

Citizens' Water Advisory Commission (CWAC) Agenda

January 9, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Spinney Mountain Conference Room, SEAM/Hybrid

Microsoft Teams Link:
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
or
<https://shorturl.at/aoNW6>



Call in (audio only) - 720-388-8447
Phone Conference ID: 739 961 223#

Members: Angie Binder - Chair, Richard “Dick” Eason -Vice Chair, Jay Campbell, Tom Coker, Dennis Dechant, Janet Marlow, David Patterson, Daniel Widrich

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|----|---|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Elections – 2024 Chair and Vice-Chair | Chair | 6:00 p.m. |
| 2. | Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2023 | Chair | 6:10 p.m. |
| 3. | Introductions/Public Invited to be Heard | Chair | 6:15 p.m. |
| 4. | Communications Update | Greg Baker | 6:25 p.m. |
| 5. | Lead Service Line program | Earl Wilkinson/
Shonnie Cline | 6:30 p.m. |
| 6. | Confirm Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 13, 2024 | Chair | 7:10 p.m. |
| 7. | Adjourn | Chair | 7:15 p.m. |

**Citizens’ Water Advisory Commission (CWAC) Minutes
October 10, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Spinney Mtn. Reservoir Room/Microsoft Teams**

Members Present: Angie Binder – Chair, Dick Eason - Vice Chair, Daniel Widrich, Tom Coker, Dennis Dechant

Absent: Jay Campbell, Janet Marlow

Staff Present: Alex Gagliardi, Greg Baker, Rory Franklin (Teams), Marshall Brown

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

1. Approval of August 8, 2023 Minutes
The August 8, 2023 minutes were approved.

2. Introductions/Public Invited to be Heard
None.

3. Communications Update

G. Baker asked how the presentation to the Board & Commission went.

A. Binder responded that it went well, the board had a few questions. M. Brown said he had a follow up conversation with Councilman Marcano related to his question about why multifamily units are not split into number of bathrooms like single family units. The reason is that we don’t have the data to know how many bathrooms each unit has. Based on trends, that could be split in the future.

G. Baker shared that as of September 2nd, 2023 the committee is now officially a commission and all of the reappointments went through. Members will continue their current terms as is. A. Binder, D. Dechant and D. Widrich will be up for reappointment this year. Applications will be due by end of November, interviews are in December and appointments are granted in February.

A. Binder asked if we had any new members we need to appoint.

G. Baker answered we have one residential and one commercial availability. The application process is open and available on the City Clerk’s site.

4 Proposed CWAC By-laws Update

G. Baker explained that the committee has been following bylaws last updated in 2014 and it is time that they are updated. Effective September 2, 2023, Aurora Ordinance No. 2023-70 established the Citizens’ Water Advisory Commission. Per the City Clerk’s Board liaison guidebook, “each board and commission adopt their own rules of procedure for the proper conduct of business (City Charter, Article IX, Section 9-1). Bylaws are initially adopted following the formation of the board and are updated as necessary.”

The Clerk's office has templated a new format for the bylaws including suggested language, Staff has created draft bylaws for the Commission's consideration based on the previous CWAC bylaws, new responsibilities included in the ordinance, and the suggested language.

One new proposed element included in many board and commission bylaws has the commission approve an excused absence request by a commission member. Currently members are asked to RSVP for quorum reasons and member absences are excused as long as we are notified in advance. Absences are tracked and provided to the clerk's office to be included with the appointment packets to council. The Clerk has pointed out that some boards and commissions require a majority vote of members present to excuse an absence. Current commission agreed not to include that language in the updated bylaws.

Additional new language added to the bylaws is that any member who has unexcused absences more than 25% of the scheduled meetings in a calendar year will be deemed to automatically resign from the commission.

Commission agreed to send the bylaws as is to the Clerk.

6. Review Follow-Up Questions

None

7. Confirm Next Meeting –

Commission agreed to cancel the November 2023 CWAC meeting and December's meeting will consist of interviews.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30PM and commission took a tour of the new SEAM facility.

