

From: [H Meyers](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Agenda Item #25 - Drinking Water Fluoridation Request for City Council Direction Regarding an Operating Permit Amendment from the California State Water Resources Control Board to Discontinue Supplemental Fluoridation of the City's Drinking Water Supply
Date: Sunday, May 3, 2026 3:55:42 PM

I have lived in Huntington Beach for 30 years.

Please support the continued fluoridation of our city's water. Water fluoridation has lowered the rate of tooth decay in the U.S., it has been proven to be safe, effective and cost-saving for preventing tooth decay. Especially since many people do not have regular access to dental care, water fluoridation is an important benefit to society. It is supported by the American Public Health Association, the American Dental Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, among others.

Water fluoridation has been widely studied over many years and is considered one of the most important and effective public health measures instituted in this country.

Please support continued fluoridation of our water.

Hildy Meyers
Huntington Beach

From: [Kaci Christian](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Stop adding fluoride to the water
Date: Sunday, May 3, 2026 8:27:07 PM

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Dear Members of the City Council and Public Health Officials,

I am writing to urge the city of Huntington Beach to immediately discontinue adding fluoride to the municipal water supply.

Health and safety concerns

Municipal fluoridation delivers a "one size fits all" dose to a diverse population, including infants, pregnant people, the elderly and individuals with kidney disease who may be more vulnerable to fluoride's harmful effects.

Evidence of harm at high or chronic exposures, such as dental fluorosis and potential endocrine or neurological effects reported in some studies, raises, reasonable concern about continuing population-wide dosing dosing without local safety assurances.

Lack of informed consent

Forcing chemicals or medication through drinking water, removes individual choice and informed consent. Residence should be allowed to decide whether they want fluoride exposure, rather than having it mandated by default.

Questionable benefit in today's context

Most cavity prevention in current times comes from topical fluoride in toothpaste and professional dental application. The incremental benefit of systemic fluoridation for modern communities with wide access to dental care is limited and does not justify population-wide exposure.

Cumulative exposure and vulnerable subpopulations

Fluoride exposure from multiple sources, such as toothpaste, processed foods and beverages containing fluoridated water, can lead to cumulative intake that is difficult for individuals to manage, increasing the risk of over exposure— especially for young children

Environmental and downstream concerns

Fluoride in wastewater and bio solids can accumulate in the environment and aquatic ecosystems. The City should not assume there are no ecological impacts of fluoridating city water.

Precautionary approach and alternatives

Given the concerns described above, I urge the City to halt fluoridation and adopt targeted, evidence-based alternatives such as City-funded school- and clinical-based topical fluoride programs; expanded access to preventive dental services for low-income families; and public education on oral hygiene, and the use of fluoridated toothpaste.

Requested actions

Immediately suspend fluoridation, pending a comprehensive, transparent study of local health data and an independent risk assessment.

Hold a public, expert-led forum to review current science, local water fluoride monitoring data and the relative benefits of targeted dental examinations or interventions.

Provide clear, up-to-date information to residents about available fluoride sources, risks to vulnerable groups and safe alternatives.

Conclusion

From an abundance of caution and respect for public health, individual choice and environmental protection, please stop adding fluoride to Huntington Beach's water supply until independent, local and transparent analysis provides concrete proof that fluoridating the water supply is safe, necessary and beneficial for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kaci Christian

Huntington Beach CA 92648

From: [Zokaie, Tooka](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Cc: [Nour, Noha](#); [Hanlon, Robert](#)
Subject: Item 25: Letter for City Council
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 11:26:35 AM
Attachments: [CDA_HuntingtonBeachCityCouncil_Item25.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from tooka.zokaie@cda.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Huntington Beach City Council,

Please see the attached letter from California Dental Association President and Orange County Dental Society President regarding Item 25 of the May 5th City Council Meeting.

Many thanks,

Tooka Zokaie (she, her, hers)
Sr. Health Policy Analyst, California Dental Association
CDA | CDA Foundation | **TDIC** | TDIC Insurance Solutions
1201 K Street, 15th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
916.554.5312 | **916.335.2667** mobile
Tooka.Zokaie@cda.org | cda.org



May 4, 2026

Casey McKeon, Mayor
Butch Twining, Mayor Pro Tem
Pat Burns, Councilman
Andrew Gruel, Councilman
Don Kennedy, Councilman
Gracey Van Der Mark, Council Woman
Chad Williams, Councilman

Submitted electronically

Dear Mayor McKeon and members of the Huntington Beach City Council,

On behalf of the Orange County Dental Association (OCDS) representing over 2,500 local member dentists and California Dental Association (CDA), representing 27,000 member dentists throughout the state, we are writing to urge you to continue the commitment to community water fluoridation (CWF) for residents of Huntington Beach.

CWF remains one of the most effective and equitable public health measures available for preventing tooth decay across all ages. Its benefits are especially important for young children, older adults, and individuals with limited access to dental care. Studies show that CWF saves an average of \$32 per person annually in avoided dental treatment costs. The cost to maintain fluoridation in your system, less than \$1 per resident per year, is nominal, particularly when compared to the long-term costs of untreated dental disease.

Assembly Bill 733 (Speier, 1995), also known as the California Safe Drinking Water Act, mandates that public water systems with 10,000 or more service connections fluoridate their water so long as funding is available. The cost burden on individual households is negligible, yet the loss of this proven preventive health intervention would disproportionately affect vulnerable populations and widen health disparities. As numerous public health authorities, including the CDC, California Department of Public Health, and former U.S. Surgeon General, have repeatedly affirmed, community water fluoridation remains one of the safest, most cost-effective, and equitable methods for preventing dental disease.

