HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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Media Release

Hillsboro School District Completes Comprehensive Lead Testing

More than 3,500 drinking water outlets tested, just 22 require further investigation and mitigation

November 16, 2016, Hillsboro, OR –Hillsboro School District has finally received lead testing results from comprehensive water sampling that was conducted over the summer. Out of more than 6,000 samples collected from over 3,500 outlets across the district, 299 showed initially high results and just 22 of those were "double positives," where both the first draw and flush samples were above the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recommended action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb).

In the early spring of 2016, the District began planning for the testing of all potential sources of drinking water: faucets, drinking fountains, exterior hose bibs, shower heads, etc. at each school and district facility.

The District's environmental safety contractor, PBS, conducted all of the sampling following the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) guidance and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 3Ts technical guidance on reducing lead in drinking water in schools.

The testing consisted of a first draw sample (water that has been sitting in the pipe between 8 and 18 hours) and a follow-up 30-second flush test. All samples collected are considered part of the test.

If the first draw sample shows lead content above the EPA's recommended action level, the District will immediately close access to that fixture* and test the flush sample. If the flush sample shows lead content *below* the action level that means the lead is likely in the fixture itself, not in the water supply or in the pipes leading to the outlet. In that case, the fixture will be replaced and the outlet returned to service as a possible source of drinking water. (*Closing access includes either turning off water to the outlet, placing a bag over the fixture, or placing signage at the outlet indicating that water is fine for hand-washing, but not for drinking.)

If the flush sample shows lead content *above* the action level that means the lead is likely coming from deeper in the piping system and that additional investigation needs to be conducted to determine and mitigate the source of the lead. In that case, the fixture will be removed and/or the water source capped until such time as the investigation can take place.

Locations of the double positive results are as follows:

- Farmington View Elementary School – East baseball field drinking fountain behind backstop (25.4 ppb)
- Indian Hills Elementary School – Gym storage area sink (68.2 ppb)
- McKinney Elementary School – Instructional materials center, center sink faucet (21 ppb)
- Mooberry Elementary School – Exterior hose bib, north wall near west end of building (25.7 ppb)
- Brown Middle School – Showerhead in girls locker room (28.8 ppb); drinking fountain in girls locker room (26.8 ppb); drinking fountain in boys locker room (36.4 ppb); boiler room sink (48.9 ppb); drinking fountain in student store (25.9 ppb); science room Y2, sink 6, cold only faucet (85.7 ppb)

- Evergreen Middle School – Science room 24, sink 6 (579 ppb); science room 23, sink 7 (20.4 ppb); room 38 sink (38.4 ppb); room 14, LRC, sink (44.4 ppb)
- Poynter Middle School – Storage room between rooms 25 and 26, sink (20.2 ppb); room 25, sink 4 (22.7 ppb)
- Miller Education Center West – Main building, science room 119, hand wash sink at restroom (143 ppb)
- Hilhi – Math/Science room 11, lab sink #7 (27.4 ppb); exterior hose bib, east side of Social Studies building (23 ppb); exterior hose bib, west side of Language Arts building (34 ppb); exterior hose bib, north side of Drama & Arts building (26 ppb); exterior hose bib, north side of Health Education/Gym (81 ppb)

It should also be noted that there were nine of the first draw samples with lead content above the action level for which no flush sample was taken, due to the age of the building and/or location of the outlets: two exterior hose bibs at Imlay Elementary School; a mop sink at Orenco Elementary School; a kitchen fill spigot at Patterson Elementary School; and two kitchen faucets, a science room lab sink, a sink faucet in the second floor women's restroom, and an exterior hose bib at Liberty High School. The fixtures at these locations will be replaced and the water from them will be resampled; only when testing shows results below the EPA's action level will those outlets be returned to service as possible sources of drinking water.

As results have come in for each school, they have been communicated to staff, students, and families via website postings, e-mail communications, and automated phone calls. We have also posted a spreadsheet of final results on the Environmental Testing page of our website. There, you can find the full testing reports for each school.

Working in collaboration with our School-based Health Center at Century High School, the District will cover the cost of lead testing for any student or staff member who fears they may have consumed a large quantity of water from one of the outlets that tested above the EPA's recommended action level, particularly those with a "double positive" result. Please contact the School-based Health Center directly for more information or to schedule an appointment (503-597-4580).

Next steps are to complete fixture replacements, investigate those locations where the flush test results were above the action level, and retest indicated outlets, as well as to determine a schedule for follow-up testing over the coming years.

Many thanks are in order for the District's Facilities team, particularly plumber Phil Suing, for all of their hard work in conducting this important testing and mitigation process, and to the City of Hillsboro for contributing $40,000 to help cover the cost of the testing.

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