Angie Binder, Chair
Citizens' Water Advisory Committee

Adopted: _____



To: Citizens' Water Advisory Commission

Through: Marshall P. Brown, General Manager, Aurora Water

From: Earl Wilkinson, Assistant General Manager of Operations, Aurora Water
Shonnie Cline, Manager of Public Relations, Aurora Water

Date: January 9, 2024

Subject: Service Line Inventory and Lead Service Line Replacement Program

Purpose:

Aurora Water has initiated a program to create an inventory of the material type of all water service lines as required by the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and Colorado state requirements (11.17, Regulation 11). As part of the LCRR and Regulation 11.17, all water systems are also required to develop and implement a plan for removing and replacing water service lines made of lead or galvanized steel if they have ever been connected downstream of lead pipe.

Background:

The most common sources of lead in drinking water come from lead pipes, faucets, and plumbing fixtures. Up until the late 1950s, lead was one of several common materials used for water service lines, which connects properties to the water main. Lead can enter drinking water when a chemical reaction occurs in plumbing materials that contain lead. The process of dissolving or the wearing away of metal from pipes and fixtures is known as corrosion.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), there is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreased IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

In 1986 an amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) established a national ban on lead water pipes, solder, and fixtures. The SDWA was amended again in 1991 with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The LCR and later revisions aimed to minimize lead and copper in drinking water. Under the LCR water systems are required to monitor drinking water at customer taps. If lead concentrations exceed an action level of 15 ppb or copper concentrations exceed an action level of 1.3 ppm in more than 10% of customer taps sampled, the system must undertake a number of additional actions to control corrosion. Aurora Water has never experienced an action level exceedance for lead or copper and finished drinking water is treated to control corrosion.

Even with the LCR in effect, some communities across the country, such as Flint, MI, where lead water service lines and fixtures are prevalent, have experienced elevated lead levels in drinking water. As a result, the EPA determined that the most effective way of eliminating lead in drinking water is to remove lead water service lines. The LCRR which was signed into law in 2021 requires water systems to submit an initial inventory of the material type of all water service lines by October 16, 2024. Water systems are expected to continue investigations until the material type of all water service lines is known. Water systems are also expected to develop and submit an initial plan for replacing water service lines made of lead or galvanized steel impacted by lead, also known as galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), by October 16, 2024.

To further strengthen public health protection from lead in drinking water, the EPA recently released a draft rule known as the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Once it is signed into law, the LCRI will require water systems to remove and replace lead or GRR water service lines within ten years.

Aurora Water began taking proactive steps to identify lead and GRR water service lines in 2017 by initiating a water service line investigation pilot program. The information gathered through the pilot program and records review has established original Aurora (Ward 1) as the primary location where lead and GRR water service pipes are found within Aurora Water's service area. It is estimated that there are approximately 5,500 homes and buildings in original Aurora that will need to be physically inspected to confirm the material type of the service lines. Not all the properties needing inspected are expected to have a lead or GRR water service line. Based on the water service line investigations in 2017 and in the fall of 2023, it is expected that up to 30% of the service lines constructed prior to 1954 will require replacement.

Aurora Water will continue conducting water service line investigations throughout 2024 and 2025, or until all the material type of all water service lines can confidently be categorized. Aurora Water has already conducted some water service line replacements in 2023 where street repaving projects are due to take place in early 2024. In 2023, Aurora Water funded the full cost of replacement for lead and GRR water service lines. Aurora Water intends to continue funding the full cost of water service line replacement, which averages between \$6,500 for a partial replacement (water meter to building) or \$10,000 for a full replacement (water main to building). Aurora Water will be applying for State Revolving Funds (SRF) that have been set aside for lead and GRR water service line replacements in June 2024 with anticipated receipt of funding in late 2024 or early 2025.

The plan lead and GRR water service line replacement will be developed in collaboration with an engineering consultant. Replacement prioritization will take into consideration a number of factors, such as other capital projects that are planned for streets, the water distribution system, and the wastewater collection system to maximize cost effectiveness. Additional factors that will be assessed in the development of the service line replacement plan will include the identification and prioritization of vulnerable populations, such as schools, daycares, and medical facilities.

Question:

For information only. No action required.



Lead Service Line Replacement Program

January 9, 2024
 Citizens' Water Advisory Commission



Service Line Inventory and Lead Replacement Program

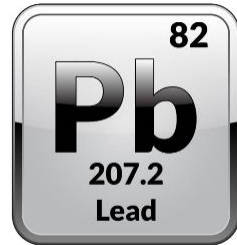


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Lead

Lead is a metal that, even at low levels, has the potential to cause a wide range of health effects, particularly in children six years old and under.

The primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint, but lead in drinking water can add to that exposure.

