

Wei Torres

Submit Date: October 13, 2026 12:00 AM PT

Comment Code: I-424-1

I run a small household budget and have noticed that water quality problems in the south side are costing us real money. Even after boiling, the water keeps a chemical smell that does not go away. Coffee and tea made with this water taste flat and slightly bitter compared with what I make when I travel. Occasionally there is an earthy or musty taste to the water, especially after the utility flushes the hydrants. I have seen brownish or rusty water come out of the faucet several times, usually every spring. After a main break the water looked like weak tea for almost two days before it cleared. News about PFAS, the so-called forever chemicals, has made me wonder what is actually in our water. Many of the water mains in the riverside district are more than seventy years old and break far too often. Independent third-party testing, at least once a year, would build much more trust in the numbers. I tested my own water with a home kit, and the results did not match what the utility reports, which is troubling. Gardeners nearby have noticed that tap water leaves white residue on leaves and seems to stunt some plants. Small businesses such as cafes and bakeries in the older part of the city are also affected, because water taste matters for their products. I urge decision-makers to treat water quality as a long-term commitment and not a crisis-by-crisis response.