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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 11, 2021
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Liesel Hans, Interim Utilities Deputy Director [DS] LH
THROUGH: Darin Atteberry, City Manager [DS] DA
Kelly DiMartino, Deputy City Manager [DS] KD
Theresa Connor, Interim Utilities Executive Director [DS] TC
RE: June 8, 2021 Work Session Summary - Safe Water Action Program (SWAP)

The purpose of this memo is to provide a summary of the discussion related to the June 8, 2021 Work Session Item: the Safe Water Action Program (SWAP).

All members of City Council were present, and the meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom. Liesel Hans presented, and Theresa Connor, Andrew Gingerich, Jill Oropeza and Jill Burrell were available for questions.

Presentation Summary:

Staff presented an introduction to SWAP, which is a public health initiative by Fort Collins Utilities to find and replace any remaining aging galvanized service lines and lead goosenecks. The presentation included general information about lead in drinking water, potential sources of exposure, household vs. utility responsibility, and steps households can take to reduce risk. Staff described the public engagement effort and initial estimates of scope, cost, and timeline.

Discussion Summary:

- Council was supportive of the overall proactive approach, planned public engagement, and next steps.
- Council asked for clarification around the scope of households and the total cost estimates. Staff clarified that the estimates do not include expected costs for homeowners to replace their portion of a service line.
- Council asked about provision of water filters and provided suggestions for financing options for the customer-side replacement, citing the need to consider landlord incentives in the case of renter-occupied homes and to look at the existing EPIC home loan program.
- Council asked about water quality testing related to lead and Staff described the annual sampling program currently in place per the Federal Lead and Copper Rule; results are consistently far below action levels and homeowners have no-cost options to mitigate



this small level of potential exposure. Staff noted this Rule is under revision and our sampling program may change.

- We, like most other entities across the country, communicate that there is no lead in source water, though Staff is clarifying that there may be very low levels of lead as it is a naturally occurring metal. It is typically below our very low detection limit, indicating levels may be zero or near zero but cannot be precisely measured.

Next steps for SWAP:

- **Summer:**
 - Focus Groups
 - Direct notifications to SWAP households (mid to late June).
 - Water Commission (June 17, 2021)
 - Launch of public education campaign.
- **Fall:**
 - Pilot phase of investigation and replacement work.
- **2022:**
 - Provide City Leadership and City Council a status update, lessons learned through pilot phase, and overview of full implementation plan.