



DATE: January 8, 2018

TO: Council Sustainability Committee

FROM: Director of Utilities & Environmental Services

SUBJECT: Lead Testing in School Drinking Water

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee reviews and comments on this informational report.

SUMMARY

Public drinking water supplies must meet all federal and state water quality standards, including thresholds for lead and copper contaminants, as measured at consumers' taps. Lead sampling, which is required every three years, was last performed by the City of Hayward in 2016. The City met the requirements. Recent actions by the State have prompted further requirements for water purveyors, such as the City of Hayward, to perform lead testing in K-12 schools. This report provides an update to the ongoing lead sampling program for Hayward schools.

BACKGROUND

On January 9, 2017, Committee members reviewed [information](#) regarding federal and state water quality standards, including lead, and the responsibilities of water purveyors for ensuring that the water delivered to the City's residents and businesses meet the requirements. At that time, the Committee directed City staff to be proactive by reaching out to school officials of institutions located within Hayward's service area and to work cooperatively to implement a lead sampling program.

DISCUSSION

Hayward has close to fifty schools, public and private, serving kindergarten through high school grades. In February 2017, the City and Hayward Unified School District (HUSD) initiated discussions regarding sampling and testing in drinking water at HUSD schools. HUSD has requested that all HUSD schools served by City water be tested for lead and has designated HUSD staff to work cooperatively with City staff to implement the requested lead sampling program.

Sampling at the first HUSD school site, Bowman Elementary School, was conducted in late August 2017. Sampling at three additional schools, Mt. Eden High School, Leadership Public School, and Palma Ceia Elementary School has also been completed as of the date this report was written.

Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School and Southgate Elementary School are both scheduled for sampling in the beginning of 2018. The legislation gives the schools 60 days to disclose the test results along with any corrective actions they may have taken. The City only plans to release sampling results after coordination with HUSD. City staff is also working with HUSD staff on implementation of a comprehensive sampling plan for all schools in the upcoming month.

Sampling is being conducted per the sampling procedures created by the State. The water purveyor must provide and discuss the sample results with the school within ten days of receipt of the sample results from the testing laboratory, and within two business days of receipt when the sample results include an Action Level exceedance, as well as provide information regarding potential corrective actions. Repeat samples, if required due to results with an Action Level exceedance, must be collected within ten business days of the receipt of the previous sample results, as well as after any corrective action is taken by the school. Repeat sampling will not be conducted if the school chooses to remove the tap from service. Additionally, the water purveyor may not release the sampling results to the public for sixty days following the receipt of the initial sample results.

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT

The water purveyor is responsible for all costs associated with collecting, analyzing, and reporting drinking water samples for lead testing at California schools and is required to meet with authorized school representatives to develop a sampling plan and review the sampling results. These additional costs are relatively low and can be absorbed in the current budget.

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

Water Quality. Water quality monitoring is critical to ensuring that water supplies meet all federal and state standards for public health.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Staff has been proactive in communicating with local schools and extending offers of assistance regarding lead testing. A press release article regarding lead testing in schools was published on the City's website earlier this year and provides links to the State's website for additional information on the program.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to work cooperatively with HUSD staff to ensure that the lead sampling plan stays on schedule and is executed in accordance with the State directive. Staff will update the Committee on new developments as the sampling continues.

Prepared by: Alicia Sargiotto, Management Analyst

Recommended by: Alex Ameri, Director of Utilities & Environmental Services

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. McAdoo', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kelly McAdoo, City Manager