The agenda item for the May 5th meeting, posted publicly on May 1st, only realistically allowed 2 business days for community members to review the proposal, offer comments, and make arrangements to attend the council meeting. CDA urges this agenda item to be informational only to allow the community sufficient time to share their sentiments before the next city council meeting. While we ultimately strongly advocate for maintaining this disease prevention program, the short notice of the agenda item will lack appropriate community input to allow the council to make an informed decision. A best practice for considering a community water fluoridation rollback is 90 days to allow community members to consider this significant proposal to their health.

Given the very low cost and broad health impact, we believe it is entirely appropriate and fiscally responsible to continue supporting this service through existing funding systems. Maintaining CWF ensures continued protection for thousands of residents and helps avoid higher dental treatment costs down the line, including visits to the emergency department, which increase in communities that rollback community water fluoridation.

We urge the city council to uphold this small but powerful investment in community health. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the well-being of the communities you serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Hanlon, DMD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Robert Hanlon, DMD
CDA President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noha Nour, DDS". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Noha Nour, DDS
OCDS President

From: [Russinof, Hollis](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Cc: clerk@surfcitync.gov; [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)
Subject: American Academy of Pediatrics Support for Community Water Fluoridation
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 1:29:08 PM
Attachments: [2026 Community Water Fluoridation Support Letter HB, CA 5.4.26.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from hrussinof@aap.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Afternoon, Mayor McKeon & Council Members

I am contacting you at the request of local health professionals regarding your upcoming consideration of community water fluoridation in Huntington Beach, California in advance of tomorrow's City Council and Public Financing Authority meeting where the proposed removal of fluoridation is on the agenda.

The American Academy of Pediatrics supports community water fluoridation as a cost-effective means of preventing tooth decay throughout the lifespan and joins with other major medical and health organizations in advocating for this common-sense public health policy.

Many people don't realize that tooth decay, although preventable, is the most common chronic childhood disease, 5 times more common than asthma. All too often, it leads to countless hours out of school and work, needless pain and suffering, and costly visits to the emergency room.

We support community water fluoridation because it is backed by a solid base of scientific evidence and over 75 years of practice and because it is safe and effective.

Attached you will find our letter of support. We invite you to visit our website, ILikeMyTeeth.org, for additional information.

Respectfully submitted

Hollis Russinof, MUPP
[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
[Campaign for Dental Health](#)
[Section on Oral Health](#)

345 Park Boulevard
Itasca, Illinois 60143
630/626-6483

Pronouns: she/her/hers ([Why?](#))

My regular days at the Academy are Monday through Thursday.

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



May 4, 2026

Mayor Casey McKeon & City Council Members
Huntington Beach, CA

Via email

Dear Mayor McKeon and City Council Members,

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I write to support the recommendations of the [American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry](#) (AAPD), the [American Dental Association](#) (ADA), and [Healthy People 2030](#) in stating that community water fluoridation is safe, effective, and prevents unnecessary dental disease, a costly and painful condition.

The AAP is particularly concerned with the high rates of early childhood caries (tooth decay) in the United States and the detrimental effects this disease can have on children. Dental caries, although largely preventable, is the most common chronic childhood disease, five times more common than asthma. Dental caries can lead to severe health problems, including serious infection, debilitating pain, dietary and speech problems, and in rare cases, even death.

The AAP supports community water fluoridation to help protect children's teeth. Regular and frequent exposure to small amounts of fluoride is the best way to protect the teeth against caries. This exposure can be readily accomplished through drinking water that has been optimally fluoridated and brushing with fluoride toothpaste twice daily.¹ Community-based water fluoridation intervention optimizes the level of fluoride in drinking water, resulting in pre-eruptive and post-eruptive protection of the teeth. The delivery of fluoride includes community-based, professionally applied, and self-administered modalities.

Water fluoridation is a cost-effective means of preventing dental caries, with the lifetime cost per person equaling less than the cost of one dental restoration. In short, fluoridated water is the cheapest and most effective way to deliver anti-caries benefits to communities.² Water fluoridation is effective and inexpensive, does not require daily adherence, and benefits everyone regardless of socioeconomic status.³

The AAP continues its mission to ensure the health and well-being of all children, and, to this end, supports local and state efforts for children to have access to safe, optimally fluoridated water. If you require additional information, please contact Gina Crosley-Corcoran, MPH at gcrosleycorcoran@aap.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew D. Racine".

Andrew D. Racine, MD, PhD
President

Cc: Lauren Barone, MPH
Hollis Russinof, MUPP

345 Park Blvd
Itasca, IL 60143
Phone: 630/626-6000
Fax: 847/434-8000
www.aap.org

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1 Bright Futures Guidelines for the Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents, 4th Edition. 2017.

2 Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting. *Pediatrics*. *Pediatrics* December 2020, 146 (6).

3 Early Childhood Caries in Indigenous Communities. *Pediatrics*. June 2021, 147 (6).

From: [Ha Lee](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Fluoridation in water supply
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 2:00:40 PM

You don't often get email from haleedds@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Huntington Beach City Council:

Subject: Support for Continued Fluoridation of Huntington Beach Drinking Water

Dear Members of the City Council,

As a resident of Huntington Beach, I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining the fluoridation of Huntington Beach's public water supply. Removing fluoride from our city's drinking water would be a detriment to the health and well-being of our residents. Decades of scientific research and public health data have consistently demonstrated that water fluoridation is a safe, effective, and equitable way to prevent tooth decay and promote overall community health.

