



Meeting Date: 07/27/2010

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Prepared By: Anthony Emmert, Water Resources Manager

Agenda Item No. K-2

Reviewed By: City Manager MMH

City Attorney SMF

Finance JC

Public Works W.R.

DATE: July 19, 2010

TO: City Council

FROM: Mark S. Norris, Assistant Public Works Director
Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Drinking Water Public Health Goals Report 2010

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council hold a public hearing to receive and respond to public comments on the Drinking Water Public Health Goals Report 2010.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code, Section 116470 (b) through (f), the California Department of Public Health requires the City of Oxnard to prepare a Drinking Water Public Health Goals (PHGs) Report every three years. The purpose of a PHG Report is to provide information on how water quality can be improved and brought closer to objective health goals. The Drinking Water PHG Report 2010 documents the drinking water constituents in the sources of the City's drinking water found to be above the respective state PHGs, or federal maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs) during calendar years 2007, 2008, and 2009.

In addition to the PHG Report, the City prepares and distributes a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to all of its water customers each spring. This CCR summarizes the City's extensive water quality testing program of the prior year. The water that the City provides to its over 197,000 residents and businesses consistently meets or exceeds all enforceable water quality standards, or maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), as detailed in the CCR.

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) sets PHGs, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) sets MCLGs. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. The mere presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. Both PHGs and MCLGs are non-enforceable goals for the concentration of constituents in a water supply at which a minimal to "zero" risk to public health is expected. The OEHHA and the USEPA develop the PHGs and MCLGs in a very conservative manner because scientific data on the health effects of long

exposures to very low levels of contaminants is often limited. These goals are often not practically achievable because: 1) the technology to remove a constituent to the zero risk level may not exist, 2) monitoring equipment may not be sensitive enough to determine whether it has been achieved, or 3) the costs to remove the constituent may be prohibitive. Both the federal and state governments use these goals as “initial targets” in the development or modification of their enforceable MCLs.

This PHG Report, as well as the annual CCRs, highlights important realities about the safety of drinking water:

1. Drinking water, even if it is in full compliance with existing water quality standards, may expose customers to some level of risk, although that risk may be very low in comparison to other sources of health risks.
2. There are significant costs and technology limitations associated with water treatment to reduce these very low risks.
3. No public water supply can meet all PHGs and MCLGs all the time.

To approach the level of PHGs and MCLGs for all detected contaminants using currently available treatment technology, the City would need to fund and construct extensive additional water treatment facilities and greatly increase its water treatment operating budget. Given the very low risk associated with the City’s existing potable water product, the very large cost increases that would result from treating it further are not warranted.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts to adopting the report.

AAE:joh

Attachment #1 – Drinking Water Public Health Goals Report 2010

Note: Attachment # 1 has been provided to City Council under separate cover. Copies for review are available at the Circulation Desk in the Library after 6:00 p.m. on Thursday prior to the Council meeting and in the City Clerk’s Office after 8:00 a.m. on Monday prior to the Council meeting.