

## **Reasons for a municipal water system from a Public Health perspective:**

- A public water system is an incentive for teachers, public servants and other residents who want to serve the valley and live here. Parents can rest assured that the water they are giving their families is safe.
- Many Boonville residents are renters and are not in control of the maintenance of their water system. This is a social determinant of health that raises their risk for adverse health implications. Additionally, maintaining a well can be an expense that not all land-owners can support. This puts the whole community at risk since many water-borne illnesses can be very easy to transmit.
- Public health issues are identified and corrected much faster with a community water system (potential reduction in disease).
- Having a public water system will require regular monitoring of water safety and therefore will protect those in the district and those outside as well.
- An unregulated water system affects children, working class and elderly or those who do not have the power to do anything about their exposure.
- E-coli can be fatal, nitrates are cancer causing-causes "blue baby" syndrome, is detrimental to pregnant women and their unborn children.
- Water-borne illness and chemical toxins can cause many health conditions including gastrointestinal illness, reproductive problems, cancers and neurological disorders. Infants, young children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people whose immune systems are compromised because of AIDS, chemotherapy, or transplant medications, may be especially susceptible to illness from some contaminants.
- Common contaminants found in wells include: copper, arsenic, Lead, Norovirus, Rotavirus, Radon, Salmonella, Shigella, E-Coli, Enterovirus, Campylobacter, Giardia, Cryptosporidium
- A shared system is a safety-net in-case wells run dry for all of our community members in the system (It can happen to any of us!).
- Climate change may impact certain risks to our water system (flooding, droughts) and an increase in water-borne illness is one outcome we are seeing around the world
- Pooled resources ensures everyone has a higher standard of water safety whereas waiting for individual land-owners to rectify their problems can impact others and there is no guarantee they will address their problem (or be aware of them since water testing is not a routine requirement).