SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. VI-A**

FROM: Ed Fortner, General Manager

Meeting Date: July 2, 2019

Subject: CYBER SECURITY

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive report from the General Manager. Discussion and possible action.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

DISCUSSION:

Prior to the June 6, 2019 Board Meeting, President Tim Lipinski raised the issue of SSWD cybersecurity needs in light of recent news accounts about the City of Baltimore and other victims of ransomware attacks. Ransomware is perpetrated using a computer virus that infects the target computer system. After the attack, the target's computer system data is encrypted and unusable. Ransom is then demanded from the victim. The GM and staff have been investigating any potential SSWD vulnerabilities. After speaking with Kim Martin with Santa Rosa Computers, our IT consultant, we are assured that we have taken many steps to combat any threats. There are no foolproof systems, but Kim did assure us that our backup files, billing system, virus protection, and trained best practices keep SSWD quite safe from such threats. Staff has been reminded to be vigilant about unknown emails and attachments as that is the primary vulnerability. Our Comcast business gateway is a premiere firewall. Kim provided a link- https://www.justice.gov/criminal-ccips/file/872771/download for further information related to cybersecurity. I am also a member of the FBI InfraGard, where important information is circulated related to cyber security. This issue has been prominent in Utility training for many years, certainly since 911.