1. Dental Health Benefits:

Fluoride in drinking water has been shown to significantly reduce the prevalence of tooth decay in both children and adults. Communities that maintain fluoridated water experience lower rates of cavities, fillings, and dental-related pain. By removing fluoride, we risk an increase in preventable dental problems, which can disproportionately affect children and seniors.

2. Public Health Equity:

Water fluoridation is a proven public health measure that benefits all residents, regardless of socioeconomic status. It provides protection to those who may have limited access to regular dental care or preventive treatments. Eliminating fluoride would increase health disparities within our community, leaving vulnerable populations at higher risk for dental disease.

3. Economic Benefits:

Preventing tooth decay reduces the burden of costly dental treatments for families and the city's healthcare system. Studies show that every dollar invested in water fluoridation saves multiple dollars in avoided dental care costs. Removing fluoride could result in higher public and private expenses for dental treatments over time.

4. Safety and Endorsement by Health Authorities:

Fluoridation of drinking water at recommended levels is endorsed by the American Dental Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization. Extensive studies confirm that it is safe and effective when properly monitored. The continued use of fluoride aligns Huntington Beach with best practices in public health.

In conclusion, removing fluoride from Huntington Beach's water supply would undermine decades of progress in oral health, disproportionately affect vulnerable residents, and increase healthcare costs. Maintaining fluoridation is a proven, cost-effective, and equitable public health measure that continues to benefit our entire community.

I urge the City Council to prioritize the health of our residents by keeping fluoride in our water. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Ha Lee

From: [Chad Mayes](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Cc: [Evelyne Vutien](#); [Natalie Vander Kam](#)
Subject: Public Comment – May 5 Agenda Item (Water Fluoridation)
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 2:43:23 PM
Attachments: [CSPD HB Fluoride Letter.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from chad.mayes@genesi.llc. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Clerk,

Please see the attached letter from the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry regarding the May 5 City Council agenda item related to community water fluoridation.

We respectfully request that this letter be included in the official record for this item and shared with the Mayor and Members of the City Council in advance of their consideration.

Please let me know if anything further is needed to ensure timely distribution.

Thank you for your assistance.

Chad Mayes | Managing Partner | **Genesi LLC**
Phone: +1 760 413-9048 | www.genesi.llc

CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

California State Chapter American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry



May 4, 2026

Mayor McKeon and Members of the City Council
City of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

RE: Community Water Fluoridation

Dear Mayor McKeon and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry, I am writing regarding your May 5 agenda item related to a potential amendment to discontinue supplemental water fluoridation.

Our members are pediatric dental specialists who care for children across California, including many in Orange County, and serve the most vulnerable children. Some of these children have special needs, suffer from extensive dental disease affecting their heart, and are on organ transplant and heart surgery waitlists. The majority are cared for under Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal services, and they come from lower socio-economic backgrounds. We see every day what prevention looks like when it is working to prevent or mitigate the extent of this disease, and we experience firsthand the suffering of our patients who do not benefit from preventive treatments such as water fluoridation.

Community water fluoridation is one of the top ten national historic public health measures that consistently reaches every child. It does not depend on insurance, transportation, or whether a family can get a dental appointment. It simply works in the background, quietly reducing the risk of tooth decay.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognized community water fluoridation as one of the top ten public health achievements of the twentieth century. That designation reflects decades of evidence and real-world outcomes. Even today, fluoridation reduces tooth decay by roughly twenty-five percent in children and adults. When it was first introduced, the reductions were even greater.

Just as important is who benefits. Fluoridation reaches all residents equally, regardless of income or education. For many of the families we serve, especially those facing barriers to care, it is the only consistent form of prevention their children receive.

We understand the City is evaluating this issue, in part, through a fiscal lens, including approximately \$160,000 in annual operating costs and potential future capital investments. Those are valid considerations. At the same time, it is important to recognize that the costs of untreated dental

disease are not reflected in that calculation. Every \$1 invested in water fluoridation yields roughly \$20 to \$50 in dental treatment savings. Thus, a \$160,000 investment would result in a \$3,200,000 to \$8,000,000 savings in health care costs.

When prevention is reduced, the system absorbs those costs elsewhere. We see more cavities, more infections, more emergency room visits, and more children needing procedures that could have been avoided. For families, that means missed school, missed work, and real financial strain. For young children, it can mean more invasive treatment at a very early age.

We also note that while naturally occurring fluoride remains in the water supply, it is not at levels shown to provide optimal protection against tooth decay. The purpose of community water fluoridation is to bring those levels to a point where meaningful prevention occurs.

From our perspective, this decision is not simply about a permit amendment or an operational change. It is a decision about whether to continue a proven, community-wide prevention strategy that benefits thousands of children and families.

We would respectfully urge the Council to maintain community water fluoridation and, at a minimum, ensure that there is sufficient time for meaningful public input before any final decision is made.

CSPD and our members would be happy to serve as a resource if additional clinical perspective would be helpful.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to the health of your community.

CSPD and our members would be happy to serve as a resource if additional clinical or public health perspective would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Natalie Vander Kam, D.D.S.
President, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry



Evelyne Vu-Tien, D.D.S.
Public Policy Advocate, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

From: drynerson@earthlink.net
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Item 26-335
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 2:56:16 PM

Once again it appears that the city council is pursuing a personal political agenda, rather than running the city for the benefit of its citizenry.

