



## **IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE**



**IF YOU ARE UTILIZING UNTREATED WATER FROM THE AMADOR WATER AGENCY (IONE PIPELINE OR THE AMADOR CANAL) FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN IRRIGATION, PLEASE BE ADVISED OF THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF UNTREATED WATER (RAW WATER) FOR CONSUMPTION OR DOMESTIC USE.**

The waters provided through your service connection by the Amador Water Agency are **raw** water that has received no treatment whatsoever. That means it is probably not safe for domestic uses, including drinking, cooking, oral hygiene, and other typical household uses of water to support human life and to maintain human hygiene. The water may contain contaminants, including bacteria, viruses, parasites and other pathogenic organisms that cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly jaundice, associated headaches and fatigue. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water, but may also be caused by a number of factors other than your drinking water.

State and Federal law mandate that customers receiving raw water must also be provided with alternative water that meets Safe Drinking Water Act health standards for drinking and cooking. This alternate water may be bottled water or hauled bulk treated water that is provided by a vendor licensed by the Food and Drug Branch of the California Department of Health Services. The alternate water may also be obtained from an approved Point of Entry (POE) water treatment system that is approved by the Amador Water Agency and is operated, maintained, and monitored by the Amador Water Agency, or the alternated water may be treated water purchased at the Amador Water Agency's Tanner Plant at Sutter Hill.

Note that many home treatment units lack the technological features and reliability to assure that the treated water is consistently safe for domestic use. Therefore, when using a home treatment unit, make sure you understand how to maintain it so that it operates well and perform the required maintenance on it on schedule. If purchasing a unit, query the salesperson thoroughly to learn about reliability features and maintenance and how you can help ensure that the unit keeps your water safe.

The law **does not mandate** that alternate water be provided for domestic (common household human consumption) uses other than drinking and cooking, such as oral hygiene, ice preparation, bathing, dishwashing, irrigating or cleaning wounds, and food



preparation including washing fruits and vegetables and meat products. However, that does not mean that there is no risk of illness or disease from untreated water used for these purposes. Therefore, you need to be aware that these uses can also cause disease if

pathogens are present in the water. The adverse effects are typically more severe in infants, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems and life threatening illnesses. To reduce your risk, you should:

- ❖ Use the alternate source for oral hygiene, ice preparation, irrigating or cleaning wounds, and when washing any food that will not subsequently be cooked.
- ❖ Avoid getting any raw water in your mouth when bathing or showering
- ❖ Rinse dishes in the hottest water you can manage and do not use until they have been completely dried either by the air or a clean towel.

As a property owner, it is your responsibility to warn any tenants, guests or subsequent owners that the untreated water is not fit for human consumption.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact us at (209) 223-3018