

## **WHY USE BOTTLED WATER WHEN YOU HAVE “MASSAPEQUA WATER ON TAP”?**

The Massapequa Water District encourages its consumers to become well informed when deciding to use bottled water rather than tap water. The District adheres to stringent regulations and sampling criteria and has met and/or exceeded all of the primary drinking water standards mandated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, New York State Department of Health and the Nassau County Department of Health. It is our pleasure to provide our consumers with the safest drinking water possible.

Attached for your review and information is a copy of a press release AWWA sent to select media in response to the release of a Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) report on the quality of bottled water. The report states that bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water and questions the bottled water regulatory program. The report is available at [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org). The American Water Works Association (AWWA) has also called on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure public health by improving regulatory and monitoring standards for bottled water products as petitioned by the NRDC.

The NRDC study, "Bottled Water: Pure Drink or Pure Hype," found after testing more than 1,000 bottles that about one fourth of the bottled water brands (23 of 103 waters, or 22 percent) were contaminated at levels violating strict enforceable state (California) limits for the state in which they were purchased, in at least one sample. They also found that almost one fifth of the waters tested (18 of 103, or 17 percent) exceeded unenforceable sanitary guidelines for microbiological purity (heterotrophic-plate-count [HPC] bacteria guidelines, adopted in some states, the European Union (EU), and recommended by the bottled water industry) in at least one test. In all, at least one sample of one third of the waters tested (34 of 103, or 33 percent) exceeded a state enforceable standard for bacterial or chemical contamination, a non-enforceable microbiological-purity (HPC) guideline, or both.

No one should assume that just because water comes from a bottle that it is necessarily any purer or safer than most tap water. That is why the Massapequa Water District encourages its consumers to become informed and is confident that once they do, their choice will be the safe, clean water supplied by the District.