

Alice Chavez

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I am submitting this comment because the water in our small town has changed noticeably, and not for the better. Sediment collects at the bottom of our water pitcher within a day, and the filter turns dark in weeks. The water runs cloudy for a few minutes after long weekends away, and the haze takes a while to settle in a glass. The level of disinfection byproducts in treated water should be disclosed clearly and in plain language. Runoff from road salt and fertilizers eventually reaches our water source, and I fear the long-term effect. Our family doctor asked whether we drink from the tap, which made me realize this is a real health question. As someone caring for an elderly parent, I need to be certain the water is safe for medications and cooking. I have sensitive skin, and my dermatologist suggested that the chlorine and hardness may be contributing. The pump station near us hums loudly and the pressure fluctuates, which makes me doubt that it is properly maintained. Real-time monitoring data for turbidity and chlorine should be available on a public dashboard. The boil-water notice last year arrived after we had already been drinking the water for nearly a day. Any rate increase should be tied directly to measurable improvements in water quality and reliability. Rebates for filters and plumbing replacement would make a real difference for low-income households. Gardeners nearby have noticed that tap water leaves white residue on leaves and seems to stunt some plants. Please prioritize the oldest neighborhoods first, since they have lived with these problems the longest.