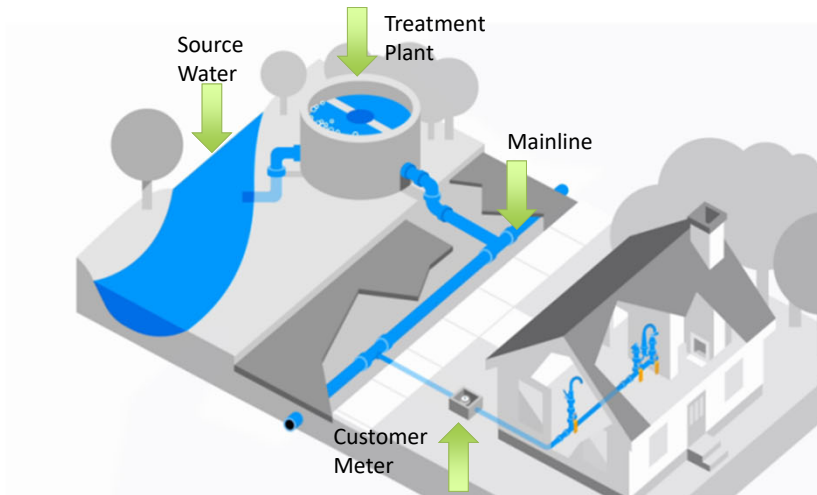


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How can lead get into the drinking water?

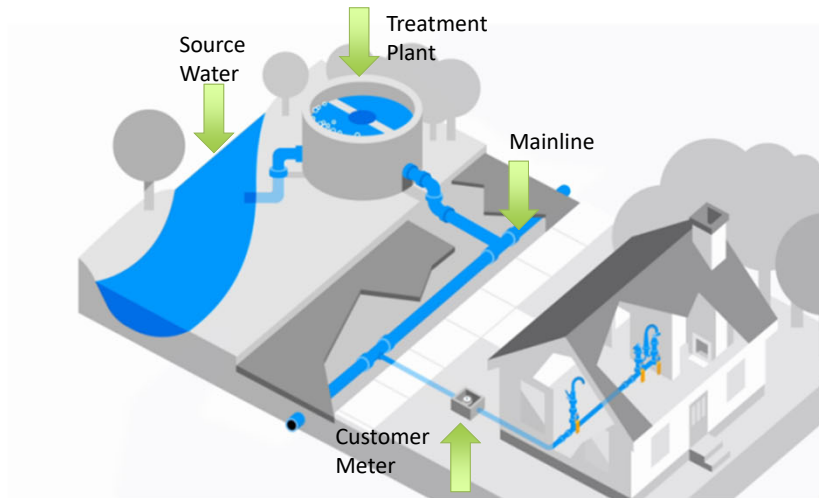


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Water from our reservoirs flows into the treatment plant, then through a series of pipes before it gets to your home.

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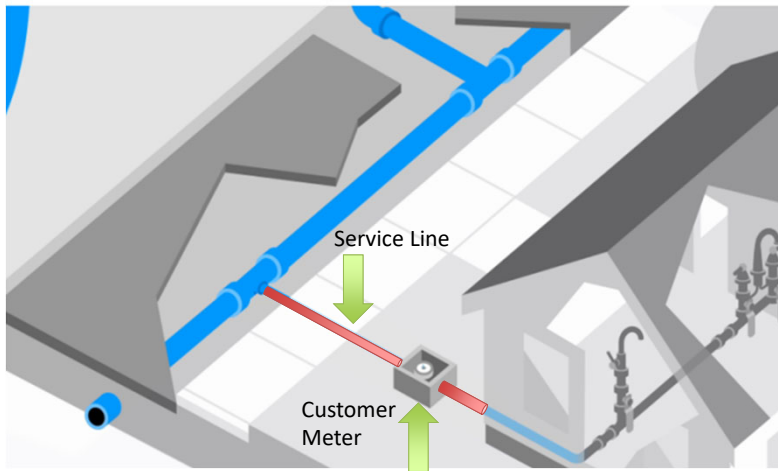
Aurora's water does not contain lead above 1 part per billion (instrument detection limit).

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So where does it come from?



