

# Water Matters



## Only Tap Water Delivers | Value, Safety and More

The water infrastructure that is below our streets is largely invisible to everyday citizens. But there is no more valuable community asset than water infrastructure and no more vital service than the delivery of safe and sustainable tap water. Tap water delivers public health protection, fire protection, support for the economy, and overall quality of life.

### Public Health Protection

In a world where an estimated 3 million people die every year from preventable waterborne disease, our water systems allow us to drink

[Only Tap Water Delivers | page 2](#)

## Did You Know?

**Tap water is the best deal around, especially when compared with other utilities we use every day.**

SSWD average residential bill (3/4" metered service)	<b>\$52.95/month</b>
Sacramento area average cable TV bill (mid-range services)	<b>\$64-\$77/month<sup>1</sup></b>
Sacramento area average energy bill (electric and gas)	<b>\$197/month<sup>2</sup></b>
California average for cell phone bill (depends on data package)	<b>\$63-\$93/month<sup>3</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> Association of California Water Agencies

<sup>2</sup> Home Energy Saver, affiliated with the US Dept of Energy

<sup>3</sup> JD Powers and Associates survey

## Water with the Weather

As warm afternoons give way to cool evenings and brisk mornings, it reminds us to start making adjustments for the fall season. One very important adjustment is your outdoor watering schedule. Cooler temperatures means less water is needed for lawns and landscapes. Autumn outdoor watering changes include the following:

- Adjust irrigation timers to gradually reduce outdoor watering frequency. As the season changes, reset your timers to water two days or less per week.
- When watering manual, do not water more than two days per week. Use a timer to help you remember when to turn off the water.
- Be sure to turn your irrigation off when it's raining. Installing a rain sensor will turn your system off automatically.
- Renters, if you're not responsible for the irrigation, remind the property owner or landlord to make seasonal adjustments.

Thank you for being water efficient with your landscaping.

from virtually any public tap with a high assurance of safety. Sacramento Suburban Water District's (SSWD) water supply meets rigorous federal and state health-protective standards.

### Fire Protection

A well-maintained water system is critical in protecting our community from the ever-present threat of fire. A system that provides reliable water at an adequate pressure can be the difference between a small fire and an urban inferno. The ability to suppress fires also influences new home construction, business location decisions and insurance rates.

### Support for the Economy

Businesses or housing developments do not succeed without a safe and sustainable water supply. Tap water is critical to businesses' day-to-day operations and is often a primary ingredient in the products they create. The incredible value of water is magnified during times of drought and when populations expand into arid climates.

### Quality of Life

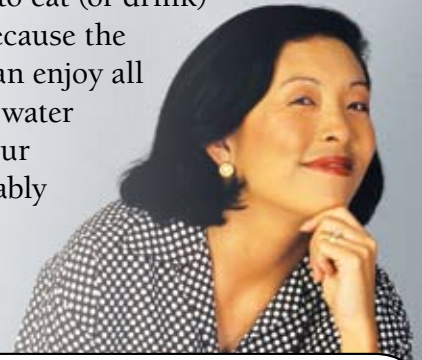
Any measure of a successful society – low mortality rates, economic diversity, productivity, and public safety – is in some way related to access to safe water. In America, we sometimes take for granted that safe water is always accessible to drink, to wash our clothes, to water our lawns and for a myriad of other purposes.

Sacramento Suburban Water District delivers more than water. The District delivers public health, fire protection, support of the economy and the overall quality of life we enjoy. SSWD's job is to ensure that your water keeps flowing not only today, but well into the future. It's all part of the District's commitment to serve you and everyone in our community.

*Presented in cooperation with the American Water Works Association.*

## Food for Thought

If you said tap water is expensive, you may have to eat (or drink) your words. Because the truth is, you can enjoy all the benefits of water delivered to your home for probably less than your cable or cell phone bill.



