

Agenda Report

September 12, 2016

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Municipal Services Committee (August 9, 2016)

FROM: Water and Power Department

SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENT'S 2016 PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS REPORT ON WATER QUALITY

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council conduct a public hearing, receive public testimony on the Water and Power Department's recommended 2016 Public Health Goals ("PHG") Report, and upon closing the public hearing:

1. Find that the following proposed actions related to the City of Pasadena's Report on Water Quality Relative to PHGs is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060 (c)(2), 15060 (c)(3) and 15378, as the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment; and
2. Accept and approve the 2016 PHG Report.

BACKGROUND:

Enforceable Water Quality Standards

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("USEPA") and state agencies such as the California Environmental Protection Agency ("CalEPA") cooperate to protect drinking water quality. USEPA and CalEPA set enforceable chemical levels referred to as Maximum Contaminant Levels ("MCLs"). The enforceable MCL limits are established with consideration of economic, environmental, and operational impacts. Water agencies like Pasadena Water and Power ("PWP") routinely test for compliance and summarize the results in annual Consumer Confidence Reports.

Unenforceable Water Quality Goals

Federal and state agencies also establish unenforceable goals for very low chemical levels that would pose no significant public health risks. These unenforceable levels include the federal Maximum Contaminant Level Goal ("MCLG") and the state's PHG collectively, "Water Quality Goals". The Water Quality Goals are determined without

consideration of significant economic, environmental, and operational impacts. The Water Quality Goals are used as guidelines in determining enforceable standards.

Public Health Goals Report

Every three years, community water systems, like PWP are required by the California Environmental Protection Agency to prepare a PHG Report on the occurrence of chemicals present in its treated water that have concentrations greater than the unenforceable limits. The report also includes types of public health risks, treatment methods, and the estimated cost to implement such treatments. Additionally, the public must have an opportunity to review and comment on the PHG Report and for the City Council to accept and approve the PHG Report.

Summary

Enforceable chemical levels require routine monitoring and annual reporting. Water Quality Goals are used to assess public health risks and are unenforceable. The PHG Report is required to list all chemicals detected in PWP's water supply sources. PHG Reports are prepared every three years and can be found on PWP's water quality webpage.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The acceptance of the PHG Report is not subject to CEQA, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060 (c)(2), 15060 (c)(3), and 15378. CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c)(2) states that an activity is not subject to CEQA if "the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment". The proposed activity consists of accepting a report on water quality information. No direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment would result from this report. For the same reason, the proposed activity is not a CEQA "Project" as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and is, therefore, also not subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c)(3).

FISCAL IMPACT:

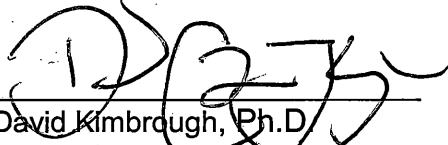
There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action and it will not have any indirect or support cost requirements. There are no anticipated impacts to other operational programs or capital projects as a result of this action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Attachment: 2016 Public Health Goals Report