LAUSD UNIFIED

Drinking Water Quality Program Update

Board of Education Meeting

March 27, 2023

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Chief Facilities Executive

Background

LAUSD has been at the forefront of efforts to reduce lead in drinking water, consistently implementing stringent practices to help ensure that the quality of drinking water at our schools meet or exceed regulatory guidance.

We were among the first in the country to:

- Conduct testing of drinking water fixtures
- Implement a daily flushing program in schools
- Adopt lead in drinking water standard of 15 parts per billion (ppb), which was 25% lower than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

In keeping with our proactive approach and advancement of the Strategic Plan, efforts are underway to:

- **Reduce the level of lead in drinking water to below 5 ppb** -- the equivalent of the Food and Drug Administration's standard for bottled water
- Install water bottle filling stations at schools.

Continuing Diligence

- If the lead level at a drinking source is determined to be at or above 15 ppb, the fixture is immediately taken out of service
  - A thorough investigation must be completed, and a permanent fix implemented.
    - Permanent fixes can include the removal of the plumbing fixture, the replacement of the fixture itself or the installation of a filter.

- The Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) notifies principals when a water fixture does not meet the District's stringent health requirements, outlining immediate measures that are taken to safeguard the health and safety of our students and staff.

- OEHS assesses and evaluates lead sampling and remediation activities to ensure safe drinking water availability and compliance with applicable state and federal mandates and guidance.

Drinking Water Quality Program
Phase 1

- 2008

  - Comprehensive testing of drinking water fountains at all schools.
  - Fountains exceeding the action level of 15 ppb on the second draw were shut off until corrective action(s) were implemented.

- 2009
  - Board authorizes $12.5 million (bond funds) to mitigate lead in water to 15 ppb at schools with the youngest students.
  - Installation of filters at each drinking water fountain at all Early Education Centers and 20% of Elementary School sites.

Drinking Water Quality Program
Phase 2

- 2015
  - Board authorizes $19.8 million (bond funds) to complete lead remediation efforts at all District K-12 school sites and eliminate the long-standing daily flushing requirement.

  - By 2018, work was completed at all District schools and all schools were taken off the daily flushing.

Drinking Water Quality Program
Phase 3

- 2019: Board authorizes initial allocation of $15 million (bond funds) to meet objectives of current phase:
  - Resample all active drinking water fountains at all school sites.
  - Upgrade drinking fountains to bring lead levels to below 5 ppb.
  - Install water bottle filling station(s) at all school sites.
  - Start with schools serving the youngest students and most sensitive receptors as funding permits.
- Initial allocation represents a portion of the funding required.

Drinking Water Quality Program
Phase 3 Status

Completed To Date:

- Resampling of all drinking water fountains at all school sites (37,151 samples).
- Decommissioned fountains with test results of lead levels at or above 15 ppb.
- Remediation work at 183 school sites and installation of 224 water bottle filling stations:
  - All 92 Early Education Centers
  - 8 Special Education Centers
  - 83 Elementary Schools

Drinking Water Quality Program
Phase 3 Status (Continued)

In Progress:

- **TODAY:** March 21, 2023: Requesting Board Authorization to add $33 million (bond funds) to the program budget (Board Report No. 179-22/23).
- Increased budget will allow staff to continue work at remaining 465 sites and install approximately 615 water bottle filling stations.
    - 4 Special Education Centers
    - 461 Elementary Schools

Future Phase: All Middle Schools and High Schools (Additional funding will be required.)

Questions/Comments