



JULY 2007

PARAISO DE AMELIA

The electric installation is complete. Lot owners are responsible for getting electrical permits, meters and connections for their properties.

Southwestern Nicaragua is one of the driest areas in Central America. There are typically 2 seasons, wet and dry. The wet season lasts from May to November and the dry season from November to May. During the dry season, virtually no rain occurs. There is no naturally occurring aquifer that is easily tapped into. Most homes have hand dug wells with a few having drilled wells. Typical hand dug wells are 30-100 feet while drilled wells can go over 400 feet. The water collected in either type of well is a result of water underground to the ocean that was deposited during the rainy season. Consequently, there is a limited amount of water available for consumption. Because of this, lot owners are required to collect and store rain water for their domestic use. During the rainy season, adequate rainfall occurs to ensure a continued supply of water throughout the dry season. Designs and engineering assistance for the collection systems are available locally. Normally, rainwater is collected from the roof and / or other large surfaces and piped into a cistern via gutters. The cistern can be separate from the house or integrated into the houses design.

Filtering and purification systems are available locally. Costs will vary depending on the size of collection system, but typically will average between 2 and 5 percent of the construction costs of the house. Paraiso de Amelia will supply water to lot owners that will be metered and charged. The water Paraiso de Amelia supplies is to help the lot owners maintain pool water levels.

Work continues on the water distribution system. Two cisterns, a well and the pumps are already installed. Work on a second well continues and should be finished in the very near future.

Sewage treatment systems are the responsibility of the lot owners. Treatment systems available for the lot owner are of two varieties: a closed system that will need to be pumped out or an aerobic treatment system. There are companies available locally that can be contracted to pump out the septic system as required. The aerobic treatment system has two advantages over a closed system. The first is less maintenance expense and the second is water reuse. The aerobic system treated discharge water can be used to keep the owners yard watered. This would save money for the owner and help conserve the environment. The only disadvantage is the cost. It is about twice the expense of a closed system, but with the savings obtained by reusing the water, the aerobic system will pay for itself in only a few years.

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