COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM UPGRADE
An Overview for Residents

WHY ARE WE DISCUSSING THIS?

Our community's current water treatment system remains operational and continues to provide safe drinking water. We are fortunate to have a dedicated operator who carefully manages the system and helps ensure water quality every day.

However, the current system is:

- Fully dependent on manual operation and testing.
- Dependent on continuous operator attention and availability.
- Labor-intensive, requiring approximately 14 hours per week of hands-on operation.
- Dependent on the handling and storage of strong chemicals.
- Unable to improve taste and odor issues.
- Unable to reduce hard-water scaling in homes and appliances.
- Limited in its ability to adapt to future community growth and changing groundwater conditions.

In addition, the current treatment system was originally constructed in the late 1960s and is now well beyond its expected service life.

While the system continues to operate safely today through careful maintenance and operator oversight, the underlying treatment technology is no longer commonly installed, manufactured, or widely supported within the water industry. As equipment ages, replacement parts become more difficult to obtain and fewer service providers remain familiar with the technology.

If a major component were to fail, repairs could become increasingly expensive and time-consuming, potentially resulting in extended service interruptions.

One advantage of evaluating replacement options now is that our community has the opportunity to plan proactively while outside funding is available rather than waiting until a major equipment failure forces an urgent and potentially more expensive decision.

An opportunity has become available to install a modern Reverse Osmosis (RO) treatment system using fully secured outside funding.

The purpose of this discussion is to determine whether our community wishes to continue operating the current system or transition to a newer technology designed to improve water quality, increase reliability, and better prepare our community for the future.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE?

If the community chooses the RO option:

• Water would have significantly improved taste and odor.
• Hard water scaling would be greatly reduced.
• Residents would no longer need additional household drinking water filters.
• The system would be professionally monitored 24 hours a day.
• Water quality would be continuously tested and monitored.
• Treatment processes currently performed manually would become automated.
• Local operator labor requirements would be greatly reduced.
• Dependence on constant operator intervention would be minimized.
• The system would be designed to handle future changes in groundwater quality due to industrial over-extraction.

To maintain excellent taste and protect household plumbing, the system would blend a small portion of our natural well water back into the purified RO water. This approach combines the cleanliness and consistency of Reverse Osmosis with the natural minerals associated with high-quality bottled water.

WHAT WOULD NOT CHANGE?

• The capital cost of the project is fully funded.
• The proposal does not require a special assessment.
• Water would continue to come from our existing wells.
• The community would continue to own and operate its water system.
• The existing treatment system would remain available as backup infrastructure.

WHAT DOES “FUTURE READY” MEAN?

The current treatment system was designed for the needs of the past.

The proposed RO system is designed for the needs of the future.

Future ready means more than accommodating growth. It also means replacing aging treatment infrastructure with modern equipment that is actively manufactured, supported, and serviceable for decades to come.

Current community demand would require only a portion of the RO system’s available operating capacity. This means the same equipment could support substantial future growth simply by operating longer within available off-peak power hours.

If future growth ever exceeds double required capacity, an additional modular RO unit can be added without replacing the original RO system.

This provides a practical path for future community growth, changing groundwater conditions, modern infrastructure support, and long-term water reliability for decades to come.

WHAT ABOUT WATER RATES?

Our analysis indicates that the annual cost of producing water with the proposed RO system is approximately the same as our current treatment system.

Future water rate changes, if any, would be determined by County utility policies, inflation, and other operating costs—not by this project itself.

WHAT IS THE REAL QUESTION?

The question is not whether the current system works.

It does.

The question is whether we want to continue relying on a manually operated treatment system that is approaching 60 years of age and has its current limitations, or use available outside funding to invest in a modern automated treatment system that provides:

- Better water quality
- Continuous monitoring
- Reduced chemical handling
- Reduced labor requirements
- Greater reliability
- Modern equipment support
- Future growth capacity
- Protection against changing groundwater conditions

All while maintaining approximately the same cost of water production.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT

This is an important community decision, and we want residents to be part of the conversation.

Please review the attached Frequently Asked Questions document and the detailed Technical Analysis if you would like additional information.

Most importantly, we want to hear your questions, concerns, and suggestions.

Together, we can determine the best path forward for our community's water future.

Submit comments and concerns to:

Mark Carrington
Ad Hoc Committee for Major Projects
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Water Treatment Questions and Concerns
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XEhAtANPQKQD_l61xMeSfg2VcAV5Gmlp/view?usp=drivesdk

COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM STRATEGIC UPGRADE BRIEF
https://drive.google.com/file/d/17QsuwCnKhk7SXniis0LOABHK-QaQYdbJ/view?usp=drivesdk