



Policy Statement:

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Richmond Main Street Initiative(RMSI) strives to provide and advocate for a standard of clean, safe, appealing, free, and easily accessible drinking water for families with young children and all community members. Therefore, **RMSI** will:

Provide tap waterⁱ

- Provide a convenient and appealing source of water, both indoors and outdoors, free of charge.
- Consider improving the appeal and taste of tap water by serving it chilled, carbonated, or with fruit.
- Consider using pitchers with built-in water filters or installing faucet-mounted, countertop, or under the counter water filters to improve the taste of tap water.
- In places where children are regularly present, install drinking fountains or water dispensers at appropriate heights.
- If a water dispenser is not conveniently located, provide coolers or pitchers of tap water, reusable cups, and the helping hand of an adult.
- At outdoor events where water dispensers are not available, provide tap water in coolers.
- Encourage children to drink tap water throughout the day.
- Model frequent drinking of tap water.
- At meetings, provide nearby coolers or pitchers of tap water along with reusable cups.

Spread the word about the safety of tap water

- Share information with employees, clients, and community members on the safety and health of drinking tap water.
- Provide resources to employees and clients on water testing and quality.
- Advocate for the water districts to clearly report water quality data to all community members, including renters and non-English speaking Contra Costans.

Advocate for wide access to quality tap water

- Advocate for safe and appealing water to be accessible and free in public places, schools, childcare settings, worksites, and businesses.
- Support public policies that promote clean, safe, affordable tap water for all.

Advocate for improved quality of tap water. Sometimes, despite regulatory safeguards, there are remaining concerns about water safety and quality.

Therefore, **RMSI** will work to:

- Empower community members to report when water tastes, looks, or smells substandard.
- Advocate for consistent water quality that meets all state and federal standards for all areas of the county.

Amanda Elliott – Executive Director