



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from the City of Santa Rosa Regarding Enhanced Electrical Safety Procedures Following Tragic Accident

The City of Santa Rosa is still recovering from the tragic loss of our colleague, Daryl Clark, a 12-year veteran of Santa Rosa Water. Last September, Daryl was performing annual maintenance on a piece of high voltage electrical equipment at one of the City's recycled water pump stations immediately prior to his death.

Following the accident, the City took immediate action, prior to restarting the pump station, to complete an extensive safety review of the equipment and workplace safety. This included partnering with subject matter experts on electrical safety, implementing interim procedures recommended by Cal/OSHA prior to re-start-up, as well as reviewing standard operating procedures.

As is protocol following any workplace fatality, Cal/OSHA was notified immediately following the incident. As a result of the Cal/OSHA investigation, the City was recently notified that citations will be issued to the City of Santa Rosa on or after April 5, 2021 for safety violations. The City will review these citations and request the official Cal/OSHA report of investigation to further understand the findings.

Since September, the City has taken steps to audit the Department's safety and training program, as well as evaluating the restructuring of workgroups, reinforcing the importance of workplace safety, and conducting additional safety trainings. The City takes these citations seriously and is committed to take any further appropriate actions, as needed.

The safety of our employees is paramount, and the City is committed to ongoing safety training and the continual improvement of procedures to prevent workplace accidents.