

## Naomi Barnes

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I would like to describe what daily life looks like with the water quality we currently have in the hillside area. Guests have commented on the taste of the water, and I am honestly a little embarrassed to serve it. Ice cubes made from our tap water come out cloudy and carry a stale taste. After a main break the water looked like weak tea for almost two days before it cleared. Arsenic and other naturally occurring minerals concern me because I depend on city water. Hardness and total dissolved solids seem very high here, based on how quickly my appliances scale up. Chlorine is necessary, but I think the amount used when the weather turns hot is higher than it needs to be. I have sensitive skin, and my dermatologist suggested that the chlorine and hardness may be contributing. Many of the water mains in the north end are more than seventy years old and break far too often. Backflow prevention seems neglected in older buildings, and I would like to see an inspection program. Clear explanations of what each limit means and how close our results come to it would help enormously. I requested a copy of our latest water quality report and found it full of jargon that no ordinary resident can interpret. Local schools should test their drinking fountains regularly and make the results public. Fishing and recreation on the nearby river depend on healthy source water, so protecting the watershed benefits everyone. I am willing to participate in any pilot program, survey, or focus group related to water quality.