

2.16.3 CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL/BACKFLOW PREVENTION PLAN

2.16.3.1. INCORPORATION

The regulations of the State Department of Public Health contained in Title 17 of the California Health and Safety Code §§ 116800 through 116820 and the State Water Resources Control Board Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH) as referenced in California Health and Safety Code § 116407, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

2.16.3.2. PROTECTIVE REGULATION

No physical connection between the potable water supply system of the public District and any other water supply will be permitted except in compliance with the regulations of the CCCPH, and current editions thereof. The District is not responsible for abatement of cross-connections that may exist within the property owner's premises.

2.16.3.3. HAZARD ASSESSMENTS AND REQUIRED PROTECTION

The Cross-Connection Control Specialist shall evaluate each connection to the water system for potential backflow hazards within five years of the implementation of this plan in accordance with CCCPH § 3.2.1.

To obtain water service, the property owner must cooperate with the District's assessment of potential hazards to the public water supply caused by conditions on the property owner's premises. The District will consider factors such as the presence of cross-connections, materials handled on the property, the likelihood of backflow, the complexity of the piping system, and the potential for modifications to the piping system that could increase the risk of cross-connection.

To protect the public water supply system, the minimum type of approved backflow protection is required to be installed under any of the following conditions:

- Where a fresh water supply, which has not been approved by the State Department of Public Health, is already available from a well, spring, reservoir, or other source. If the property owner agrees to abandon this other supply and agrees to remove all pumps and piping necessary for the utilization of this supply, the installation of backflow protective devices will not be required.
- Where salt water or water otherwise polluted, is available for industrial or fire protection purposes at the same premises.
- Where the premises are or may be, engaged in processes using or producing waters or liquid industrial wastes, or where the premises are, or may be, engaged in handling sewage or any other dangerous substances. Chemical or biological process waters and water from public water supplies that have deteriorated to sanitary quality are included.

- Where circumstances are such that there is a special danger of backflow of sewage or other contaminated liquids through plumbing fixtures, water-using or treating equipment, or storage tanks and reservoirs.
- Where there is a repeated history of cross-connections being established or re-established.
- Where a backflow or cross-connection hazard is observed by a certified backflow tester.

2.16.3.4. TYPE AND EXPENSE OF PROTECTIVE DEVICES

The type of backflow protection must correspond to the level of hazard present on the property owner's premises. For premises with multiple hazards, the highest level of protection must be employed. The water user may opt for a higher level of protection than that required by the District. Each hazard will be assessed individually to determine the appropriate backflow protection device.

Any backflow prevention assembly utilized shall be of the type and design specified and approved for the circumstances by the State Office of Drinking Water and the University of Southern California (USC) Hydraulic Research Section. Such device shall be installed by and at the expense of the property owner, in a manner approved by the District and public health agency having jurisdiction and in a location that is readily available for periodic inspection. Information in greater technical detail as to requirements for District approval is available separately at the District office.

2.16.3.5. TESTING AND MAINTENANCE OF PROTECTIVE DEVICES

The property owner bears ultimate responsibility for conducting the annual field test of the backflow prevention assembly on their premises. Additionally, they must ensure the repair or replacement of the assembly within 30 days of receiving notification of a failed test.

Backflow prevention assemblies located on property owned by the District must undergo annual testing and be repaired or replaced as needed.

Backflow prevention assemblies must be tested by an individual with a valid certificate of competence from an American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited certifying organization, recognized by SWRCB, and using a field test kit or gage with a valid calibration certificate. Testers must submit their tester and calibration certificates to the District before test reports will be accepted.

Testing is required upon installation, after repairs, and at least annually, or more frequently if inspections indicate repeated failures. The property owner is responsible for the cost of testing, repairing, overhauling, or replacing these devices. Records of tests, repairs, and overhauls must be maintained and made available to the District, its contractors or agents, and the public health agency with jurisdiction.

2.16.3.6. CORRECTIVE ACTION

2.16.3.6.1. INSTALL, TEST, REPAIR

Should the property owner refuse to comply with this Cross-Connection Control Plan within 90 days of the first notice, the District may contract the installation, testing, and/or repair of a backflow device at the owner's expense.

2.16.3.6.2. DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE

The District may refuse or discontinue service until the property owner has installed an approved device of the required type to protect against the backflow of water from the property owner's premises into the District's system.

2.16.3.7. PUMPS AND BOOSTERS

When a property receiving service at the District's main or service connection must utilize a pump to elevate or increase the pressure of the water received, the pump shall not be attached to any pipe directly connected to the District's main or service pipe. Such pumping or boosting of pressure shall be done from a sump, cistern, or storage tank which may be served by but not directly connected with, the District's distribution facilities.

Air gap installations after July 1, 2024 at service connections must be reviewed and approved by the State Water Board (DDW) before installation.

2.16.3.8. CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL PLAN PERSONNEL

The General Manager is designated as the Cross-Connection Control Program Coordinator. The Cross-Connection Control Program Coordinator is responsible for the development of and is responsible for the reporting, tracking, and other administrative duties of this cross-connection control plan.

At least one member of the field crew shall take the necessary courses and examinations to become ANSI-certified as a Cross-Connection Control Specialist.

2.16.3.9. INVESTIGATIONS

The Cross-Connection Control Specialist shall promptly investigate all reports of suspected backflow or cross-connections and report findings to the Cross-Connection Control Program Coordinator and the Operations and Maintenance Manager.

2.16.3.9.1. INCIDENT NOTIFICATION

The Cross-Connection Control Program Coordinator and/or the Operations and Maintenance Manager shall notify the State Water Board, local health agencies, and other interested local entities of any known or suspected backflow incident within 24 hours of the determination. If required by the State Water Board, the District shall issue a Tier 1 public notice.

2.16.3.10. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The District shall provide information on cross-connection control and backflow prevention to its customers and property owners through periodic bill inserts, new property owner documentation, and the District's annual consumer confidence report.

2.16.3.11. RECORDKEEPING

The District will keep records of hazard assessments and backflow prevention assembly testing per CCCPH § 3.5.1, using a cloud-based tracking system that maintains up-to-date and relevant historical information.

2.20.3. CROSS-CONNECTION AND PROTECTIVE DEVICES

2.20.3.1. PHYSICAL CONNECTION

No physical connection between the wastewater system of the District and any other water or wastewater supply will be permitted except when authorized by the District.

2.20.3.2. PROTECTIVE DEVICES REQUIRED

The District will require the installation of approved backflow protection where the circumstances are such that there is a special danger of backflow of wastewater onto the property owner's premises.

2.20.3.3. TYPE AND EXPENSE OF PROTECTIVE DEVICES

See Ordinance 2.16.3.4.

2.20.3.4. PERIODIC INSPECTION OF PROTECTIVE DEVICES

See Ordinance 2.16.3.5.

2.20.3.5. REFUSAL TO SERVE OR DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE FOR FAILURE TO INSTALL PROTECTIVE DEVICES

See Ordinance 2.16.3.6.2.