A case in point is the proposal to cease supplementing the fluoride in the municipal water supply. The stated reason is to save money, but in reality, this is not a cost savings, it's a cost shift.

There is a long and well-documented history of the benefits of the appropriate level of fluoride in municipal water supplies. It is safe and it improves the dental health of all residents. So, instead of honoring the data and continuing supplementing fluoride in our water, the council is proposing to shift that responsibility onto individual citizens.

Here is a quote from the Utah Department of Health and Human Services after their state legislature voted to ban adding fluoride to municipal water supplies:

“We recognize the benefits of fluoride to overall health. While community water fluoridation will no longer be available, there are measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of developing cavities. The law now allows pharmacists to prescribe fluoride, in addition to dentists and doctors. We encourage Utahns to have regular checkups with a dentist or healthcare provider to make sure they are doing everything they can to protect their oral health,” said Dr. Stacey Swilling, state dental director at DHHS.

Fluoride is a natural mineral that helps protect your teeth and bones. The amount of fluoride that is found naturally in water is different for each community. Most people in Utah live in an area where there isn't enough natural fluoride in the water to protect their teeth. That's why it is important to talk to a dentist, doctor, or pharmacist about how to best protect your teeth. You may need a fluoride supplement (pill or drops), varnish, toothpaste, or mouth rinse.

So health professionals are telling us that we need supplemental fluoride for dental health, and eliminating it from the municipal water supply puts the responsibility onto each individual citizen to figure out how to obtain that treatment for themselves and their families and how to pay for it from their own pocket. This will disproportionately impact those who have less resources and less access to dental health practitioners.

This also flies in the face of the public advisory vote that was taken years ago wherein the citizenry voted that they wanted the city to add supplemental fluoride to the water system.

So, as is typical of this city council, it is acting to force its personal political beliefs on all the citizens, and making us pay for the resulting damage, whether it be in health outcomes, legal fees and penalties, or the humiliation of having our city become the laughingstock of the world.

David Rynerson

From: [David Thorpe](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Cc: info@ocwd.com; institutional@blackrock.com
Subject: Comment on 5/5/2026 Huntington Beach, CA City Council Agenda Item #25 -Request for City Council Direction Regarding an Operating Permit Amendment from the California State Water Resources Control Board to Discontinue Supplemental Fluoridation of the Ci...
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 3:03:37 PM

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Council Members,

My name is David, and my family and I have been Huntington Beach residents and property owners for more than forty years. My comments are not about the substance of fluoridation, but about the governance and regional-coordination implications of the proposed change.

My concern is the potential impact of moving Huntington Beach out of alignment with the Orange County Water District and the State Water Resources Control Board. Our drinking water system is part of a regional infrastructure network. Any unilateral change that requires a permit amendment or creates divergence from OCWD introduces regulatory uncertainty. That uncertainty can lead to administrative challenges, legal disputes, or delays in future approvals. Huntington Beach receives its drinking water through a regional alliance supported by long-term water-infrastructure bonds. These bonds depend on predictable operations and cooperative governance among regional agencies. Actions that create misalignment risk undermining the value and stability of the very system the City relies on.

As a long-term homeowner, I am especially mindful that property values in Huntington Beach are closely tied to perceptions of stable governance, predictable infrastructure management, and cooperative relationships with regional agencies. Even when the underlying issue is narrow, actions that signal conflict or fragmentation in essential services can have broader economic effects. While I understand the interest in identifying one-time operating savings, altering a State-issued drinking-water permit is not the appropriate mechanism for achieving short-term budget adjustments. If the community wishes to revisit fluoridation policy, the appropriate path is a transparent public process where residents can evaluate the issue and decide it directly.

I respectfully ask the Council to consider the long-term governance, coordination, and stability implications of this decision, and to prioritize outcomes that protect residents and property owners.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

David Huntington Beach Resident & Property Owner

From: [Rod Kurthy](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org; [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)
Cc: srobers-ocds.org@shared1.ccsend.com; foundation@ocds.org; [Van Der Mark, Gracey](#); [Twining, Butch](#); [Burns, Pat](#); [McKeon, Casey](#); [Strickland, Tony](#); [Gruel, Andrew](#); [Kalmick, Dan](#); [Barnes, Lisa Lane](#)
Subject: Water fluoridation
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 3:44:18 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Huntington Beach Water Fluoridation concern.doc](#)
Importance: High

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rkurthy@korwhitening.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Huntington Beach City Council:

I have been a dentist for the past 48 years and dental research & development scientist for the past 50 years. Many of those years were spent in my dental practice in Huntington Beach near Five Points Plaza.

I am internationally known in dentistry, as a quick internet search for Dr. Rod Kurthy will bear out. Nobody takes the oral health and protection of the people we serve more seriously than I do.

You've seen the letter from the Orange County Dental Society, signed by many, many local dentists. And maybe you have thought that these dentists signed the letter just to "protect their turf." That the letter advocating water fluoridation is self-serving. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In the simplest of terms, dentistry is a business, as is any professional practice or firm. I am proud of the dental profession, because unlike most businesses, we actively try to put ourselves out of business. We do this because of how sacred we hold the oath we take to protect those who put their welfare, and that of their families, in our hands. That is an awesome responsibility.

