



# REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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**Title:** Information Only – Ordinance No. 7 for 2020 – Water System in Critically Affected Chemical Area

**Preferred Agenda:** April 28, 2020 (Introduction)  
May 12, 2020 ( Information Only)

**Submitted By:** R. Snyder, City Attorney

**Reviewed By:** R. Towry, City Manager

**Type of Action:** Resolution \_\_\_\_ Motion \_\_\_\_ Roll Call \_\_\_\_ Other X

**Relevant Code/Policy:** SHMC 13.20 and work DEQ

**Towards Council Goal:** Goal 3.3 Develop partnerships with Regional Services

**Attachments:** Sweet Home Ordinance Amending SHMC 13.2  
Critical Area Map, Letter from DEQ and proposed Form

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**Purpose of this RCA:**

The purpose of the proposed Ordinance is to amend SHMC Chapter 13.20 that required connection to city water in Midway Contaminated Groundwater Area (chemical spill area) to specifically include a provision to allow a property owner in that area to not be required to hook up to city water by having his/her well tested as described in the amendment.

**Background/Context:**

In 1998 the City of Sweet Home passed Ordinance No. 1120 that concerned a chemical spillage (affecting wells) in the Midway area of Sweet Home. The Ordinance required that properties in the critical area (as determined by DEQ) and set forth in the Ordinance connect to and utilize the city water system. In 1998 the soil where the chemical spillage originated was removed and since that time DEQ has periodically tested wells in the critical area. The water quality has improved in the critical area to a point where some properties may no longer be affected by the contamination, and DEQ has drafted the proposed amendment that specifically provides a procedure for a property owner who has a well to not be required to be connected to the city water system. A map of the critical area is attached. A letter from the DEQ supporting the proposed ordinance and a sample form for processing the test results are enclosed herewith.

**The Challenge/Problem:**

Should the city amend its code to provide a specific procedure for a property owner in the critical area to not be required to be connected to the city water system?

**Stakeholders:**

Property Owners – The owners of properties in the critical area would have a specified procedure to follow to exercise the option of not having to be connected to the city water system.

- City of Sweet Home – The City would be providing an option in its code for its affected residents to receive their water needs from a well or city water.
- Department of Environmental Quality – DEQ would have additional information from any testing results for its continued monitoring of the critical area

**Issues and Financial Impacts:**

When a property is withdrawn from using the city water system there will be the loss of revenue for the water account not sewer account which will continue.

**Elements of a Stable Solution:**

An option to be on the city water system or not in the critical area will allow the property owners to decide for themselves (after testing indicates well water is consistently below safe drinking water standards) whether to be connected.

**Options:**

1. Information Only.

**Recommendation:**

Information Only