



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of April 13, 2026

Title/Subject

Resolution No. 2419 - Authorizing Participation in Product Liability Litigation and Engagement of Counsel

Summary and Background

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of synthetic chemicals used for decades in industrial processes and consumer products because they resist heat, oil, and water. They have been commonly used in non-stick cookware, wrappers, common household items and firefighting foam. They are often called “forever chemicals” because they break down very slowly and accumulate in the environment and in people. They are persistent in the environment and human body, linked to potential health issues. Key sources include nonstick cookware, food packaging, firefighting foam, and stain-resistant fabrics.



PFAS have been detected in many public drinking water systems across the United States, typically originating from industrial discharges, firefighting foams, landfills, and wastewater treatment systems. Because PFAS are mobile in groundwater and persistent, contamination can spread widely and affect large populations. Testing in recent years has identified PFAS in thousands of systems at levels that exceed emerging federal or state health guidelines.

PFAS litigation has grown into one of the largest environmental mass torts in U.S. history. Major chemical manufacturers, distributors and related corporate entities have faced lawsuits from states, public water systems, firefighters, and private individuals alleging contamination, health harms, and failure to warn about PFAS risks. Currently there is ongoing product liability litigation involving PFAS in Aqueous Film-Forming Foams (AFFF) that the City may qualify to join.

The law firm of Stag, Liuzza LLC, et. al., has extended the opportunity to include the City of Hermiston as its client in pending class action production liability litigation against PFAS manufactures and related industry. Stag, Liuzza LLC, et al, have the experience and resources to assist the City in navigating this class action litigation.

Tie-In to Council Goals

Fiscal Information

Potential settlement revenue of an unknown amount.

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

1. Approve Resolution No. 2419
2. Reject Resolution No. 2419
3. Table Resolution No. 2419

Recommended Action/Motion

Approve Resolution No. 2419

Submitted By:

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