



Board of Water Commissioners

CHRISTOPHER J. GARNER, General Manager

May 12, 2022

Subject

Authorize revision to Section 804 of the Long Beach Water Department’s (LBWD) Rules, Regulations and Charges Governing Potable Water, Reclaimed Water, Sewer Service, and the Water Conservation and Water Supply Shortage Plan (Rules) pertaining to testing and certification of backflow prevention assemblies.

Executive Summary

Section 804 of LBWD’s Rules addresses the responsibilities of the Department and of the property owner for the installation, maintenance, repair, testing, and certification of backflow prevention assemblies connected to the public water system. The revisions proposed are:

1. Upon installation, the initial testing and certification of assemblies is done by the Department. The proposed change pertains to the subsequent maintenance, servicing and annual testing. This would now be done by the property owner, which aligns with the practices of other water agencies in the State.
2. The proposed revision specifies that the owner must use a Los Angeles County-certified or American Water Works Association-certified backflow tester to perform any repairs and conduct the annual testing. This must be done within 30 days of the annual due date and documentation be sent to LBWD.
3. The proposed revision addresses high hazard devices and requires immediate repair and testing before water is restored to these facilities. High hazards may involve premises where substances harmful to health are handled under pressure, such as chemical or biological process waters.
4. The removal, relocation, replacement, or other modification of an assembly requires the customer to immediately notify the Department. Under the proposed change, the owner, and not the Department, must have the assembly tested and recertified.

The attachment shows the redlined changes to Section 804 as well as how it would appear if the proposed revisions are adopted.

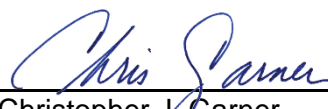
Recommendation

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Fiscal Impact: The proposed change is anticipated to create a savings, but actual saving amounts are unknown at this time.



Tai Tseng
Assistant General Manager - Operations



Christopher J. Garner
General Manager

SECTION 804. TESTING AND MAINTENANCE

A developer or its agent shall install all new backflow prevention assemblies. The initial test and certification of these assemblies will be performed by the Department. Thereafter, any assemblies connected directly to the public water system will be maintained, serviced, and tested annually by the Department owner. ~~The Department will notify affected Customers when testing of an assembly will be performed.~~ The owner shall use a Los Angeles County-certified or American Water Works Association-certified backflow tester to complete testing of backflow prevention assemblies, as well as any necessary repairs, within 30 days of the annual test due date. High hazard devices, as defined in the State of California Title 17 Code of Regulations section 7585, shall be repaired and tested immediately before water may be restored to the facility. Completed test sheets must be sent to: Long Beach Water Department, Attn: Meter Shop, 1800 E. Wardlow Rd., Long Beach, CA 90807.

More frequent testing may be required if, in the opinion of the Department, the severity of the hazard or repeated failures of the backflow prevention assembly to function properly warrants additional testing.

An Applicant or Customer must obtain approval from the Department before an assembly is removed, relocated, or replaced. Whenever an assembly is relocated, modified, repaired, or found to be malfunctioning, the Applicant or customer shall notify the Department immediately and the ~~Department will test~~ owner shall have the assembly tested and re-~~certify~~ certified.it. The assembly shall not be placed in service unless it is functioning as required. Water service to any site may be terminated by the Department if unprotected cross-connections exist on the site, any defect is found in an installed backflow prevention assembly, or if a backflow prevention assembly has been removed or bypassed without written permission from the Department. Water service will not be restored until those conditions or defects are corrected. Charges for terminating service are contained in Appendix A.

Termination of service may be summary, immediate, and without notice whenever, in the judgment of the Department, such action is necessary to protect the quality and/or safety of water and the water supply system.

The City's Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for the protection program downstream from the meter on private property. Customers shall fully comply with all requirements established, and shall provide, install, test and maintain all required backflow prevention assemblies on private property at the Customers' expense. All assemblies shall be readily accessible for testing and maintenance.

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