The best financial thing that could ever happen to dental practice "businesses" in Huntington Beach would be to have you discontinue fluoridation of the water supply. That single thing could double the income to our practices in a very short few years. Having no water fluoridation would mean not only far more cavities, very frequently in children, but those cavities would spread far faster and deeper, leading to more costly procedures – more money for us. A LOT more money.

No fluoridation would mean a far higher rate of cavities forming around existing fillings and crowns. That leads to the most expensive type of dentistry, namely crowns, root canals and even removal of teeth, which, in turn, means bridges, implants, etc.

Financially, your discontinuation of water fluoridation means "Fat City" for us dentists.

By advocating for fluoridation, we are essentially acting against our own financial interests to do what is right. We are asking you to do the same—to prioritize the long-term health of your constituents over the immediate budget line items.

I have been a dental scientist for the past 50 years, but realize that dentistry is full of scientists. And to a degree, every dentist is a scientist. Who knows more about the science of water fluoridation than dentists and dental scientists? Do you think for a moment that we are only concerned about the welfare of our patients' mouths? No. We are concerned about the patient as a whole person. If fluoridation was found by credible sources to be harmful in any way, we would be the first to know. And the first to object to fluoridation. And as a dental scientist for 50 years, I sure as heck would know about any credible evidence of fluoridation being harmful in any way.

I grew up in the 50's and 60's with no water fluoridation. When I went to the dentist, who was a general dentist (not a pediatric dentist), the reception room was always full of other kids like myself. I never wondered if my dentist would find a cavity. I just wondered HOW MANY cavities he'd find.

When I started practicing dentistry in 1978 in communities without fluoridation, I found rampant tooth decay across the entire spectrum of the communities I served. But when I returned to Southern California, where I'd grown up, and started practicing in Huntington Beach where the water supply had been fluoridated since the early 70's, I rarely found cavities in children. I was amazed. "Wow!" I thought. "Fluoridation really does work as well as they say."

And my own children, one age 40 and the other age 43, have never had a cavity. That's not because as a dentist father I have the ability to provide a protective force field around them to prevent tooth decay. It's because of the fluoridation. And my kids are mentally as sharp as whips and as healthy as can be.

So please – follow our lead. We dentists take a monumental financial hit by advocating for fluoridation. The least you could do is to take the time to think about what is really important to the Huntington Beach City Council. Is it your budget? Or is it the health and welfare of every child and adult living in Huntington Beach, including your own families?

If you at all find this concerning, you may wonder how, exactly, fluoridation works to reduce and prevent tooth decay. I think you may find this compelling. As a scientist, I always look at the science:

What causes Cavities? The answer is ACID.

When we eat or drink anything with even a trace of sugar, the bacteria on our teeth just love to eat that sugar. And after eating the sugar, those bacteria

give off a waste product from the sugar: **Lactic Acid**.

That acid eats away at the tooth structure, right next to those bacteria. Bacteria hide between our teeth and in the deep grooves of our teeth. That's why between teeth and in deep grooves is where cavities typically occur.

So, ACID is the enemy.

You've heard of pH. A pH of 7 is neutral. It's not acidic and it's not alkaline. But once your saliva next to the bacteria goes down to an acidic pH of 5.5 because of the lactic acid, it will start eating away tooth enamel. I'm talking about regular, NON-fluoridated, tooth enamel.

But what if those teeth had fluoride attached to the enamel molecules throughout the tooth structure? When talking about teeth that have fluoride in them, that acid must be **TEN TIMES STRONGER** (pH 4.5) before it can start eating away tooth structure. Let me say that again... To cause a cavity in a tooth that is fluoridated requires the acid to be **TEN TIMES STRONGER**. The same acid that would quickly cause a cavity in a NON-fluoridated tooth will not cause damage to the fluoridated tooth.

But what about fluoride in toothpaste and fluoride treatments at the dentist?

We call that "topical fluoride". That gets fluoride only on the very surface of the tooth enamel. And yes, that's good. But that only gets into the tooth to the depth of about 1/7th the thickness of one sheet of copy paper. Or 1/4th the thickness of one human hair. It's virtually a microscopic thickness of outer tooth surface that becomes fluoridated. The other 99.99% of tooth structure under the surface is still NON-fluoridated.

So topical fluoride alone, without fluoride in drinking water, is of relatively little benefit. But fluoridated drinking water results in teeth being fully fluoridated, through and through. Teeth that are truly protected for a lifetime.

If you've made it to the bottom of this message, thank you for making the effort and learning about our concerns.

Very best regards,



Dr. Rodger "Rod" Kurthy
Founder/Owner/Chairman
KöR Whitening Technologies

®

Home of the KÖR Whitening System
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STUNNINGLY WHITER TEETH™



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May 4, 2026

RE: Water Fluoridation

To the Huntington Beach City Council:

I have been a dentist for the past 48 years and dental research & development scientist for the past 50 years. Many of those years were spent in my dental practice in Huntington Beach near Five Points Plaza.

I am internationally known in dentistry, as a quick internet search for Dr. Rod Kurthy will bear out. Nobody takes the oral health and protection of the people we serve more seriously than I do.

You've seen the letter from the Orange County Dental Society, signed by many, many local dentists. And maybe you have thought that these dentists signed the letter just to "protect their turf." That the letter advocating water fluoridation is self-serving. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In the simplest of terms, dentistry is a business, as is any professional practice or firm. I am proud of the dental profession, because unlike most businesses, we actively try to put ourselves out of business. We do this because of how sacred we hold the oath we take to protect those who put their welfare, and that of their families, in our hands. That is an awesome responsibility.

