

TO: Public Works Committee
FROM: Dan Smith, Water Resources & Sustainability Director
DATE: May 9, 2024
SUBJECT: Palermo Superfund Project Update

1) Recommended Action:

No action requested. This item is informational only.

2) Background:

The Palermo Wellfield Superfund Site (Palermo) has two primary contaminants of concern, trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE). Several early actions and long-term remedies have already been implemented since the initial detection of TCE in the drinking water supply by the City in 1993. TCE was determined to be from industrial operations from former and current Washington Department of Transportation facilities. PCE was determined to be from a dry-cleaning facility. In response, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) installed a subdrain system and conducted source remediation at the drycleaners, constructed the aeration treatment system at Palermo, and constructed a shallow subdrain system in the Palermo neighborhood that intercepts PCE in the shallow groundwater.

Over the last five years, the (EPA) has been evaluating whether there are additional remedies that could or should be employed at the site. Current City responsibilities include operation and maintenance of the existing drinking water treatment system (aeration), routine maintenance of the subdrain network and aeration lagoon, and monitoring of the post-treatment condition of drinking water. While the City initially removed the impacted wells from service, they have since been replaced and are operational. Staff will review the current effectiveness review of PCE recently concluded by EPA, and next steps.

3) Policy Support:

- A. Be a Leader in Environmental Sustainability
 - B. Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Chapter 1, Part 307 (CERCLA)
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4) Alternatives:

- Not applicable.
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5) Fiscal Notes:

None.

6) Attachments:

- A. None.