

Water at Pescadero Middle and High School November 1, 2019

Pescadero Middle and High Schools rely on a small well water system for all operational uses. Even though our water tested safe and drinkable, questions about taste and clarity persisted. As a result, bottled water has been provided to all students since at least 1995 due to the taste and clarity of the water.

For reasons we don't understand, in October 2015, routine water quality testing revealed nitrates in the water at levels higher than safety standards. High levels of nitrates may be a result of any of the following:

- Improper well construction
- Overuse of chemical fertilizers
- Improper disposal of human or animal waste.

At that time, bottled water distribution was expanded to include the district kitchen for all food-related uses.

Timeline:

2015 to the present- LHPUSD has worked with San Mateo County (SMC) to develop and implement a solution to the water quality issue.

2016- SMC contracted with HydroScience to conduct a comprehensive study of the existing well system to determine the best options for the provision of potable water to the site.

2017-2018- Funding was secured for planning and drilling a new well. SMC staff supported the LHPUSD staff to submit permits, biological and geographical studies to allow drilling of new well.

2019- Drilling of new well completed. The well did not produce sufficient water flow to support the drinking needs of the school.

March 2019 to the present- State, County and LHPUSD have worked to extend CSA-11 to the property to support the school and the proposed new Pescadero Fire Station. Design work is anticipated to take more than 6 months followed by permitting and construction which is estimated to take 2 years.

If you have any questions, please call or email Superintendent Amy Wooliever at (650)879-0286 or amyw@lhpUSD.com.