

Tap vs. Bottled Water Taste Test, Earth Day April 22nd 2009

Adam Kern, EM: akern@stanford.edu
Stanford University, Utilities Division



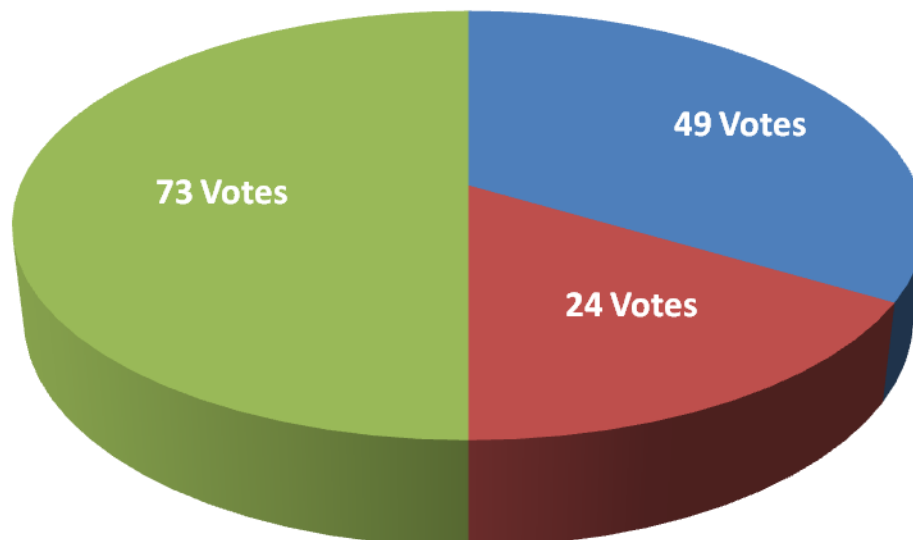
RESULTS: We had a total of 146 participants complete the water taste test.

1st PLACE: SFPUC FILTERED TAP WATER (*filtered at point of use*)

2ND PLACE: SFPUC TAP WATER (*not filtered at point of use*)

3RD PLACE: ARROWHEAD MOUNTAIN SPRING WATER

- Source A - Tap Water (SFPUC, not filtered at point of use)
- Source B - Bottled Water (Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water)
- Source C - Filtered Tap Water (SFPUC, filtered at point of use)



TAP vs. BOTTLED WATER TASTE TEST, EARTH DAY APRIL 22nd 2009 WATER SOURCES/QUALITY REVEALED

A. Tap Water

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM (Not filtered at point of use)

THE HETCH HETCHY WATERSHED

An area located in Yosemite National Park, provides approximately 85% of San Francisco's total water needs. Spring snowmelt runs down the Tuolumne River and fills Hetch Hetchy, the largest reservoir in the SFPUC system. The surface water in the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is treated, but not filtered.

THE ALAMEDA AND PENINSULA WATERSHEDS

Together the Alameda and Peninsula watersheds (6 reservoirs in total) produce about 15% of the total SFPUC water supply. Some also store Hetch Hetchy water for use by San Francisco. These local water sources are treated and filtered before delivery.

(Source: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, 2009)

For information on water quality visit: http://lbre.stanford.edu/sem/drinking_water

For information on water sources visit: http://sfwater.org/msc_main.cfm/MC_ID/13/MSC_ID/165

B. Bottled Water

ARROWHEAD MOUNTAIN SPRING WATER

Southern California's San Bernardino Mountains is the location of the original cold-water source for Arrowhead Brand Mountain Spring Water. Once, just five boreholes into this remarkable mountainside site supplied every drop of Arrowhead spring water. Today, the brand's sources span from the United States to Canada, including multiple sites throughout the region of the original source—sources in an extraordinary 11,000-acre watershed outside San Francisco, and sources as far north as the Canadian Rockies.

(Source: Nestle Waters North America, 2009)

For information on water quality visit;

<http://www.nestle-watersna.com/Menu/OurBrands/ArrowHead/Quality+Report.htm>

C. Filtered Tap Water

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM (Filtered at point of use)

A carbon based point of use filter was used on the tap water supply. The use of a filter can reduce sediment, chlorine, and taste/odor from the tap. Typically filtration of sediment and taste/odor is not necessary on campus due to the high quality of our water source.

(Source: In Sink Erator, 2009)

For the filtration specification sheet visit the following link:

http://www.insinkerator.com/pdf/spec_F-201R.pdf