

Maya Jackson

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I am submitting this comment because the water in the downtown district has changed noticeably, and not for the better. Occasionally there is an earthy or musty taste to the water, especially after any repair work on the street. Coffee and tea made with this water taste flat and slightly bitter compared with what I make when I travel. I can taste the difference between morning and evening water, and the evening water is usually harsher. My child developed skin irritation that cleared up only after we started using filtered water for baths. People with weakened immune systems in our community need specific advisories whenever a problem is detected. Pregnant women and infants are the most vulnerable, so safety margins should be strict and well communicated. Aging pipes are likely the main cause of discoloration, and replacing them should be a funded priority. Emergency repairs are fine, but a long-term capital plan would prevent so many of these problems. I would be glad to help organize a neighborhood meeting with the utility to discuss water quality concerns. Neighbors in the downtown district talk about this issue constantly, and almost everyone has a story about odd-looking water. If improvements are made, I would gladly share the results with neighbors and help spread the word.