

item to be heard 1/13/98

for information only

DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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December 11, 1997

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City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: FLUORIDATION OF THE CITY'S WATER SUPPLIES

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-wide

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is for information only in response to a request by Councilmember Waters.

CONTACT PERSON: Jim Sequeira, Director of Utilities, 433-6607

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: January 13, 1998

SUMMARY:

It has been requested that the City of Sacramento consider paying for the annual costs of adding fluoride to its water supplies if the capital facilities associated with fluoridation can be constructed at no cost to the City. Installation of chemical feed and storage equipment is estimated to cost \$1,200,000 and initial annual costs to purchase the chemical and maintain equipment are approximately \$350,000.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION

None.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1853 the City of Sacramento's water supply has not had fluoride either naturally present in sufficient amount or added to it as a means of preventing dental decay. However, State legislation passed in 1996 mandated that water systems with more than 10,000 service connections, that do not presently add fluoride to their water supplies must do so if sufficient

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JAN 8 1968
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

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funds to pay capital and associated annual costs are made available from sources other than their ratepayers.

Since passage of State legislation, the Department of Health Services has created a prioritized listing of water systems requiring fluoridation funding. This listing is ranked based on the least cost per customer connection. Sacramento ranks 29th. The State of California is spearheading a campaign to find money to fund water fluoridation, but in the near term it is not expected to find adequate funds for Sacramento.

The Sacramento Dental Association has applied for a grant from the Sierra Health Foundation to cover the City's start-up costs (i.e., costs to install chemical storage and feed equipment) at two surface water treatment plants and 28 groundwater wells. However, once this equipment is installed, the fluoride chemical must be purchased on an ongoing basis and equipment maintained. The local dental association has requested that the City cover the annual operational costs if the association obtains the capital funding.

The estimate of annual operations and maintenance costs of the fluoride storage and dosing system is \$350,000. As the water demand increases, the amount of fluoride will also increase resulting in increased costs. In addition, market increases in the cost of the chemical will also drive annual operating costs upward.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Annual operating costs of \$350,000 are equivalent to a 1.2 percent increase in water rates. If there is no increase in customer rates, the additional funding would need to be generated by reducing program funding levels in other areas such as Plant Services operations or the Water Fund capital improvement program. Such program spending reductions would not be one time reductions but rather annual and ongoing.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

As there is no City Council action called for as a result of this report, environmental review is not required.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Historically, the issue of fluoridating the City's water supply has been emotionally charged and has been rejected at least once by the voters. Past policy has been to leave the decision to the community at the voting booth.

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MBE/WBE

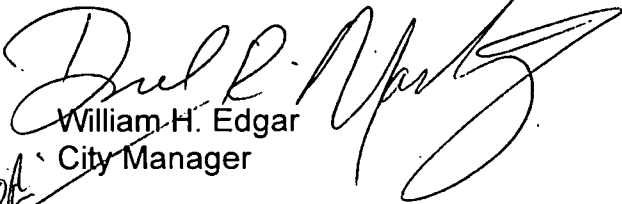
There are no MBE or WBE issues associated with this report as no services or supplies are being purchased.

Respectfully Submitted By:



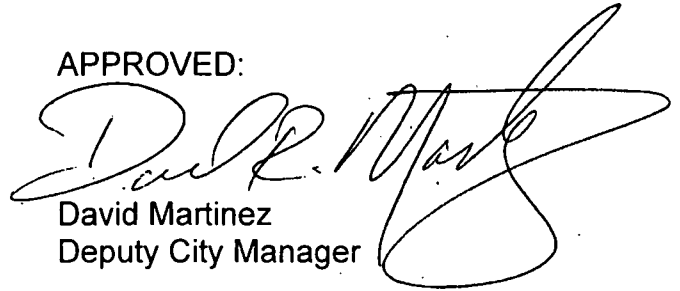
Jim Sequeira
Director of Utilities

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



William H. Edgar
City Manager

APPROVED:



David Martinez
Deputy City Manager

From: Lynne Halsted
To: Valerie Burrowes
Subject: Re: Jim Sequeira 6607

He likes that idea. Thanks!

>>> Valerie Burrowes 12/11/97 02:54PM >>>

Advise him that I have no problem in releasing the report early. My recommendation is this:

Get the report to us by December 29th, we will include it on the January 6th agenda under PUBLIC REVIEW ITEMS (an area that allows for the public to see reports early) and then we will put it on for January 13th under afternoon Staff Reports to be heard.

>>> Lynne Halsted 12/11/97 02:49PM >>>

Question: Because we do not allow the public access to staff reports before noon on the Friday before the Council meeting - Jim is asking for your recommendation on the "Floridation Report" that he would like to distribute to the public. Can he stamp it "draft" and distribute it???? I'll be glad to call him back if you like.