

PURISSIMA PIPELINE

Billing Statement Message

The District has received a number of requests to provide information on the monthly billing statement that shows how the customer is doing with regard to conservation. Because usage is weather dependent, we believe that a comparison to the District as a whole would be more effective. Therefore, on the bottom half of your bill is a message that compares your usage to the rest of District customers. The calculations are based on historical seasonal usage with the cut-off points at 25%, 50%, 75%, 90%, and 95% for the month.

The billing statement also features the cost you are paying for units used in each tier. Water usage is discretionary to a point and, based on what your usage is costing you, proactive changes to irrigation or indoor use can be made, if you wish. Additionally, we have converted the units into gallons for better visualization. (As an example, a typical double tanker gasoline truck holds approximately 8,500 gallons.)

We hope this information is helpful to you. We would appreciate your feedback with a short statement on the back of your payment stub.

SFPUC's Hetch Hetchy Water the Best

The San Francisco Chronicle ran an article on March 11th regarding the recent water quality results of the nation's 20 water systems, including the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Hetch Hetchy system from where Purissima receives 100% of its water. The American Waterworks Association Research Foundation (AWWARF) tested for 60 compounds found in medicines, household cleaners, and cosmetics.

"We didn't detect anything whatsoever," said Shane Snyder, research manager at the Southern Nevada Water Authority who helped coordinate a study by the research arm of the nation's water utilities. "You guys have the best water that we tested. Period," Snyder said of SFPUC's drinking water. "I don't think we've ever tested drinking water that didn't have any of our target compounds in it."

In a story about test results of the nation's drinking water quality, the Associated Press reported that much of the supply contains traces of pharmaceuticals, solvents, and other contaminants. Among its findings, the news agency said, SFPUC's water contained a sex hormone. The sex hormone was supposedly estradiol, a hormone found in vertebrate animals—mammals, reptiles, birds, and fish.

"In fact, no such compounds turned up in SFPUC's water samples," Snyder said. The mistake apparently resulted from confusion over the AWWARF's laboratory test results conveyed by the SFPUC to the Associated Press. The news service said it was looking into the matter.

National reports of San Francisco's sex-hormone water hit the SFPUC hard. The city claims bragging rights over pure Hetch Hetchy Reservoir water surrounded by nearly 500 square miles of Yosemite Valley wilderness. While other cities in the United States—and around the world—have to drink treated water sometimes tainted with wastewater, the SFPUC, the East Bay Municipal Utilities District and other big Bay Area water purveyors generally take their water from streams above effluent discharges. They protect against animal and human encroachment. The SFPUC serves 2.4 million customers in the city and in Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties...."