

HARBIN WATER UPDATE

Until recently Harbin's water system was classified as "Ground Water" which means that it comes from underground and is considered clean. The California Department of Public Health reclassified our system "Ground Water under the Direct Influence of Surface Water". Surface influence is from rain water which has touched the earth's surface and has percolated down into the aquifer bringing with it fine clay particles and resulting in increased turbidity (cloudiness) in the water.

Both Federal and State rules about surface influence have become increasingly stringent over the years – causing a trend of reclassifications in Lake County. We are now required to treat our drinking water even though the area surrounding our spring and source water are both "pristine" and has been in use over the past 100 years with no evidence of harmful bacteria. Local surface influence, though, can offer a pathway for pathogens to enter our spring box during the rainy season. Filtration of the water and use of residual disinfectant does make sense under these circumstances and has required a major upgrading of the equipment including filters and disinfection.

California Department of Public Health or CA DOPH, as a multi-barrier approach, has asked us to use an approved disinfectant – chlorine. We are using filters for water (drinking, cooking and washing vegetables) that remove 99% of the chlorine.

We do want to reiterate that in spite of the aforementioned change our source water would continue to be pristine especially when compared to ordinary treated municipal water. Our intention is to continue to offer to our guests the highest quality water through use of best equipment and water purification processes.

Additionally we are applying to CA DOPH, to use water from one of our springs – the Carbonate spring – without any chemical treatment. This would require an 18 months study to ensure this spring is not under any surface influence from rain water.

Our pools water, since it has a separate origin, would not be impacted by this. We will continue to use our present methods of keeping our pools clean with Hydrogen Peroxide and Ozone.