



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

FROM: Travis Foley – Utilities Director

DATE OF MEETING: March 17, 2025

ITEM TITLE: Water System Study

DISCUSSION:

Over the past several years, the City of Independence has experienced a number of challenges related to our potable water system. These issues, including low water pressure at MHI, recurring rust concerns, and other maintenance needs, necessitate a comprehensive and proactive approach to ensure the continued delivery of safe and reliable water to our community. To address these concerns and plan for the future, staff has secured two proposals for a Water System Study, which we would like to present to the Council for discussion.

There are three main points to this that we would like to address:

1. Potable Water System Evaluation Report:
 - a. This report will provide a detailed assessment of the current state of our water infrastructure, including pipes, pumps, storage facilities, and treatment processes. It will identify existing deficiencies, assess the condition of aging infrastructure, and recommend necessary repairs and upgrades. This will provide a clear picture of the physical state of our system.
2. Water System Model:
 - a. A hydraulic model will be developed to simulate water flow and pressure throughout the system. This model will allow us to diagnose the root causes of issues such as low pressure at MHI and predict the impact of future growth or infrastructure changes. This will allow for proactive planning, and testing of solutions before large amounts of money are spent.
3. Uni-Directional Flushing Plan:
 - a. This plan will outline a systematic approach to flushing the water mains, which is essential for removing sediment, rust, and other debris that can affect water quality and pressure. This will help to address the rust issues that we have been experiencing.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.