connections to the District’s system, this safety related testing cost each customer only a few dollars each year and is included in the cost of your water. Many of us know people who use a private well for supply. It would be cost prohibitive for a private well owner to conduct the level of supply testing District customers enjoy.

Each spring, the District mails every customer a Consumer Confidence Report which summarizes the water system testing results and quality of our supply. Recent Confidence Reports are posted on the District website. Take a look at last year’s. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Until next time...

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