



# RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

## Board Memorandum

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES – WATER COMMITTEE**

**DATE: AUGUST 11, 2021**

**SUBJECT: CITY OF RIVERSIDE'S 2020 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**

**ISSUE:**

Consider and review the City of Riverside's annual water quality report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Public Utilities receive the annual water quality report.

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

The State of California required water systems to provide their customers with an Annual Water Quality Report in 1990. The federal regulations followed with the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendment of 1996 and The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule of 1998. These regulations require community water systems and nontransient-noncommunity water systems to provide the first CCR to customers by October 1, 1999, and by July 1<sup>st</sup> annually thereafter. Wholesale systems must provide consecutive systems with monitoring data by April 1<sup>st</sup> to include in their CCR. Annual Water Quality Report and Consumer Confidence Report are used interchangeably throughout the industry.

**DISCUSSION:**

Water Systems are required to monitor for regulated and unregulated contaminants under the authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). California Code of Regulations Title 22 sets out DDW required drinking water monitoring. DDW also issues water system permits, which allows the system to treat and deliver water to customers; these permits can require additional monitoring unique to our water system. The EPA and DDW can also require additional monitoring under rules and monitoring orders, such as the Lead and Copper Rule, or PFAS Monitoring Orders. The RWQCB requires monitoring of water flushed from treatment plants or water systems that may reach a water of the U.S.

The Public Utilities Department Water Operation Division collects water samples in accordance with State and Federal regulations and submits them to our current contract laboratory. Samples can be from raw water (wells prior to treatment), treatment plant process samples, transmission

mains, final blend compliance point, reservoirs, distribution sample stations, Riverside and Gage Canal water, non-potable wells, or even customer taps. The laboratory analyzes these samples per Standard Methods or EPA approved methods, and when analyses are completed, data is submitted via email with a PDF report, an electronic data deliverable (EDD) is uploaded to our water quality database (WaterTrax), and some data is electronically data transferred (EDT) directly into the State's database, or CDX, the EPA's database, depending on the regulation and sampling requirements.

The CCR Rule requires any regulated contaminant detected in water delivered to customers at or above the detection level for reporting (DLR) that is subject to a maximum contaminant level (MCL), maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL), action level (AL), or treatment technique (TT) to be reported to the customers in the annual CCR. The CCR should summarize data collected in the previous calendar year; for example, by July 1, 2021, the 2020 data must be reported in the CCR. Standard health effect language is also required to be included. AB 756 required the addition of any detected PFAS to be reported in the annual CCR.

In 2018, America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) mandated the EPA to revise the CCR Rule to require utilities serving more than 10,000 people to provide CCR's to their customers, at least biannually, by October 2020. The CCR Regulations have not been amended, and the EPA is being sued by the NRDC for failing to amend the rule on time. We are following the outcome closely to ensure we comply with any updates.

The Annual Water Quality Report is generated by Water Operations in collaboration with the City's Office of Communications and is reviewed by our assigned DDW Engineer for approval prior to distribution to customers. Data tables are shared with wholesale agencies by April 1<sup>st</sup>, and the draft CCR is shared after DDW approval is granted.

The City of Riverside's Water Quality meets or exceeds State and Federal regulations as reported in the 2020 CCR.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This item contributes to Strategic Priority No. 4 Environmental Stewardship and Goal number 4.2 - Sustainably manage local water resources to maximize reliability and advance water reuse to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable water to our community.

This item aligns with each of the cross-cutting threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The annual CCR provides a summary of the water quality detections and how they compare to State and Federal regulations. This transparency of data can aid in community trust and informed decisions.
2. **Equity** – RPU's potable water supply is blended prior to entering the distribution system, providing the same source water quality to all of our customers, regardless of pressure zone or area of use.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – RPU has opted to use the approved electronic notifications and website to host our CCR. The billing inserts directing customers to the website posting of the CCR is more cost effective than printing the full CCR for each customer.

4. **Innovation** – RPU implemented creative solutions to electronically post the CCR such as websites and social media, which allowed us to share information in an efficient and timely manner while also reducing costs.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Utilizing our resources in a sustainable matter from the prioritization of groundwater sources used to reducing our carbon footprint by printing less paper is reflected in the CCR.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total fiscal impact is \$2,341.92. Sufficient funds are available in Public Utilities Account No. 6020009080-42100006 for billing inserts, this will increase when CCR is required biannually.

Prepared by: Todd M. Corbin, Utilities General Manager  
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, City Manager  
Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Certifies availability  
of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

Attachments:  
1. 2020 Annual CCR  
2. Bill Insert  
3. Presentation