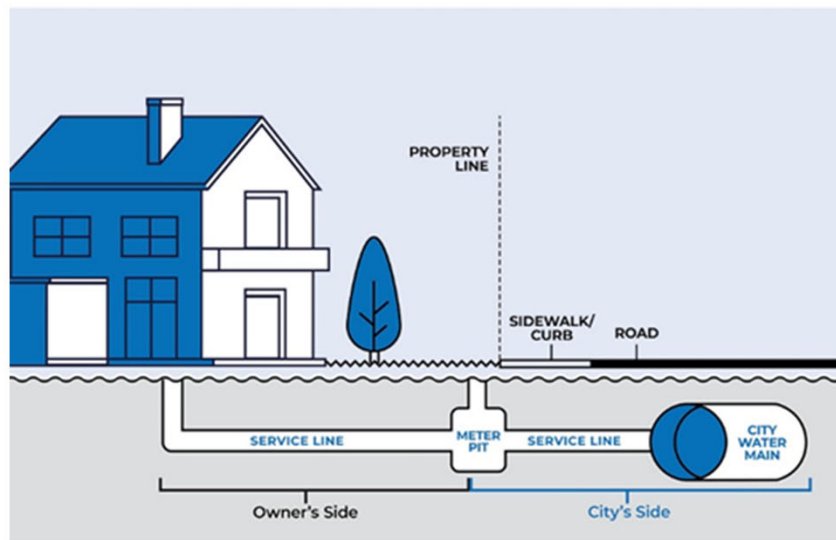
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Service lines can be made from lead pipe. They can be from the mainline to the meter and/or from the meter to the house.

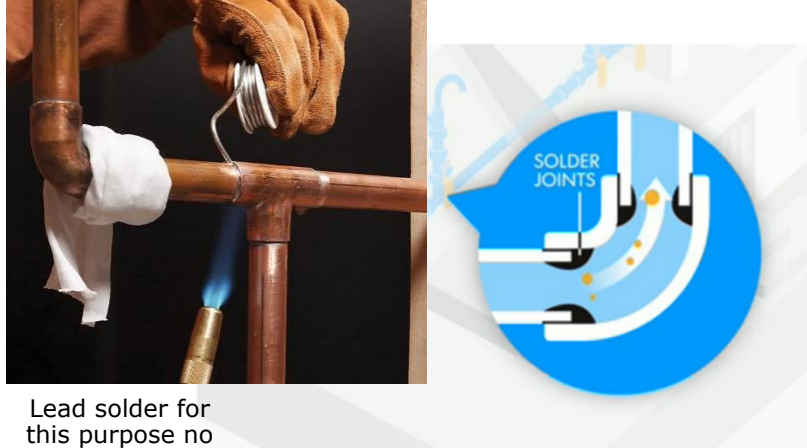


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Lead can be found in the solder used to join copper pipe

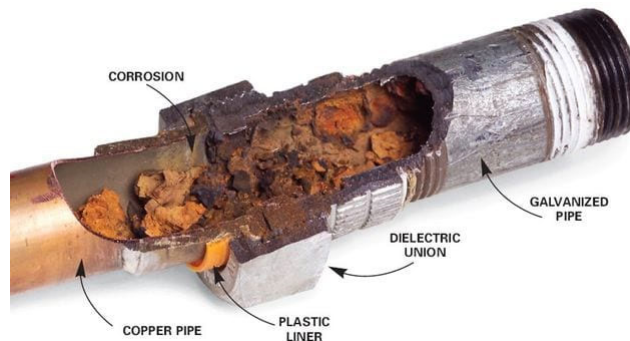


Lead solder for this purpose no longer meets code.

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Galvanized Steel Pipes

- Galvanized steel pipes that have been located downstream of a lead pipe may also accumulated tiny lead particles over time.



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Under the right conditions, lead can leach from service lines or solder into the water.



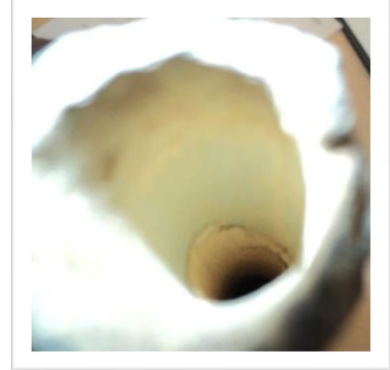
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If I have lead pipes, solder, or fixtures, does that mean I have lead in my water?