The best financial thing that could ever happen to dental practice "businesses" in Huntington Beach would be to have you discontinue fluoridation of the water supply. That single thing could double the income to our practices in a very short few years. Having no water fluoridation would mean not only far more cavities, very frequently in children, but those cavities would spread far faster and deeper, leading to more costly procedures – more money for us. A LOT more money.

No fluoridation would mean a far higher rate of cavities forming around existing fillings and crowns. That leads to the most expensive type of dentistry, namely crowns, root canals and even removal of teeth, which, in turn, means bridges, implants, etc.

Financially, your discontinuation of water fluoridation means "Fat City" for us dentists.

By advocating for fluoridation, we are essentially acting against our own financial interests to do what is right. We are asking you to do the same—to prioritize the long-term health of your constituents over the immediate budget line items.

I have been a dental scientist for the past 50 years, but realize that dentistry is full of scientists. And to a degree, every dentist is a scientist. Who knows more about the science of water fluoridation than dentists and dental scientists? Do you think for a moment that we are only concerned about the welfare of our patients' mouths? No. We are concerned about the patient as a whole person. If fluoridation was found by credible sources to be harmful in any way, we would be the first to know. And the first to object to fluoridation. And as a dental scientist for 50 years, I sure as heck would know about any credible evidence of fluoridation being harmful in any way.

I grew up in the 50's and 60's with no water fluoridation. When I went to the dentist, who was a general dentist (not a pediatric dentist), the reception room was always full of other kids like myself. I never wondered if my dentist would find a cavity. I just wondered HOW MANY cavities he'd find.

When I started practicing dentistry in 1978 in communities without fluoridation, I found rampant tooth decay across the entire spectrum of the communities I served. But when I returned to Southern California, where I'd grown up, and started practicing in Huntington Beach where the water supply had been fluoridated since the early 70's, I rarely found cavities in children. I was amazed. "Wow!" I thought. "Fluoridation really does work as well as they say."

And my own children, one age 40 and the other age 43, have never had a cavity. That's not because as a dentist father I have the ability to provide a protective force field around them to prevent tooth decay. It's because of the fluoridation. And my kids are mentally as sharp as whips and as healthy as can be.

So please – follow our lead. We dentists take a monumental financial hit by advocating for fluoridation. The least you could do is to take the time to think about what is really important to the Huntington Beach City Council. Is it your budget? Or is it the health and welfare of every child and adult living in Huntington Beach, including your own families?

If you at all find this concerning, you may wonder how, exactly, fluoridation works to reduce and prevent tooth decay. I think you may find this compelling. As a scientist, I always look at the science:

What causes Cavities? The answer is ACID.

When we eat or drink anything with even a trace of sugar, the bacteria on our teeth just love to eat that sugar. And after eating the sugar, those bacteria give off a waste product from the sugar: **Lactic Acid**.

That acid eats away at the tooth structure, right next to those bacteria. Bacteria hide between our teeth and in the deep grooves of our teeth. That's why between teeth and in deep grooves is where cavities typically occur.

So, ACID is the enemy.

You've heard of pH. A pH of 7 is neutral. It's not acidic and it's not alkaline. But once your saliva next to the bacteria goes down to an acidic pH of 5.5 because of the lactic acid, it will start eating away tooth enamel. I'm talking about regular, NON-fluoridated, tooth enamel.

But what if those teeth had fluoride attached to the enamel molecules throughout the tooth structure? When talking about teeth that have fluoride in them, that acid must be TEN TIMES STRONGER (pH 4.5) before it can start eating away tooth structure. Let me say that again... To cause a cavity in a tooth that is fluoridated requires the acid to be TEN TIMES STRONGER. The same acid that would quickly cause a cavity in a NON-fluoridated tooth will not cause damage to the fluoridated tooth.

But what about fluoride in toothpaste and fluoride treatments at the dentist?

We call that "topical fluoride". That gets fluoride only on the very surface of the tooth enamel. And yes, that's good. But that only gets into the tooth to the depth of about 1/7th the thickness of one sheet of copy paper. Or 1/4th the thickness of one human hair. It's virtually a microscopic thickness of outer tooth surface that becomes fluoridated. The other 99.99% of tooth structure under the surface is still NON-fluoridated.

So topical fluoride alone, without fluoride in drinking water, is of relatively little benefit. But fluoridated drinking water results in teeth being fully fluoridated, through and through. Teeth that are truly protected for a lifetime.

If you've made it to the bottom of this message, thank you for making the effort and learning about our concerns.

Very best regards,



Dr. Rodger "Rod" Kurthy
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From: [Kiane Lu](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Cc: [Zokaie, Tooka](#)
Subject: Expression of Concern for Protecting Community Water Fluoridation in Huntington Beach
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 3:55:44 PM
Attachments: [Water Fluoridation Beneficial Safe Saves Money.pdf](#)

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Huntington Beach City Council Members,

As a Huntington Beach local who has been blessed to live in the city with my family since a young age, I want to express my support for the dental professionals strong opposition to the proposed discontinuation of Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) under Item 25 Page 7 of the Tuesday, May 5th agenda. Now being exposed to the oral health issues within our communities from my experience at USC's pre-dental curriculum and Oral Systemic Health Project, I support the professional's urge for the continuation of CWF. Further concerned for the well-being of my own family, I hope to take on as many opportunities as possible to protect the community that I grew up in. The biggest emphasis is the cost reduction from fluoridation in water for families, which would greatly benefit my family who has faced financial setbacks this year. Please feel free to review the further facts regarding fluoridation in water in the fact sheet attached to this email. We hope that we can get your support on this drastic matter.

