

**Agenda Item:** 1.c

**Meeting Date:** May 5, 2026

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** City Commission

**Through:** Jennifer K. Bramley, City Manager

**From:** Clayton Watkins

**Date:** 2026-04-16

**Subject:** Drinking Water Week Proclamation, May 3-9, 2026

**Presenter(s):** Clayton "Clay" Watkins, P.E., Director of Utilities | City Engineer;  
Megan Ciresi, Water Production Superintendent

**Staff Recommendation:** Share the 2026 Proclamation, designating May 3-9, 2026, as Drinking Water Week.

**Strategic Themes:** Environmental Resiliency & Sustainability

**Boards & Committees:** N / A

**Budget Impact:** N / A

**Past Action:** Drinking Water Week is an annual recognition, celebrated each May since 1988.

**Next Action:** Share proclamation and promote May 3-9, 2026 as Drinking Water Week.

**Attachments:** [A. Drinking Water Week 2026 Proclamation.pdf](#)

**Background:** For more than 40 years, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and its members have used Drinking Water Week as a unique opportunity for both water professionals, and the communities they serve, to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. Drinking Water Week this year is being celebrated May 3-9, 2026.

In 1988, the AWWA brought Drinking Water Week to the attention of the U.S. Government and formed a coalition along with the League of Women Voters, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Rep. Robert Roe and Sen. Dennis DeConcini subsequently sponsored a Resolution to name the first week of May as Drinking Water Week, and the week-long observance was

declared in a joint Congressional Resolution signed by then President Ronald Reagan.

Recognizing Drinking Water Week is an easy way to educate the public, connect with the community, and promote employee morale. Too often, water utilities receive negative publicity, related to such occurrences as main breaks, precautionary water boils, or increasing rates. Recognizing Drinking Water Week provides a mechanism for positive communication. Drinking Water Week is a perfect time to educate children about their water supply, and can help provide an opportunity to reaffirm the importance our employees play in supplying clean, safe drinking water for the public.