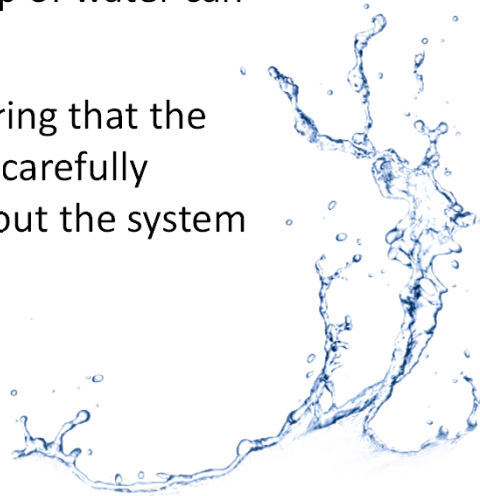
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- Through treatment system best management practices, a protective film develops over lead and other materials in pipe. This film helps prevent lead from leaching into the water.
- As long as this film is intact, houses with lead service lines or soldering pose less of a risk for lead in their water.



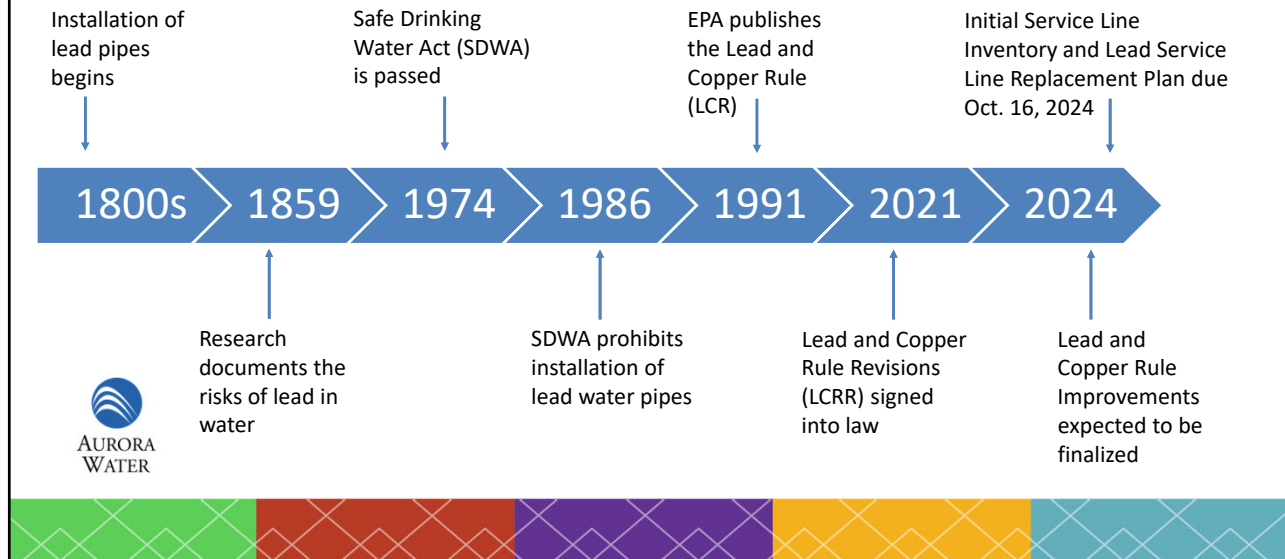
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- Changes to the chemical makeup of water can cause this film to break down.
- Aurora Water is diligent in ensuring that the great water we deliver to you is carefully monitored at all points throughout the system so this doesn't happen.



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Regulatory History of Lead in Drinking Water



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Aurora Water's Lead Removal Program

- 2017 – Lead Service Line Replacement Pilot Program
 - 1,800 service line inspections
 - 24 confirmed lead
 - 388 confirmed galvanized steel



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Aurora's Lead Removal Program

- 2023 – Service Line Investigations
 - 507 properties located in Colfax Villa and Morris Heights
 - 7 confirmed lead
 - 103 confirmed galvanized
 - Targeted inspections in areas where street paving is planned



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Primary Area of Investigation



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Consent Form Outreach

1. Letters sent to customers requesting to have consent form signed.
2. A post card is sent two to three weeks later as a reminder to sign consent form.
3. Phone calls, emails, and door hangers will also be used to get consent.



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Potholing Process



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Service Line Replacement Process

- Techniques used to minimize ground disruption
- Owner or tenant must be at home
- Service line may be replaced either from the main to the building or just from the meter to the building
- Service line extends into the building to the water shut-off valve
- Disturbed landscape, sidewalks, and roads will be restored to original condition



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Service Line Replacement Process



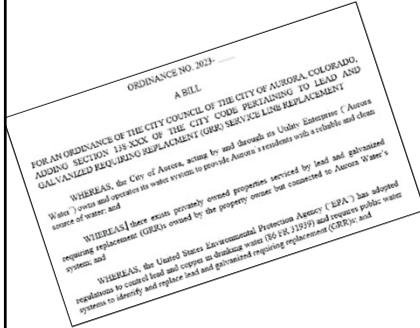
Service Line Replacements



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Why an Ordinance?

An ordinance would move the LSLR program from Voluntary to Mandatory.
Owner consent is still the preferred choice.



- An ordinance may provide authority if owner declines consent. The ordinance could allow AW to access private property to protect public health.
- Voluntary programs have been *unsuccessful in achieving 100% compliance*.
- AW attempted a voluntary program in 2018, and it was not successful.
- Several programs started as voluntary and converted to mandatory including *Newark, Pittsburgh, DC Water, Detroit, and several towns in New Jersey* to expedite their LSLR participation and schedules.

Mandatory Replacement Approach

Customers would be required to have their LSL replaced either by the utility or on their own within an established timeframe.

"If AW's goal is to remove all LSLs and GRRs, a mandatory approach is strongly recommended."



- Increased efficiency/lower replacement costs
- Allows for pre-planning block-by-block
- Higher participation rate (>90%)
- Shift from an income qualified approach replacements to we will pay for all replacements in the LSLR program
- Most likely to receive grant or principal forgiveness for work in disadvantaged communities
- More overall replacements

Recommended Options for a Mandated Approach or Ordinance

- **Option 1 –All lead service lines are illegal:** The ordinance establishes that lead and galvanized requiring replacement drinking water service lines are illegal in the City of Aurora and that they must be replaced by a particular date or schedule.
- **Option 2 –Mandatory participation in LSLR Program:** Ordinance to define that the property owner must participate in AW’s lead service line replacement program or may only receive a waiver if they replace their service line through other means.



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Internal Funds

- Council approved \$3 Million per year for 5 years
- Year 2023:
 - Contractor replaced 3 LSLs as a demonstration project
 - Service line investigations within priority areas (potholing)
 - Program management
 - Public education and outreach



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External Funds

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law through State Revolving Fund
 - Estimated \$60 million with loan forgiveness up to \$4 million
 - Ongoing negotiations with state SRF team to define project approach
 - Goal of application in June 2024 for FY 2025 award



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Public Outreach

Website for Lead Replacement Program is currently up

Information on the website includes:

- Details about the lead replacement program and the process Aurora Water is using for customer outreach.
- Information about property access consent forms as well as a link to the consent form.
- Health effect information about lead.
- Information about what people can do to protect themselves and their families from lead exposure.



www.auroragov.org/lead

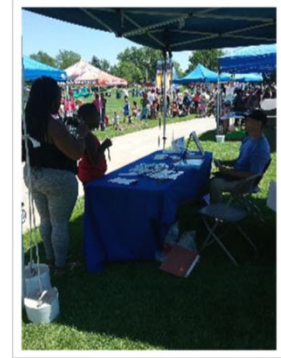


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Public Outreach

General Public Outreach beginning in 2024

- Program Information on water billing insert (February)
- News Aurora and This is Aurora articles (February)
- Social media posts (beginning in February with consistent, ongoing messaging)
- Begin sharing information about Lead Replacement Program with community leaders, community service providers and community groups in January 2024 with consistent, ongoing messaging.
- Attendance at appropriate city of Aurora community events.
- SRF grant funding public meeting (approximately March 2024).
- Aurora TV segment – (estimated sometime April – June 2024).



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Public Outreach

Targeted Outreach in Original Aurora (beginning in February 2024)

- Public meetings in Ward 1.
- Posters about the Lead Replacement Program for distribution to areas of community visibility.
 - Will work with area businesses where appropriate to post on community information boards, etc.
- Yard signs that can be provided to customers who agree to participate in the Lead Replacement Program.
- Social media targeted to Ward 1 (Nextdoor).
- Information provided to schools and parents in Ward 1 about Lead Replacement Program.



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Questions/Discussion?