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Kiane Lu ('28)

Undergraduate Student Dornslife College

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Water fluoridation: It's beneficial, safe and saves money



Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease for adults and children in the U.S. Cavities and toothaches often disrupt people's lives, causing absences from school or work. In [a national survey](#), nearly 3 in 10 young adults said the appearance of their mouth and teeth "affects my ability to interview for a job."

Fluoride is a mineral that exists naturally in lakes, rivers and groundwater. However, most water supplies do not contain enough fluoride to prevent tooth decay. This is why many local water systems add a little bit more.

Water with the right balance of fluoride prevents decay. When drinking water has the recommended amount of fluoride, it strengthens the enamel — the outer coating of teeth. This [reduces cavities by 25%](#).

Water and toothpaste with fluoride work together, much like seatbelts and airbags in a car. Fluoride toothpaste provides a higher concentration at key times of the day (such as bedtime). The fluoride in water helps keep a low level of the mineral in the mouth throughout the day.

Physicians, nurses and dentists strongly support water fluoridation. [The most respected voices](#) in health and medicine recommend fluoridation. These include the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Dental Association and National Association of School Nurses.

Fluoridated water saves money for families and taxpayers. A 2016 study showed that each person in a fluoridated community saves [\\$32 per year](#). How? By reducing the need to treat decayed teeth. Updated for inflation, this savings is now over \$43 per person, per year.

Fluoridated water is safe. The [largest organization of pediatricians](#) says the safety of fluoridation is backed by "overwhelming evidence." The main concern that is raised about fluoride is whether it might be linked to lower IQ scores. A report by the National Toxicology Program (NTP) linked fluoride with lower IQ scores, but consider these key points:

- The NTP report did **not** link lower IQs with the low amount present in America's tap water.
- Most of the studies in the NTP report were from China, India and other countries where populations were exposed to greater amounts of fluoride than people are exposed to in U.S. tap water.
- A National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) review said the NTP report failed to provide "clear and convincing" evidence to back up its conclusions.

Studies from Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, Spain and Sweden show no link between fluoridated water and cognitive deficits. The New Zealand study is the only published fluoride study that tested IQs several times during each person's childhood and adulthood.

When fluoridation ends, tooth decay rises. Researchers have learned what happens when a city ends fluoridation. Calgary, one of Canada's largest cities, stopped fluoridation in 2011. But its city council reversed its decision after seeing [a significant rise in tooth decay rates](#). The rate of urgent dental treatment for Calgary children rose by 78% after the city ended fluoridation.

Preventive dental care is important, but it cannot "replace" fluoridation. Many people cannot afford regular dental care, and [68 million Americans](#) lack dental insurance. Plus, [56 million Americans](#) live in areas with a shortage of dental providers.

From: [McCune, Mary](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: May 5 Item 25: Fluoridation Letter from Local Constituents and Dentists
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 3:56:25 PM
Attachments: [ConstituentLetter_Item25_HuntingtonBeach.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from mary.mccune@cda.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern:

The attached letter is from over 150 local dentists and constituents who are extremely concerned about the proposal to remove fluoridation from Huntington Beach.

Mary McCune (she/her/hers)
Policy Director, California Dental Association
Executive Director, California Dental Association Foundation
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To the Huntington Beach City Council,

We, as over 150 dental professionals who serve your constituents and community members, are united in strong opposition to the proposed discontinuation of Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) which stems from cost savings of \$160,000 annually to fund the program. Covering this gap would cost less than \$1 per constituent per year, a minimal investment with a profound impact on the health of our entire community. The projected \$6.7 million in "avoided future capital costs" is unclear, vague, and unexpectedly high compared to other systems for fluoridation maintenance.

CWF is one of the most effective, equitable, and evidence-based public health measures available to prevent tooth decay and improve overall oral health. As dentists, we have seen firsthand the difference fluoridated water makes in reducing cavities, especially among children and underserved populations.

Eliminating fluoridation would disproportionately harm the most vulnerable in our community who may not have regular access to dental care due to lack of insurance, transportation, mobility, etc. This decision would widen existing health disparities and undermine decades of progress in disease prevention.

We urge the city council to say no to this proposal and continue supporting the health of your community. At the minimum, we request you move this agenda item to a future meeting in order to give ample time for Huntington Beach residents to share their thoughts on this proposal that would have significant impacts to their health. Maintaining this program is a shared responsibility and a vital commitment to the well-being of everyone in Huntington Beach.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your ongoing service to the public.

