

# CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



**MEETING DATE:** August 25, 2020

**ITEM NUMBER:** 9.C

**SECOND READING:**

{{customfields.ResoOrdNumber}}

**TYPE OF ITEM:** Consent

**PRESENTED BY:**

Dale Rademacher, City Manager's Office, Dale.Rademacher@longmontcolorado.gov;  
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**SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:**

A Resolution Of The Longmont City Council Approving The Intergovernmental Agreement Between The City Of Longmont And The State Of Colorado Department Of Public Health And Environment For COVID Surveillance Testing Of Longmont's Wastewater

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Attached is a Resolution for an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to conduct COVID surveillance testing of the City of Longmont's wastewater. CDPHE has secured grant funding to implement a wastewater surveillance program for the presence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The program will involve sampling over a 52 week period by approximately 16 wastewater utilities with analysis to be performed by Colorado State University (CSU) and Metropolitan State University. Included in this project is the development of a dashboard for display of virus concentrations, as well as geographic sampling locations, health statistics, and demographic data. CDPHE will share this data with local health officials and possibly the Centers for Disease Control as part of the national effort to use wastewater surveillance to monitor COVID-19. Staff briefed Council on this collaborative effort at the August 11, 2020 Council meeting as part of the City Manager's COVID-19 update.

**COUNCIL OPTIONS:**

1. Approve the Resolution
2. Do not approve the Resolution

**RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:** Option 1.

**FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has secured grant funding of \$520,000 that will cover the cost of analysis for the duration of the project. The City of Longmont Water Quality staff will provide in-kind services in the form of

sampling, sample handling, and shipping to the CSU Laboratory. Shipping of the samples by courier will amount to \$4,680 for the duration of the project and will be funded out of the Water Quality Laboratory budget.

**BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS:**

Wastewater based surveillance has been used to detect and quantify SARS-CoV-2, the viral agent that causes COVID-19. In a Netherlands study, the virus was detected in wastewater approximately seven days prior to the first clinical diagnosis of the disease. The presence of the virus and its increasing and decreasing amounts in wastewater can be another tool used by policy makers in addressing COVID-19 responses. Front Range Utilities and the CDPHE have recognized the potential use of this data and have collaborated in establishing funding for a program that monitors wastewater for the SARS-CoV-2. This program includes approximately 16 utilities, which encompasses about 60% of the State's population. Data will be shared with local health authorities and, when appropriate, with the national surveillance program being established with the Centers for Disease Control.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: Resolution.

Attachment B: Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Longmont and the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment