Atima

Atima, Santa Bárbara

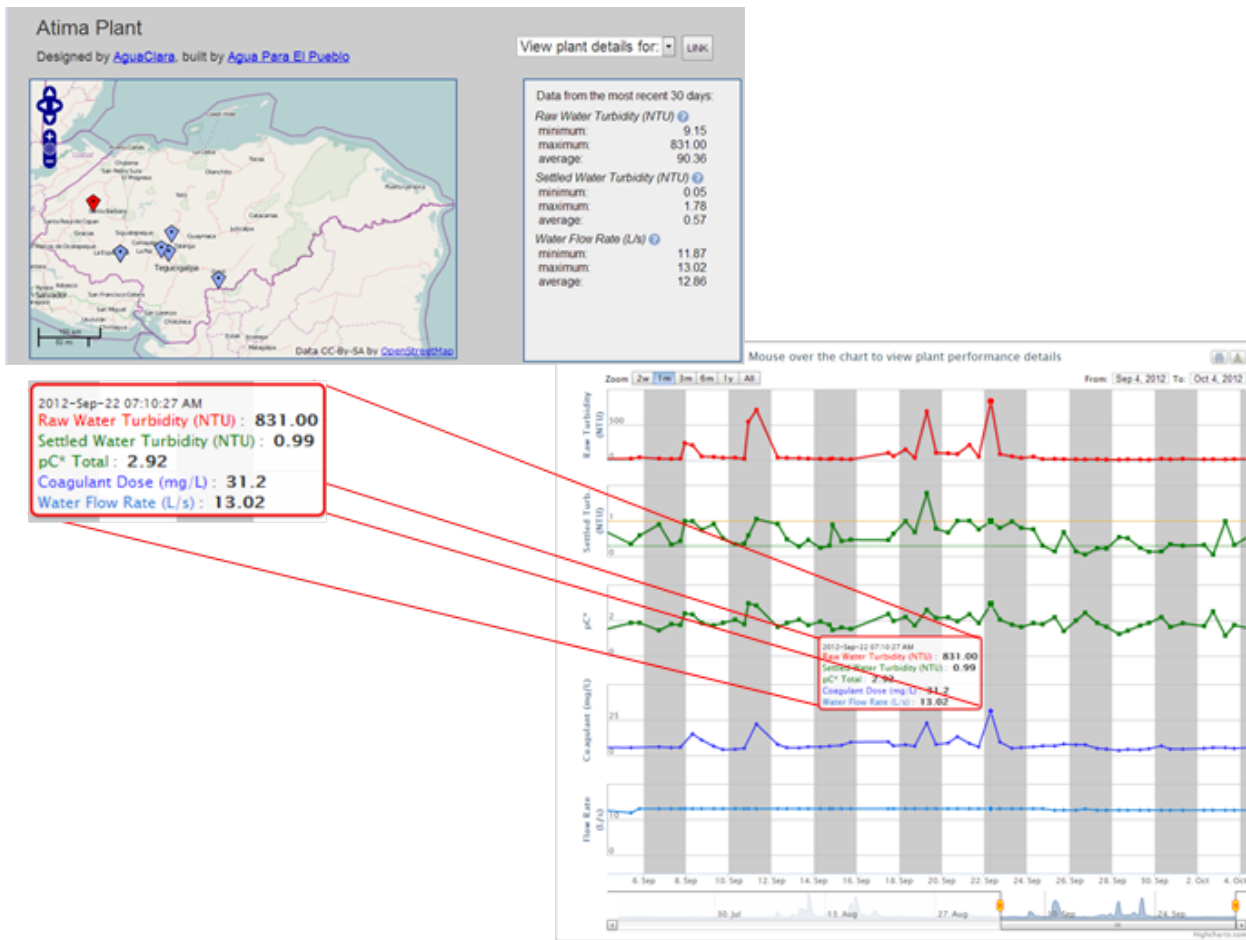The Atima Water Treatment Plant at inauguration, June 23, 2012.

The Story

The story of an AguaClara plant in Atima begins in 2010 with a connection between a Peace Corps volunteer in Atima and the US-based Organization for Community Health Outreach (OCHO) which holds an annual free clinic in Atima. Doctors noticed that the vast majority of illnesses they were treating were waterborne and learned of AguaClara technology from the local Peace Corps volunteer. OCHO returned from their trip seeking a way to build an AguaClara treatment plant and through Dr. Ken Tellerman, found their local Rotary Club was an excellent vehicle to raise the funds. The Rotary effort was coordinated by Mary Anne Rishebarger of the Baltimore Rotary Club with help from AguaClara Eningeer Dan Smith, the engineer assigned to the project in Honduras. Mary Anne went on OCHO's medical mission trip with her daughter, Angie, in 2011 and returned home highly motivated to raise the funds. Both Dan and Mary Anne made presentations at various clubs to do just that. The funds raised by OCHO were combined with those of other Maryland Rotary Clubs and, via a Rotary International global grant, provided the funding to construct the water treatment facility. As the project neared completion, AguaClara Engineers Jeff Will and Andrew Hart were brought onto the project to work with the construction team. With the plant up and running, the difference in water quality is stark.

Construction and Capacity Building

The construction and operator training process was photographed during the project`s execution. You can find pictures with captions in English and Spanish on our Picasa here .

Ongoing Performance Monitoring

Through the work of Chris Kelley, a PhD student at John's Hopkins University, in collaboration with AguaClara and our Honduran partner, Agua Para el Pueblo (APP), a system of recording performance data has been set up and is viewable online. The most recent data can be found here .