With gratitude,

1. Mai Bright Smiles
2. Surf City Orthodontics
3. Ford Dental Group
4. Tiny Tooth Co.
5. Surf City Pediatric Dentistry
6. Diamond Dental of Los Alamitos
7. Newport Hills Pediatric Dentistry
8. Santa Maria Pediatric Dental Group & Ortho
9. Elements Dentistry
10. HB Smile Camp Pediatric Dentistry
11. Splendid Dentistry
12. Taylor Cosmetic & General Dentistry
13. Anaheim Hills Dentistry
14. Harbour Dental
15. Soo and Shi Orthodontics
16. Beach Heights Dentistry Laguna Dental PC
17. Briana Chavez
18. Lily Pham, DDS
19. Lulia Bennet, DDS

20. Sona Bekmezian, DDS, MS
21. John Guijon, DDS
22. Marlene A. Miller, DMD, MMedSc
23. Jonggoo Park
24. Sejin Ahn, DDS
25. Shireen Dejbakhsh, MS, DDS
26. Sophia Sawires, DDS
27. Robert Lee, DDS, MS
28. Andrew Levin DDS, MSD
29. Megan Thai DDS
30. Kelly Gibson
31. Bruce S Harris DDS
32. Ria Guzman
33. Gorden Pang
34. Joseph Henry DDS
35. Jonathan Ford
36. Chi Tran Law, DMD
37. Victor Chu, DDS
38. Vivek Patel, DMD
39. Sal Manriquez, DDS, DABOP, FAAOP, FAHS
40. Dr. Minh-An La-Pham
41. Ayat Elsherif DDS, MS
42. andrew vo dds
43. Anna Chand
44. Dr. Joanna Jefferson
45. Hana GabrielDDS
46. Dr. Sara Saber, DDS
47. Christina Do Vu Phan DDS
48. Adam Vaghari DDS
49. Brian Tadang, DDS
50. Alice Lee-Ahn
51. Christopher Wong DDS
52. George SooHoo
53. Brandon Curfew DMD
54. Emily Dodds
55. Amir Kazim DDS FACD FICD FPFA
56. Julio Terra D.D.S.
57. James Shon
58. Hun Hwang D.M.D
59. Mariam Soldin-Wasfi DMD
60. Larry J. Diamond, DDS
61. Amelia Orduna
62. Phuong Duc Tran
63. Carol K Arima D.D.S.
64. Amirreza Rafaat DDS
65. Judy Gillard
66. Keith Tam, DDS
67. Jacki Tran, DMD

68. Rebecca L. Hart, DDS
69. Bahman Derakhshan
70. Lana Tran, DDS
71. Cynthia Scheines
72. Joyce Fang Inouye, DDS
73. Kimberly Johnson Genc DDS
74. Rex Chuang, DDS
75. Jeff Flores DDS
76. William Maginnis DDS
77. Anne E Doan Van, DDS
78. Lilley Gharavi, DMD
79. Ha Lee DDS
80. Keith Tang, DDS
81. David Telles
82. Laura Sprague, DDS
83. Dr. Kendra Brooks, DDS
84. Dr. Marinho Vanessa DDS
85. Sun Hyoung Goco
86. David H. Okawachi, DDS
87. Tiffany Thuy Trying Vo, DDS
88. Dr. Rajvee Bhakta
89. Toks Onyekwuluje
90. Calvin Le, D.D.S.
91. Andrew Lee DDS
92. Christopher Y. Shi, DMD
93. Irene Hwang DDS
94. Dr. Steven T. Bui
95. Mandeep Bal
96. Katarina Kroll, DDS
97. Ting-Wey Yen, DDS, MS
98. Kevin Quan DDS
99. Janice Hong
100. Brett Brazeal DDS
101. Richard Paul Mungo DDS, MSD, MMedEd, FACD
102. Samuel Berro DDS
103. Lisa Chang
104. Dich Lu DDS
105. Ginnie I Chen, DDS
106. Katie Ho, DDS
107. Negar Derakhshani, DDS
108. Richard Hamaty
109. Aaron M. Takigawa, DDS
110. Barry D Israel, DDS
111. Rodger "Rod" Kurthy, DMD
112. Lester Lim DDS
113. John E. Elliott, DDS, DABP
114. David Hochwald DDS
115. Naz Haque, DDS

116. Susan Hill Taylor, DDS
117. Tuan Doan
118. Teresa Do, DDS
119. Melissa Ota DDS
120. Eugene J Schmidt, DDS, FACD, MAGD, FPFA, FICD
121. Robert A. Milner, DDS
122. Oarina Lowe, DDS
123. Howard Kaufman, DDS
124. Lilian Cifarelli DDS
125. Lisa J Nakagawa DDS
126. Daniel Sang Lee, DDS
127. Caroline Tran, DDS
128. Kevin Hszieh, DDS
129. Kelly McDonough, DDS
130. Cary Sun, DDS
131. Justin A. Shuffer, DDS
132. Arman Mirai Linda Phi, DDS
133. Kelly Jin DMD
134. Dr. Faisal ALdujaili, DDS
135. Richard Lee
136. Dr. James Lee, DDS
137. Akemi Arzouman, DMD, MS
138. Michael J Paquette DDS
139. Darcy Kawamoto, DDS
140. Eirene Ding, DDS
141. Jenny Liang, DMD
142. Linda Lee
143. Neda Borna
144. Teagan Willes DDS
145. Sally Mendonz, DDS
146. Niloofar Mozhgani
147. Omer Tabel, DDS, BSDH
148. Jonathan Lo, D.D.S.
149. Mylea Hunter DDS MS
150. John Mario Cargasacchi DDS
151. Israwl Ismaj, DDS
152. Khang Le
153. Kenneth Barret DDS

From: [onewildart](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Cc: [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)
Subject: Water fluoridation
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 4:52:55 PM

Community water fluoridation is a safe, cost-effective, and highly effective public health measure that **reduces tooth decay by about 25% in children and adults**. It provides equitable access to dental protection, regardless of income, saving roughly \$32 per person annually in treatment costs. The CDC considers it one of the top 10 public health achievements of the 20th century.

In other words, 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it.'

Sent from my iPad