July 2018 Environmental Column
Marie Graham, Utility Program Coordinator and Heather Brown, Water Quality Coordinator

Environmental Update: 2017 Annual Water Quality Report

As required under the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act, all public water systems must report annually any regulated contaminants that were detected in the drinking water supply and report these findings to their water customers. This report contains important information about drinking water quality and other related topics.

The City of Davis’ 2017 annual water quality report shows that the drinking water supplied to all our water customers met all state and federal standards. You may view the full report on the City’s website at CityofDavis.org/WaterQuality.

In addition to listing the various constituents that were detected in the drinking water, the report also contains mandatory reporting on topics such as the sources of your drinking water, both surface and groundwater, and how it is treated. The report includes information on the potential sources of constituents in your drinking water, general health information, and other related topics.

One of the main features of the annual report are the tables that show the constituents that were detected in your drinking water. Constituents are broken down into three types: those with primary drinking water standards, those with secondary drinking water standards, and constituents without a drinking water standard. Primary standards are assigned to constituents of concern because high levels of them may impact your health. Secondary standards are assigned to constituents based on aesthetic properties, and have been established to protect the appearance, odor, and taste of your drinking water. Unregulated constituents do not have a drinking water standard but are reported for informational purposes only.

In the water quality report, both the range and the weighted average are reported for each constituent. The range accounts for lowest and highest reported concentration for the constituent. The weighted average takes into consideration the general chemical makeup of the source water and the total volume that each source contributed during the year.

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) is the highest level of a constituent that is allowed in drinking water. The MCLs for primary drinking water standards are established by the USEPA and the State must adopt those standards or set standards that are more stringent than those set by the federal government.

The reported ranges for some constituents were over the MCL; however, the City was not in violation because the running annual average (RAA) was below the MCL. The RAA is based on the analytical results for the four most recent sampling events. If the average of these four sampling events exceeds the MCL, then the source water does not meet drinking water standards and the City would have taken the proper steps to address the problem.

There are several ways to view the 2017 Annual Water Quality Report. The 2017 report and reports from previous years are posted online at CityofDavis.org/WaterQuality. You may also visit GreenerDavis.org and click on the “water quality report” icon. Customers may contact the
City of Davis Water Division at Water@CityofDavis.org to request an electronic copy of the Water Quality Report delivered to their e-mail address. To receive a paper copy of the Water Quality Report, call the Public Works Department at (530) 757-5686.

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