



RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES – WATER COMMITTEE

DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2021

SUBJECT: FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING AND VALVE MAINTENANCE

ISSUE:

Consider receiving an update and provide feedback on the Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Maintenance Programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Public Utilities Water Committee receive an update and provide feedback on the Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Maintenance Programs.

HISTORY:

The process known as hydrant flushing is an essential maintenance procedure all water providers must perform periodically to ensure the delivery of water that meets state and federal drinking water standards. During flushing activities, hydrants are opened for a limited period at strategic points in the system, moving water through the pipes at a high speed to discharge the minerals and sediments that settle in the pipes over time. Flushing also helps to maintain flow and pressure in the water system. Water discharged during RPU's water's flushing activities is done so in full compliance with state and federal regulations.

The purpose of the valve maintenance program is to ensure regular and consistent inspection and exercising of valves throughout the distribution system. Valve exercising and maintenance is performed in accordance with American Water Works Association (AWWA) Manual M44 – Distribution Valves.

Both the Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Maintenance Program cycles are part of RPU's Asset Management Program in Oracle. Fire hydrant flushing and maintenance is completed on a three-year cycle flushing and maintaining 8,159 fire hydrants. The resources to complete this work includes certified and trained staff, specialized equipment and a staff of two full-time positions on a three-year cycle. The valve maintenance program is completed on a six-year cycle maintaining 30,939 transmission, distribution, air relief and end of main blow off valves. The resources to complete this work requires certified and trained staff, specialized equipment and two crews consisting of three full time positions.

DISCUSSION:

Staff will review the attached presentation and give an informational overview of the Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Maintenance Programs.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Maintenance Programs support the City Council Strategic Plan 2025 Priorities and Goal 2.3 Strengthen neighborhood identities and improve community health and physical environment through amenities and programs that foster an increase sense of community and enhance feelings of pride and belonging citywide. A well-maintained water distribution system delivers high water quality which contributes to overall public health and safety.

Water treatment plants align with City Council’s Strategic Plan 2025 Cross-Cutting Treads based on the following definitions:

1. Community Trust – Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Maintenance Programs support efforts to provide safe reliable drinking water and the infrastructure that delivers it to the community we serve.
2. Equity – Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Maintenance Programs support efforts for water availability to ensure every member of the community has equal access to water.
3. Fiscal Responsibility – Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Maintenance Programs provide Preventative asset maintenance prevents premature replacements of infrastructure and ensures they are in proper working order
4. Innovation – Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Maintenance Programs use the best available technology to maintain and document assets (CWMS, GIS and equipment).
5. Sustainability & Resiliency – Fire Hydrant Flushing and Valve Maintenance Programs maintain assets to meet life expectancy and beyond.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this informational report.

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Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

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

Attachment: Presentation