



# RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

## Board Memorandum

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**DATE: JANUARY 24, 2022**

**SUBJECT: DRINKING WATER QUALITY POLICY PRINCIPLES**

**ISSUES:**

Consider approving the Drinking Water Quality Policy Principles.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Board of Public Utilities recommend the City Council:

1. Approve the Drinking Water Quality Policy Principles document; and
2. Adopt the resolution for the Drinking Water Quality Policy Principles.

**BACKGROUND:**

Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) has invested significantly in water supply, treatment, distribution, and storage facilities to ensure the quality of water it serves meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards. The diversity of local water supply facilities -- including over 50 active groundwater wells, nine treatment plants, three transmission mains, and a 32-million-gallon blending reservoir -- coupled with three imported water connections creates a diverse system and requires a multi-barrier approach to protect public health.

To ensure a safe and high-quality water supply for RPU customers from its sources, RPU has been actively engaged in protecting the groundwater basins from which its water supply is produced. This engagement includes participation in regional groundwater basin management efforts with other governmental water and regulatory agencies as well as with industrial entities which are under court-ordered mandates and/or settlement agreements to remediate groundwater contamination caused by their business operations.

These entities are referred to as Potentially Responsible Parties and Responsible Parties. The Drinking Water Quality Policy Principles (DWQPP) document defines the policy principles that will be the basis for developing a Drinking Water Quality Policy. The RPU Drinking Water Policy will memorialize RPU's approach when discussing and negotiating contamination clean-up efforts at RPU sources of supply. The Drinking Water Quality Policy will help the Utility be consistent when coordinating with Potentially Responsible Parties and Responsible Parties over time. The Drinking Water Quality Policy will guide staff when discussing with Potentially Responsible Parties

and Responsible Parties about important issues such as the level of treatment that will be required at RPU wells, when treatment is needed, when treatment can be removed, and if or how RPU's blending capacity can be used, among others.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The developed DWQPPs are based on the following bedrock principles:

1. Every person has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes (AB 685 – 2012) (Water Code Section 106.3);
2. Drinking water is one of our most valuable resources, and it must be safeguarded against contaminants that would lower the water quality; and
3. All Potentially Responsible Parties and Responsible Parties that have caused or contributed to contamination of the City's drinking water supply source, i.e., groundwater basins, will be compelled to treat drinking water to less than detectable concentrations prior to RPU considering accepting Potentially Responsible Parties or Responsible Parties treated water into the City's transmission/distribution system.

A detailed description of all the DWQPPs is summarized in the table below and described in the DWQPP document attached.

<b>Policy No.</b>	<b>Specific DDWQPP</b>
DWQPP 1	Meet Drinking Water Standards
DWQPP 2	Public Health Goals and PRP Identification
DWQPP 3	Agreements
DWQPP 4	Federal and State Policies
DWQPP 5	Change in Regulations
DWQPP 6	Exceedance of MCL
DWQPP 7	Blending
DWQPP 8	Termination of Obligation
DWQPP 9	Replacement Water

The fundamental mission of RPU is to deliver high-quality water to its customers by applying a multi-barrier approach to protect public health by managing the water quality of drinking water from its source to the customer. The RPU Drinking Water Quality Policy will direct staff to adhere to the guidelines contained herein. Every individual within RPU's service area is entitled to safe, clean, and affordable drinking water. RPU is committed to protecting and enhancing its water supply sources for the benefit of its customers.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

The development of a Drinking Water Quality Policy contributes to Strategic Priority No. 4 *Environmental Stewardship* and Goal No. 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 five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. Community Trust – The DWQPP document identifies RPU tools and commitment to protecting public health and thereby enhancing community trust.
2. Equity – RPU is committed to protecting and enhancing its water supply source for all customers within RPU service area regardless of customer type, residential or business.
3. Fiscal Responsibility – This policy will work towards ensuring responsible parties pay for clean-up efforts associated with contamination within RPU water supplies. Furthermore, the availability of clean and affordable drinking water to all RPU customers eliminates the need and expense of paying for additional treatment at a residence or business.
4. Innovation – Through proactively preparing a policy to guide staff in navigating the ever-changing water regulatory landscape, RPU ensures drinking water quality policies remain current.
5. Sustainability & Resiliency – The policy principles provided in this document, as part of the fundamental missions of RPU, will emphasize the delivery of high-quality water to its customers in a manner that is sustainable and environmentally sound.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact for the approval of the water quality policy principles.

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Approved by: Kris Martinez, Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Certifies availability  
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### **Attachments:**

1. Resolution Adopting Drinking Water Quality Policy Principles
2. Drinking Water Quality Policy Principles
3. Presentation