



City of Santa Barbara

Public Works Department

Memorandum

DATE: June 17, 2021

TO: Water Commission

VIA: Amanda Flesse, Acting Water Resources Manager

FROM: Gaylen Fair, Water Quality Superintendent

SUBJECT: Water Resources Laboratory and Consumer Confidence Report
2021 Presentation

The City of Santa Barbara's Water Resources Laboratory (Laboratory) is an environmental laboratory, which provides analytical services for the City's Water Resources Division. The Laboratory is certified by the California State Water Resources Control Board, Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. Laboratory staff perform analyses on various sources, including drinking water, wastewater, biosolids, recycled water, industrial pretreatment water, storm water runoff, surface water, groundwater, creeks, and on-shore receiving waters. The Laboratory's mission is to promptly analyze and report analytical test results to Water Resources staff and regulatory agencies.

Staffing and Technology

The Laboratory is located at the El Estero Water Resource Center; and operates seven days a week, 365 days a year, to meet the analytical testing needs of the Water Resources Division. The Laboratory and its team of scientists provide regulatory and process control testing for Wastewater Treatment, Wastewater Collections, Water Treatment, Water Distribution, Creeks Division, and the Waterfront Department. The Laboratory team consists of a superintendent, supervisor, two coordinators, four analysts, plus two hourly analysts. The Laboratory annually collects approximately 15,000 samples and performs over 50,000 analyses.

The Laboratory uses a data and sample management system, referred to in the industry as a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), for sample and data management, data mining, data analysis and regulatory reporting. LIMS simplifies the assignment, scheduling, and tracking of samples and associated analytical work. LIMS also allows staff to create and schedule reports in a specific format and distribute reports to regulatory agencies.

Consumer Confidence Report

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires community water systems to deliver a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), also known as an annual drinking water

quality report, to their customers. This report provides customers with information about their local drinking water quality for the previous year. The purpose of the CCR is to improve public health protection by providing educational material that helps consumers to make educated decisions regarding any potential health risks pertaining to the quality, treatment, and management of their drinking water supply.

The City of Santa Barbara uses the annual CCR requirement as an opportunity to communicate with water customers. The CCR is created annually, and made available to the City's drinking water customers in June. There are eight content requirements of the CCR: water system information; source(s) of water; definitions; detected contaminants; information on monitoring for *Cryptosporidium*, radon and other contaminants; compliance with Drinking Water regulations; variances and exemptions; and required educational information. The EPA encourages water agencies to include additional information, such as a diagram of the water system, a message from the Water Resources Manager, and conservation tips. The City also highlights current work efforts, major projects, and provides important messages for the community.

The majority of the CCR contains a table of contaminants detected in the water supply and mandatory language about health effects of those contaminants. While the Laboratory tests for hundreds of different parameters, only the detected contaminants are summarized in the CCR table. The summary information includes the concentration and relevant limit, such as the maximum contaminant level (MCL), maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL), action level (AL), and treatment technique (TT).

Laboratory staff routinely review and summarize the drinking water test results, and submit monthly reports to the Division of Drinking Water. For the annual CCR, the data is compiled and presented in the Water Quality table. Laboratory staff also assemble data from the City's three main water sources; calculate a range of values, including the average value of each contaminant detected, and include the information in the Water Quality table.

Laboratory staff, Water Resources Management, and Water Resources Administration staff work collaboratively to develop the CCR, which includes creating Santa Barbara-specific messaging, reviewing the eight required content requirements, and compiling the Water Quality table. The final CCR is the product of many Water Resources staff, who have worked to ensure the information and data in the CCR is accurate, complete, and pertinent to the City's water customers.