

**Letter to the Editor  
Point Reyes Light  
Ran April 16, 2017**

The Inverness Public Utility District has an amazing water system. We get great water off Mount Vision and have a state-of-the-art treatment system; however, as general manager, I hear the occasional “I like the old water” comment.

The district sympathizes with fond memories of better tasting water, however, let me fill you in on just how good our water is so that you can enjoy it.

First, the “old water” was from the same source as we use now. The water is captured from eight diversions off Mount Vision and brought to the treatment plants. Here is where the change occurred that provides you with the current, higher-quality water: The prior treatment system used particle filtration. Particle filtration filters down to around one micron, or about one-tenth the thickness of a human hair. After the old water was run through the particle filtration, chlorine was added (for disinfection, per state regulations); then it was sent to the distribution system and, ultimately, to your tap.

The “new water” is all the same except for the filtration part. Instead of particle filtration, the water now first goes through an ultrafiltration process that removes particles ranging from 0.01 to 0.10 microns. Afterwards, the water continues through nanofiltration, which further filters the water down to between .01 to a little less than .001 microns.

Our fond memories of the water taste can be attributed to good-tasting organics, including humus, tannins, humic acids and other organic matter. Although these organics masked the chlorine, they reacted with the chlorine and created “disinfection by-products” that include known carcinogens.

We could not continue with the prior particle filtration process because of state and federal health rulings. We also now use just a third to half of the chlorine we used before 2015. If you do detect a slight chlorine odor in the water, just leave water in a pitcher or glass and it will rapidly dissipate. The water now tastes different, but I want to emphasize that it is much better in health quality. We also liked the old water, but we now have higher-quality water for you to drink.

Signed Ken Eichstaedt/General Manager IPUD