



CITY OF SONOMA
City Council
Agenda Item Summary

City Council Agenda Item: 7A

Meeting Date: 03/02/2015

Department

Administration

Staff Contact

Carol Giovanatto, City Manager

Agenda Item Title

Discussion, consideration and possible action on draft letter to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors indicating the City's opposition to the proposed fluoridation program

Summary

At the February 18th Council meeting the Council considered issue of preparing a letter to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors requesting that they oppose the Sonoma County Department of Health Services report recommending plans for a fluoridation program for Sonoma County's water distribution systems. Following significant public comment and discussion, the Council voted 3-2 (Mayor Pro Tem Gallian and Councilmember Agrimonti dissenting) to direct staff to draft a letter expressing Council's position of opposition to fluoridation and to return the draft letter for final vote of the Council. The February 18th Council agenda item contained a draft letter submitted by Dawna Gallegher-Stoeh, which Council chose not to wholly endorse but requested staff to include Sonoma-centric conclusions in a modified draft which is presented on this agenda for Council review.

The draft of the fluoridation engineering design report from the Sonoma County Public Health Department (SCHPD) has been prepared and the Fluoridation Advisory Committee is reviewing the report. The review is not expected to be complete until Spring 2015.

Recommended Council Action

Council discretion.

Alternative Actions

N/A

Financial Impact

N/A

Environmental Review

- Environmental Impact Report
- Negative Declaration
- Exempt
- Not Applicable

Status

- Approved/Certified
 - No Action Required
 - Action Requested
-

Attachments:

- Draft letter of opposition
-

Alignment with Council Goals:

cc: Dawna Gallagher

Dear Honorable Supervisor Gorin and Members of the Board,

The City of Sonoma is a contractor of the Sonoma County Water Agency, currently purchasing approximately 93% of all domestic water used within the City. We are aware that the Sonoma County Public Health Department (SCHPD) has prepared a Fluoridation Engineering Design report which will include a recommendation for ***Fluoridating our Drinking Water*** which is being reviewed by the Fluoridation Advisory Committee. The review is not expected to be complete until Spring 2015. This report, while not yet specifically reviewed by this Council, does have the potential for serious consequences to our constituents in Sonoma and as such, on February 18th and March 2nd the Council discussed the issue of fluoridation in drinking water. This discussion included the general impacts of adding fluoride to water, but also more specifically the direct impacts to projects in Sonoma. Upon conclusion of Council deliberations, the City Council of the City of Sonoma, voted to go on record as not supporting the fluoridation of our drinking water for based on the following reasons:

- 1) According to Statewide averages, less than 1% of all drinking water is consumed equating to less than 1% of the fluoride coming into topical contact with teeth, with the remainder going into lawns and drains.
- 2) City is currently working with the Water Agency on a groundwater banking project and injecting fluoridated water may pose an additional challenge from a regulatory perspective.
- 3) Citizens of Sonoma should have freedom of choice when deciding on their use and/or ingestion of fluoride. There are many other inexpensive over-the-counter sources of fluoride that can be obtained for those that choose to use such products.
- 4) Introduction of any new substance into our drinking water source during a time of severe drought should be prohibited.
- 5) Under the State's unfunded mandate to fluoridate, AB 733, communities with 10,000 customer connections or more are urged to fluoridate. However, if a municipality has multiple sources of water supplies, they would be exempt. The City of Sonoma is thus exempt under both of these requirements.

While we applaud the efforts of the SCHPD to address the other four pillars of oral health, perhaps supporting increased funding for the programs that are working (i.e. outreach, nutritional education and more access to affordable dental care) would be far more effective to improving dental health while respecting our community's right to choose. We strongly urge you to look at these issues and review alternative methods other than directly fluoridating our water.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cook, Mayor

(?) All Councilmembers signatures or Mayor only to sign?