



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CITY EXCEEDS WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**



**Interior of the Water Treatment Plant**

(LOWELL, OREGON): In 2016, the City of Lowell exceeded all established drinking water health standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Water systems are required to document compliance with these standards. Annually, water systems compile their testing results and report them directly to consumers through an annual Water Quality Report.

The staff of the Public Works Department works diligently to produce and deliver exceptionally safe drinking water. The City maintains a

conventional surface water plant that draws water from the middle of Dexter Lake. Raw water passes through a complex filtration system at the plant and is subsequently treated with chlorine. This process removes sediment, contaminants, and produces potable water. During peak periods, the plant can produce up to 223,000 gallons per day.

Water samples are pulled daily at the plant by staff in accordance with USEPA and DEQ guidelines. Samples are then transported to an accredited independent lab for testing and detailed analysis. Over 1,500 tests are completed each year for potential microbiological contaminants, disinfectant and disinfection byproducts, and inorganic contaminants. These include turbidity and substances such as coliform, barium, nitrate, copper and lead. For 2016, these substances were non-detectable or significantly below the thresholds established by the USEPA and DEQ.

All customers were recently mailed a copy of the 2016 Water Quality Report. Additional copies are available at City Hall and on the City website at [www.ci.lowell.or.us](http://www.ci.lowell.or.us). If you have any questions regarding the report, please contact City Hall at 541-937-2157.

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