

**PINON PINES MUTUAL WATER COMPANY**

[www.pinonpineswater.com](http://www.pinonpineswater.com)

4th Quarter Update

October 1, 2020

**MESSAGE FROM THE WATER SYSTEM MANAGER:**

***Fluoride Mitigation Project:***

Last year we submitted our grant application for funds from the California Water Resource Control Board to start construction on our project. Currently they are finalizing the funding agreement for our project. Once funding is secured, construction can begin on a new well, a blending station, and a new storage tank. Due to the delay experienced due to COVID-19 we now hope to complete construction during 2021. The goal of this project is to facilitate the supply of clean, safe drinking water and replace two of our aging water storage tanks.

***Water Meters:***

We have started installing water meters on some customer's connections. This year we plan on installing smart water meters on up to half of the connections to our system. Once a meter is connected, we will be able to let customers know how much water they are using, and let them compare their usage with what we consider a safe yield for our water resources. **We will not begin billing based on metered usage until a full rate study has been completed, using the data collected from some or all of the meters.** This process will likely extend through the end of 2021. When your residence is selected for a meter installation, you will be given a notice with more information about what to expect.

***Water Conservation:***

Thanks to an average winter we have decided, for the time being, to leave our water conservation status at **Use Responsibly**. We have had average precipitation for 2019/2020 which contributed to the water table remaining relatively full so far this spring. Usage has been abnormally high due to everyone being home so we still would like to encourage you to use water responsibly so we do not have to place conservation measures in place later this year. Please look at your water use practices and make sure that you are using your water efficiently. Our water comes from below our feet, and if over exhausted, it can require costly measures to find a new source of safe drinking water. There are many resources available on the web for water conservation tips and ideas.

***Winter Preparations:***

Winter is coming! It is time to start thinking about preparing your pipes for freezing weather. When you decide to shut your irrigation system off for the winter it is a good idea to shut water off to the control valves and drain(or blow off with compressed air) the water from the whole irrigation system to prevent freeze damage. Please also check the insulation on your outdoor hose bibs and the pipes that bring water into your house. Most of the calls we get involving no water are due to pipes entering the home freezing. In addition to insulation it is a good idea to install pipe heaters, which are available from the hardware store or online.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**Pinon Pines Mutual Water Company Has Levels of Fluoride  
Above the Drinking Water Standard**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. A water analysis taken on 9/2/2020 showed that some of *the drinking water provided by Pinon Pines Mutual Water Company has a fluoride concentration of 3.4 mg/L, Running Annual Average.* This is above the maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 2.0 mg/L.

### **What should I do?**

**Children under the age of nine should use an alternative source of water that is low in fluoride.**

You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products.

- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Rather, *this is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis).*
- *Dental fluorosis may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.*
- *Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/L of fluoride can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Although bone disease may develop in anyone exposed to years of drinking water containing more than 4 mg/L of fluoride, dental fluorosis can occur after a relatively short period of exposure (i.e. months) in children under the age of nine.*
- For other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.
- *Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call the California Department of Public Health, Water Treatment Device Unit at (916) 449-5600 or visit the Department's website at:*
- [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/device/watertreatmentdevices.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/device/watertreatmentdevices.shtml)

### **What happened? What is being done?**

Fluoride contamination is rarely due to human activity. Fluoride occurs naturally in some areas and is found in high concentrations in some of our source water.

We are working with the California State Water Resource Control Board on a funding project to install a blending station and new well to mitigate the fluoride problem.

*For more information, please call Austin Mielke of Pinon Pines Mutual Water Company, at (661) 245-4420 Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly.*

### **YOUR WATER BOARD MEMBERS ARE:**

Brandon Grosh, President	(661) 295-4900
Larry Borcharding, Vice President	(661) 245-1408
Dave Adams, Treasurer	(661) 491-5022
Karen Laumbach, Secretary	(661) 245-1793
John Everroad, At-Large	(661) 645-4831

Please contact any of the Water Board Members if you have any questions.

Austin Mielke, General Manager  
Kelly Mielke, Bookkeeper

(661) 245-4420 This is also the Maintenance number  
(661) 245-4003 This is also the Bookkeeping number