



City of Tracy
333 Civic Center Plaza
Tracy, CA 95376

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

MAIN 209.831.6000
FAX 209.831.6120
www.cityoftracy.org

Date: July 20, 2023
To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Midori Lichtwardt, Interim City Manager
Via: James Jackson, Director of Operations & Utilities, and
Lea Emmons, Water Operations Superintendent
Subject: Boron in Groundwater, Advisory Notification to City Council

In 2002 the City discovered Boron in its groundwater supplies during normal testing. Boron is a naturally occurring element which was found to be in excess of the notification level of 1.0 part per million. The State requires the agencies report all contaminants which exceed the notification level be reported to the governing body. City Council was notified in 2002 when the substance initially exceeded the notification level., and again in 2007, 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2021.

Notification Levels are health based advisory levels established by the State for contaminants that do not pose a significant health risk to people ingesting that water on a daily basis. Notification Levels are advisory levels and not enforceable standards.

Here are some facts regarding boron:

- Boron is a naturally occurring compound found in groundwater.
- Boron does not pose a significant health risk.
- Boron is not carcinogenic.
- There is no enforceable standard set for boron; only an advisory level established by the State. The Notification Level has been established at 1.0 part per million.
- The concentrations of boron in City wells range from non-detect to 3.0 parts per million. Six of the City's wells contain elevated levels of boron above the Notification Level of 1.0 part per million.

Please take note; the City's drinking water supply consists of a mix of surface water and groundwater. In 2022, groundwater comprised 6% of the total water supply. With the blending of water supplies, the concentration of boron delivered to our customers may fall within the established Notification Level.

The Health and Safety Code requires we notify our governing body when a constituent is in excess of the action level. Therefore, the distribution of this informational memorandum to the City Council meets those requirements. In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board

July 20, 2023

Page 2 of 2

Division of Drinking Water recommends that agencies inform their customers of the presence of an unregulated constituent in drinking water through the agency's annual Consumer Confidence Report. We are following the Division's recommendation and including the boron information in our annual report to our customers.

In conclusion, there is no reason for alarm or requirement for action. If you need further information or have questions, please let us know and we will contact our Water Operations Superintendent for clarification and responses.