

Hunter Bay Water System Background

Hunter Bay Water is a new community water system being constructed to replace and take over water service for the Shimmering Vista Estates water system. Shimmering Vista Estates is a 9 property Homeowners Association located on the inland end of the Islandale peninsula. The community water system was designed and approved in approximately 1996. After the first few houses were built an increasing trend in the chloride level was noted. Attempts were made to improve the situation including, restricting the flow out of the well and raising the pumping level in the well. These measures did help on the short term but overall the upward chloride & conductivity trend continued. The well started at 72 mg/l of chloride in 1996 and is now above the maximum contaminate level of 250 mg/l.

During 2005 investigative work was done to find a site for a new well. Due to the small lot sizes and topography no suitable site was found within the development. Contact was made with nearby land owners and sounding water systems with no results.

In January 2008, a public meeting was held with San Juan County Health Department to identify possible solutions. Options considered included, rain catchment, trucked water hauling and desalination. Desalination was selected by the homeowners as the best solution.

The Islandale peninsula was divided into small lots many years ago without a unified water system. As a result five group B systems have been constructed and numerous private wells have been drilled. The area is well known as having marginal ground water and is listed on the San Juan County known Sea Water Intrusion Map.

The mission statement of the Hunter Bay Water System is: To provide at reasonable cost a stable source of water for the persons that currently have failing wells and provide a willing utility capable of supplying water for individuals that may experience shortage in the future.

The system will be owned and democratically controlled by its members.