

WATER DEPARTMENT

SPECIAL UPDATE

HIGH WATER COLOR AND SULFUR SMELL

We have recently received numerous complaints, about high color in the water, and sulfur smell. It is unusual to have a group of both sulfur and color complaints. DOH has been notified and we are investigating.

SULFUR SMELL: To-date, no member has had sulfur smell in their cold tap water, which usually means the smell is from the water heater. Sulfur smell is almost always created in the water heater. Pour a glass of COLD water, step away from sinks, tubs, and drains, and smell the water. If there is no sulfur smell, the smell is likely coming from the water heater. If you still smell sulfur, don't drink the water, and call us right away.

COLOR: Yellowish color in the water can be caused by iron and tannins (*natural organics*). Neither is a health hazard.

Color in the water always increases in the summer. We suspect that the combination of very warm water, chlorine, and organics (which are slowly increasing as the carbon filtration ages), are reacting together and increasing the color in the system. **This change in water chemistry might also account for increased complaints of sulfur smell from water heaters.**

We are installing a few auto flushers (357th & G, 320th & G, and 300th & W) to bring fresh, cooler water into the system. Cooler water should bring the color down.

If you are experiencing sulfur smell, please email us so we can track the extent of the issues. water@surfsideonline.org