

County of Santa Clara

Public Health Department



Public Health Administration
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DATE: June 11, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

FROM: René G. Santiago, Deputy County Executive & Director
County of Santa Clara Health System

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René G Santiago

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Sara H. Cody, MD, Health Officer and Public Health Director

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Sara Cody

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SUBJECT: Report related Fluoridation of Water Facilities

At the April 17, 2018 Board of Supervisor's meeting, following the Public Health Department's water fluoridation presentation, Supervisor Yeager requested that the Public Health Department provide an off-agenda report on timelines and possible locations of future water fluoridation projects. This report provides the requested information.

BACKGROUND

Because San Jose Water Company (SJWC) provides water to such a large proportion of the county's population, supporting its fluoridation efforts is important to the County. After an initial analysis of the costs to fluoridate the entire SJWC system in 2014, the team decided to focus initial efforts on ensuring optimal fluoridation for East San Jose, because the area is home to a large number of low income families and oral health disease is more prevalent in low income communities. Data from an East San Jose dental clinic underscored the severity of the problem for children on the East Side.

As has been communicated to the Board in past updates, the Public Health Department is currently working with SJWC on the McLaughlin well site project. The McLaughlin well site is a new well that will eventually provide water to most of the Columbine zone, one of the two pressure zones that primarily services East San Jose. The population living in the Columbine Zone currently receives water mainly from the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Santa Teresa treatment plant, which began fluoridating water in December 2016. When the McLaughlin well site becomes operational, the population served by the Columbine Zone would no longer receive optimally fluoridated water unless the McLaughlin well is fluoridated.

The Public Health Department, in partnership with Facilities and Fleet (FAF), has been working with SJWC over the past year to finalize this project. Currently, SJWC has retained a consultant to complete a 60% design to develop the guaranteed maximum price for the project. The agreement between the County and SJWC for the project will be finalized once the 60% design is complete.

Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Dave Cortese, Susan Ellenberg, S. Joseph Simitian
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith

Public Health Department staff have worked closely with the California Department of Public Health Oral Health Program staff to ensure that the contract and project align with the County's grant agreement for Proposition 56 funding, which is the funding that will be used to pay for the well field fluoridation project. Once the McLaughlin well field is operational, it will provide up to 100% of the water in the Columbine Zone, corresponding to a population of up to 144,712.

The next phase of the community water fluoridation project is fluoridating additional well stations, targeting those that will have the greatest impact based on population reach and the distribution of low-income households and children living in poverty. Based on previous examination and additional data shared by SJWC, the Cambrian and Dow Zones were identified as priority pressure zone candidates for fluoridation and higher risk zones. The Cambrian and Dow Zones each represent 12% of all poor children within Santa Clara County. The Cambrian and Dow Zones have a total population reach of 207,645 and 194,796 respectively. Public Health Department and SJWC staff have met several times to identify priority fluoridation zones within the Cambrian and Dow zones. Six wells would need to be fluoridated to reach the desired population: 12th Street well station; 17th Street well station; Buena Vista well station; Cottage Grove well station; Willow Glen well station; and Will Wool well station. The next steps include identifying the cost of each project and, once estimates have been established, determine sequence and timeline for those projects. This will take place once the McLaughlin well site project is finished.

Please contact Beverley White-Macklin for additional information or if you have questions.

cc: Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer
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