

7. UTILITIES- DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Comprehensive Plan policy, PU7.2, states that drinking water will maintain 100 percent compliance with state and federal drinking water quality standards; a community member questions whether this is adequate.

Summary of Comments

One commenter states that maintaining 100 percent compliance with state and federal drinking water quality standards, as proposed in PU7.2, is not sufficient because there are many chemicals not regulated by state and federal standards.

Council Direction of August 12, 2014

Council broadly asked staff to review Utilities chapter related public comments and consider whether any clarifications are needed, and they further specified that they did not want to consider revisions pertaining to the recently adopted Wastewater Management Plan.

Staff Analysis

State and federal scientists have the means and resources available to set the national and state drinking water quality standards using best available science. Performing this rigorous level of scientific evaluation independently at the local level would be extremely costly.

The Drinking Water Utility is committed to continually improving our water quality management program. For example, the City participates, along with a selection of municipalities nationally, in a periodic testing of additional contaminants that are not part of the national protocol. This data helps inform future adjustments to state and federal standards. Additionally, the City is a participant on LOTT's Technical Sub-Committee studying contaminants of emerging concern.

Text of Public Hearing Draft

PU7.2: Maintain 100 percent compliance with all state and federal requirements, and continually improve our water quality management program.

Staff Proposed Clarification

No clarification proposed.

Alternative

As suggested by a member of the public, Council could choose to substantively change policy, PU7.2, to require that the City perform water quality testing above and beyond the testing required by WA Department of Health and EPA.