

Board of Supervisors Response to “Fluoridation: Where do you Stand” Grand Jury Report

RECOMMENDATIONS (R1-R3)

Recommendation R-1: *The Board of Supervisors advise and inform all residents by multiple methods, e.g. utility bill inserts, bilingual notices through printed or social media, and radio, of its meetings, hearings, discussions, presentations, and votes relating to fluoridation.*

Board of Supervisors’ Response: **This recommendation has been implemented.**

The Board of Supervisors uses multiple technologies to communicate its meetings, hearings, discussions, presentations and votes. Additionally, the County through the Department of Health Services will continue to consider additional avenues to communicate about future public meetings, including utility bill inserts where appropriate, bilingual notices and social media which the Board wholly supports.

Recommendation R-2: *With respect to fluoridation, the Board of Supervisors make impartial decisions based on the best evidence available, allowing for both pro and con views to be heard.*

Board of Supervisors’ Response: **This recommendation has been implemented.**

The Board of Supervisors has to date on all items relating to fluoridation made impartial decisions using the best evidence available and has allowed for all viewpoints to be heard and will continue to do so in the future.

Recommendation R-3: *The Board of Supervisors communicate to the public how fluoridation would be funded prior to a final vote.*

Board of Supervisors’ Response: **This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented when cost information has been evaluated and presented and options for funding have been vetted.**

The Board of Supervisors has every intention to communicate to the public how fluoridation will be funded prior to Board of Supervisors approval. In February 2013, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract with MWH Americas, Inc. to develop a Preliminary Engineering Design Report for fluoridation of Sonoma County Water Agency’s drinking water. This report will include cost estimates to implement a fluoridation system for Sonoma County Water Agency’s drinking water.

As presented to the Board on February 26, 2013, the Department of Health Services plans to return to the Board by March 2014 with a financial analysis and recommended next steps. This financial analysis will include analysis of funding options based on the cost data derived through the Engineering Design Report.