

Well-water samples fine, treatment plan unneeded

Samples from a new Aptos water well are so good, Robert Johnson, Soquel Creek Water District general manager said yesterday, that the district won't have to construct a quarter-million dollar water treatment plant.

Johnson said the water samples were taken from three different water-bearing strata after a test well was drilled at the corner of Ledyard and Arden Ways, behind the Aptos library.

The state sets maximum levels for iron and manganese in drinking water, and requires water districts to build filtration plants when the levels exceed the state levels of 0.3 parts per million (ppm) of iron and .05 ppm of manganese.

Samples from the 1,220 foot level — the deepest level reached by the test drill —

showed the highest amounts of iron and manganese: 6.6 ppm of iron and .08 ppm of manganese.

The samples taken from two shallower depths — 850 feet and 560 feet — were far more acceptable, Johnson said. The water analysis of the 850 foot depth sample showed .09 ppm of iron and less than 0.01 ppm of manganese.

The 560 foot level produces water with 0.11 ppm of iron and 0.01 ppm of manganese.

There is one negative point, he added. The district had hoped for a water well that would produce 500 gallons per minute of water. Projections for this well are between 350-450 gallons a minute. But as Johnson said, the district will save enough by not having to build a water treatment plant that a second well could be drilled.