### Tap Water Facts

**Serving Size:** Any size **Servings Per Property:** Nearly limitless

<b>Dependable</b>	<b>% Daily Value</b>
Reliable	100%
Safe to drink	100%
Delivered at all hours	100%
<b>Flexible</b>	
Water when you want it	100%
Available from every tap (no matter how many)	100%
Use as much as you need	100%
<b>Benefits</b>	
Fire protection – fire flows and pressures	100%
Public health – safe to drink	100%
Quality of life – gardens, parks, washing	100%
Supports economy – no water, no businesses	100%
<b>Cost<sup>1</sup></b>	
Average SSWD residential 3/4" metered service	-33%

<sup>1</sup>Average compared to Sacramento area cable TV bill.

To find out more about this great value of safe drinking water delivered daily to your home or business with rarely an interruption day after day with your choice of uses, contact your water professional at [sswd.org](http://sswd.org) or 916.972.7171.

- Why is my water cloudy sometimes?
- Why is chlorine added to tap water?
- What should my water pressure be?

**Find the answers to these FAQs and more at [sswd.org](http://sswd.org)!**



## How to Reduce Chlorine Taste

Chlorine is extremely effective for disinfecting water and controlling disease-causing microorganisms and pathogens. At the small doses in which it is added to drinking water it is generally harmless, but at some stages in the disinfection process it can have a stronger chlorine taste and smell.

Simple steps can be taken to tone down the smell and taste of chlorine. The first is to expose water to fresh air for a few moments before drinking it. The chlorine dissipates quickly, reducing the taste before you drink.

Another easy method is to store water in the refrigerator in a glass pitcher or carafe. Place your water in a closed container as this prevents water from absorbing odors that might be present in the refrigerator. Warm drinking water has more “taste” than cold water. Ice or a few drops of lemon also can be added to reduce the chlorine taste. 💧

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### Contact SSWD

Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

916.972.7171 Fax 916.972.7639

sswd.org

## Chlorine | Its Role in Safe Drinking Water



Chlorine is a highly effective disinfectant added to public water supplies to kill disease-causing bacteria and micro-organisms. It is considered one of the major public health advances of the 20th century, having greatly reduced water-borne illnesses such as typhoid fever, dysentery and cholera. According to the American Water

Works Association, an estimated 3 million people around the world die from preventable waterborne diseases every year.

Like many public water systems, SSWD adds chlorine to disinfect its water supplies. Added in strict accordance with state and federal regulations, the amount of chlorine in the water is roughly equal to one drop of chlorine in a standard-size bathtub full of water.

The addition of chlorine helps maintain water quality all the way to the tap and keep the water free from any risk of accidental contamination. Drinking water systems that regularly add disinfectants such as chlorine score high marks for water quality and have virtually no occurrence of water-borne diseases. 💧

## Q&A on Flushing

**Q.** Why are District staff running excess water down the street when customers are urged to use water wisely?

**A.** The water is a result of “flushing” or “cleansing” the distribution system and ensures water quality is maintained. Flushing is required when

- ⬆️ new water mains are installed
- ⬆️ a well is installed or put back into service after repairs
- ⬆️ fire hydrant flow tests are conducted
- ⬆️ it is necessary to circulate water in dead end water mains in older parts of the system



The water is flushed to waste, consequently running down the street, because it may contain undesirable levels of chlorine or sediment particles. A neutralizer is added to the flushed water at the discharge point to remove the chlorine prior to the water entering the storm drain system. It is unfortunate that this water must be run to waste, and we do attempt to minimize the volume discharged. However, the District must preserve the quality of water delivered to our customers as our top priority. 💧

# Community Outreach Days



Come talk with staff as SSWD participates at these local events:

**Carmichael Founder's Day**  
**Saturday, September 24, 2011**  
 11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
 Carmichael Park  
 5750 Grant Avenue, Carmichael

**North Highlands Jubilee**  
**Saturday, October 15, 2011**  
 11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
 Freedom Park  
 3200 Freedom Park Drive, McClellan



Check your bill insert (online under "Publications") and the "Calendar of Events" at [sswd.org](http://sswd.org) for upcoming dates and locations of future Community Outreach Days. 💧



[sswd.org](http://sswd.org)

Only Tap Water Delivers  
 Did You Know?  
 Water with the Weather  
 Food for Thought  
 Chlorine: Its Role in Safe  
 Drinking Water  
 How to Reduce Chlorine Taste  
 Q&A on Flushing

**Inside...**



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