



# CITY OF CLEARLAKE

City Council

## STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance  
Amending Section 13-3 of the Clearlake Municipal Code  
Regarding Fire Hydrant Inspection, Testing and  
Maintenance

**MEETING DATE:** Dec. 4, 2025

**SUBMITTED BY:** Alan D. Flora, City Manager

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** ☐ Information only ☒ Discussion ☒ Action Item

### WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

Update of existing municipal code related to the City's fire hydrant inspection, testing and maintenance.

### BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION:

A year ago the City Council enacted an ordinance requiring the three separate water companies that operate in the City boundary to perform various inspection, testing and maintenance to their fire hydrants. The ordinance was largely based on concerns of inaccurate or lacking information on fire flows throughout many areas of the City.

The ordinance required each company/district to perform various functions on their fire hydrants based on the national standards adopted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In summary these requirements are:

1. Perform annual operation and maintenance work to each fire hydrant to ensure functionality.
2. Perform fire flow testing on each hydrant by July 1, 2025 and provide test results to the City and Lake County Fire Protection District. Testing must be done according to the NFPA 291 standard and completed by a certified person.
3. After the initial flow testing, subsequent tests must be completed every five years (consistent with the NFPA 291 standard)
4. Fire hydrants must be painted to indicate the tested flow to ensure they are clearly marked for emergency personnel.

The districts/water companies were opposed to the ordinance for various reasons, with one of the large obstacles being the requirement to hire a consultant that was qualified to do the testing at a high cost. Earlier this year the Konocti County Water District approached the City about the possibility of doing a pilot program where their employees could conduct the tests, with guidance and oversight from an expert hired by the City (Rob Roscoe). The City Council approved this pilot program in March of 2025.

Mr. Roscoe oversaw testing of hydrants by both Konocti County Water District and Highlands Mutual Water Company. A representative of Golden State Water Company also participated in observing the testing.

All the districts/companies have performed various work related to testing their hydrants in the intervening period and an update on each effort will be presented to the Council during the meeting.

All of this work has been to provide a consistent verifiable set of results for each fire hydrant in the City. Staff will also present some potential amendments to the existing ordinance that could make the effort more responsive to concerns from the water companies, but still provide the necessary information to the City, Fire District and larger public.

The Council held a discussion at the last meeting regarding proposed amendments and gave direction to staff to bring the item back for a first reading at the next meeting with proposed amendments.

**OPTIONS:**

1. Hold First Reading of Ordinance No 284-2025, read it by title only, waive further reading, and set second reading and adoption for the next City Council meeting.
2. Direction to Staff.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

☒ None      ☐ \$      Budgeted Item? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Budget Adjustment Needed? ☐ Yes ☒ No      If yes, amount of appropriation increase: \$

Affected fund(s): ☐ General Fund ☐ Measure P Fund ☐ Measure V Fund ☐ Other:

Comments: N/A

**STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT**

- ☐ Goal #1: Make Clearlake a Visibly Cleaner City
- ☒ Goal #2: Make Clearlake a Statistically Safer City
- ☒ Goal #3: Improve the Quality of Life in Clearlake with Improved Public Facilities
- ☒ Goal #4: Improve the Image of Clearlake
- ☐ Goal #5: Ensure Fiscal Sustainability of City
- ☒ Goal #6: Update Policies and Procedures to Current Government Standards
- ☒ Goal #7: Support Economic Development

☒ **Attachments:**

1. **Draft Ordinance 284-2025**