

“Placerville, a Unique Historical Past Forging into a Golden Future “

City Manager’s Report
January 8, 2019 City Council Meeting
Prepared by: Rick Ferriera, Director of Public Works



Item #: 12.5

Subject: Acknowledge and file the Lead and Copper Report update to the community.

Purpose: To provide City Council and the community with an update on lead and copper water reporting within the City of Placerville.

Background:

In 1991, EPA published a regulation to control lead and copper in drinking water. This regulation is known as the Lead and Copper Rule (also referred to as the LCR). Since 1991 the Lead and Copper Rule has undergone various revisions.

The State Water Board (through the Division of Drinking Water, DDW) enforces the Lead and Copper Rule, which follows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (US EPA’s) Lead and Copper Rule, and is used to protect the public’s drinking water from metals that can adversely affect public health. The Lead and Copper Rule requires water systems to monitor lead and copper levels at the consumers’ taps. If action levels for lead or copper are exceeded, installation or modifications to corrosion control treatment is required. If the action level for lead is exceeded, public notification is required.

California's Lead and Copper Rule begins with Section 64670 of Title 22, California Code of Regulations see Division of Drinking Water, Drinking Water Law Book for these regulations.

The City of Placerville purchases treated drinking water from El Dorado Irrigation District through a bulk metered water distribution system. The treatment technique for the rule requires systems to monitor drinking water at customer taps. If lead concentrations exceed an action level of 15 ppb or copper concentrations exceed an action level of 1.3 ppm in more than 10% of customer taps sampled, the system must undertake a number of additional actions to control corrosion. If the action level for lead is exceeded, the system must also inform the public about steps they should take to protect their health and may have to replace lead service lines under their control.

Public water systems are required to provide information to their customers and consumers about the quality of their drinking water. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with water service lines and home plumbing.

The city has been testing for lead and copper since 1992 and is on a reduced monitoring plan based on the sampling levels. The reduced sampling plan requires the city to perform 25 samples from around the city every 3 years. Sampling is performed on private residence not on the city’s public water system. The 2015 lead samples were far below action levels and a majority was ND (not detected). The 2018 lead samples were all ND (not detected).

The City of Placerville provides lead and copper information in its water systems annual Consumer Confidence Reports. The city's Consumer Confidence Reports are available on the City's Web site at <https://www.cityofplacerville.org/drinking-water-system>

The city is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in private plumbing components. If any person is concerned about lead in their water, they may wish to have their water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, test methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the states Drinking Water Hotline: 1 800-426-4791, or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

In mid-2017, the State Division of Drinking Water (DDW) rolled out a new way for laboratories to report Lead & Copper data. This new process uses the Lab-to-State (LTS) portal which allows laboratories to submit Lead & Copper data electronically, resulting in faster and more efficient reporting. With Lab-to-State (LTS), data goes directly to the Water Boards Division of Drinking Water's (DDW) compliance database, the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS), making it readily available to Division of Drinking Water (DDW).

In January 2017 the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water amended public water system's domestic water supply permits to require for lead monitoring and lead sample result interpretation at Kindergarten to 12th grade schools served by the water system that have submitted a written request for lead sampling related assistance. In 2017, 3 out of 4 schools in Placerville served by the City's Main Water System requested sampling. Residents may contact their individual school for a copy of the results or email the State Lead Sampling for Schools Specialist at DDW-PLU@waterboards.ca.gov requesting the results.

Discussion:

The City of Placerville has performed a preliminary field survey of our domestic water system for the potential of lead piping in our water service lines. It is estimated that the city has approximately 425 water services with the potential to have a lead component. The only way to verify these services is to physically dig up the water lines and verify. It is city policy that when a lead service line is found it is immediately replaced. Based on current lead and copper sampling the City of Placerville is below the action levels and does not pose any health risk.

The lead component that may exist in these services is called a goose neck and is only an approximate 2 foot section of pipe. Therefore the potential for increased lead coming from these services is minimized.

Options:

1. Acknowledge and file the community report.
2. Provide additional direction to staff.

Cost:

This is an information item only, and there are no costs associated with the recommended action.

Budget Impact:

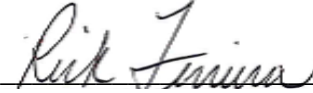
There are no budget impacts associated with the recommended action.

Recommendation:

Acknowledge and file the Measure Lead and Copper update to the community.



M. Cleve Morris, City Manager



Rick Ferriera, Director of Public Works

Attachments:

1. Annual Consumer Confident Report (CCR) to the Community Brochure