



SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL

808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201-3335
(509) 625-6255

October 16, 2023

Marlene Feist
Director of Public Works
City of Spokane
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Director Feist,

The undersigned members of the Spokane City Council agree to indefinitely defer action on implementing fluoridation of the City of Spokane's water supply system.

The City of Spokane, using grant funding provided by Arcora Foundation and the Washington Department of Health, commissioned a study of the costs associated with fluoridation of the City's water system, which study was conducted by Consor Engineers PLLC (the "Fluoridation Implementation Study"). The findings of the Study were completed and presented to a study session of the City Council on June 22, 2023.

The City's existing water system includes seven well station facilities and an eighth facility that is currently being built. The Fluoridation Implementation Study estimated the capital costs to implement fluoridation of the City of Spokane's water system to be \$10,999,000, and the operating and maintenance costs in the first year of operation to be between \$1,827,400 and \$2,375,700. The Fluoridation Implementation Study concluded that all eight of the City's existing well stations would have to be expanded to accommodate the recommended fluoridation systems, not only to allow for placement of actual fluoridation equipment and storage facilities, but also to allow for additional truck access to said facilities. Additionally, construction of a fluoridation system as recommended in the Fluoridation Implementation Study means an expanded structural and operational footprint at the existing well facilities, resulting in disruptions to neighboring properties from both construction and eventual operations.

The City of Spokane is confronting significant financial constraints, beginning with its 2023 General Fund operating expenses, and is anticipating further significant operating and capital constraints for the indefinite future, and is therefore not in any position to finance the implementation and operation of a fluoridation system.

It is the intent of the undersigned City Council Members to table indefinitely any plans for financing and implementing a city-wide water fluoridation system. Given the significant construction and operational costs predicted for a city-wide fluoridation system and given the short and long term effects of expanded facilities on neighborhoods, that no fluoridation system be implemented city-wide without approval of the voters of the City of Spokane.

Sincerely,



Lori Kinnear, City Council President



Michael Cathcart, City Council Member, Dist.