

PINON PINES MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

www.pinonpineswater.com

4th Quarter Update
October 1, 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE WATER SYSTEM MANAGER:

Fluoride Mitigation Project:

As you are aware, the State Water Resources Control Board has reviewed and approved the final plans and specifications. Our project went out to bid and all bids were received and opened on September 22nd, 2022. Our engineering firm, Quad Knopf, is currently going through the packets submitted by five contractors to find the lowest complete bid. We will begin moving ahead once we know which company that we will be working with to drill our new well, and construct the blending station and new storage tank. We will be sure to let you know the construction time frame as soon as we are aware. Thank you for your patience as we work through this and remember, this project will aid in our continuing effort to supply clean, safe drinking water and replace our aging storage tanks.

Water Meters:

Our rate study has been conducted and the PPMWC Board of Directors has been given a rough draft and examples to choose from. The Board has tabled the discussion at the last meeting in order to review the material over the next month to make a decision that will be best for the entire community. Please take these next coming months to review your current and past bills, which shows your metered usage, and try to figure out where you can save water. **We will not begin billing based on metered usage** until the Board of Directors reviews and votes on the rate study package that has been completed by Self-Help Enterprises, using the data collected from some or all meters.

Autumn and Winter Weather Preparations:

Autumn is upon us and it welcomed us with a chilly low of 28.9 degrees. It's time to start thinking about preparing your pipes for the coming freezing weather. When you shut down your irrigation system, be sure to shut water off to the control valves and drain the water from your lines to prevent any freeze damage. Be sure to check the insulation of your outdoor hose bibs and any exposed lines that bring water to your home, as well. Service calls in Autumn/Winter tend to be due to no water. Frozen water lines entering their home is generally the issue. Along with proper insulation, it never hurts to invest in pipe heating cables. They are easy to install yourself and can be a lifesaver. They are available online and from the hardware store.

Water Conservation:

In September of 2021, Gov. Gavin Newsom asked Californians to voluntarily cut water use by 15% - 20% and that Water Suppliers Statewide activate "Level 2" of their contingency plans. I am proud to say our community has risen to the occasion! Compared to the previous year we used 19% less water in July and 21% less water in August! Remember, we are not out of the drought yet so continue being mindful of your water usage and our community can hopefully have water for years to come! PPMWC is still developing the, now required, Drought Preparedness and Response Policy, and it will be turned in to the State by June 1st of 2023. Please continue to limit watering of your beautiful yards to just two to three times a week. To make the most of your water and limit evaporation, please water before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. This is just one recommendation to begin the practice of water conservation. If you feel that you may have a leak on your property, give us a call at (661) 245-4420. We would be happy to come assist you so that we can all do our part to conserve whatever water we can.

New Billing Format and Payment Availability:

We now accept debit/credit card payments through our web portal or over the phone for your convenience. There is a fee of 2.9% + \$.30 per transaction. Remember, the new invoices will detail your usage history in cubic feet. A cubic foot of water is 7.48 gallons. The average person uses approximately 200 cubic feet per month. The average household uses, indoor and outdoor combined, roughly 1,220 cubic feet per month. If your household usage exceeds this amount, please look for ways to conserve.

YOUR WATER BOARD MEMBERS ARE:

Brandon Grosh, President	(661) 295-4900
William Vanek, Vice President	(818) 451-9329
Dave Hymes, Treasurer	(818) 399-7307
Debbie Smith, Secretary	(818) 625-6472
Roger Huff, Member-At-Large	(818) 438 3978

**MEETINGS ARE HELD THE
3RD TUESDAY OF EACH
MONTH AT 6:00 p.m.
at the corner of Deer Trail and
Coldwater Drive**

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

Chuck Winagura, General Manager	(661) 245-4420	This is the Maintenance number
Santa Carruth, Bookkeeper	(661) 245-4003	This is the Bookkeeping number

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. Water analyses taken on 9/14/2022 showed that *the drinking water provided by Pinon Pines Mutual Water Company has a fluoride concentration above the maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 2.0 mg/L: Well #5 of 2.2 mg/L, Running Annual Average; Well #7 of 3.2 mg/L, Running Annual Average.*

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

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 Chuck Winagura 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.