

Valeria Flores

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I am commenting as a longtime customer of the local water system in the riverside district. Coffee and tea made with this water taste flat and slightly bitter compared with what I make when I travel. I have stopped cooking rice and pasta with tap water because the flavor of the food changes. I once filled a clear glass and found tiny particles floating in it, which really worried me. Laundry that should come out white sometimes ends up with orange or gray stains. I am concerned about lead from old service lines, because many homes in the north end were built decades ago. I do not want to be an alarmist, but the uncertainty about long-term exposure makes it hard to feel at ease. Public health should be the first consideration when decisions are made about treatment and funding. Several neighbors have reported stomach upset that they suspect is linked to the water, though nobody can prove it. Stormwater and sewer overflows near the intake worry me, and I would like to see separation projects accelerated. Sampling locations should include older neighborhoods and not just the sites that are easiest to reach. Independent third-party testing, at least once a year, would build much more trust in the numbers. We spend more than I would like on bottled water and filter cartridges every month. Many residents are not native English speakers, so notices should be translated into the common local languages. I would like to be notified of any follow-up meetings or public hearings on this topic.