



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Health System



Date: September 13, 2012
Board Meeting Date: December 11, 2012
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Jean S. Fraser, Chief, Health System
Dean D. Peterson, P.E., REHS, Director, Environmental Health

Subject: Backflow Prevention Ordinance of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code

RECOMMENDATION:

Introduction of an Ordinance repealing and replacing Sections 4.72.010 through 4.72.130 and adding Sections 4.72.140 through 4.72.150 to Chapter 4.72 of Title 4 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code relating to backflow prevention and waiver of reading the Ordinance in its entirety.

BACKGROUND:

The current Backflow Prevention Ordinance code was adopted in 1977. Environmental Health (EH) partnered with each of the water purveyors within the County to provide backflow prevention (cross-connection) program services. In 2007 several water purveyors in the County began to maintain their own service connection protection programs independently of EH.

DISCUSSION:

EH provides regulatory oversight to protect the public health and the environment.

The proposed Ordinance clarifies County authority and tester responsibilities, updates definitions, adds a requirement to replace devices with lead-free devices, requires timely reporting, mandates compliance with local plumbing and business codes, adds language clarifying the degree of hazard for each facility or facility type, and establishes performance standards and administrative enforcement parameters.

EH staff has notified the California Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Division, the American Water Works Association, all water purveyors, and registered backflow prevention testers within the County regarding this proposed Ordinance amendment. All public notification requirements have been met.

The Ordinance has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form.

The proposed amendment contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community by protecting public exposure to potential contamination of drinking water through backflow prevention. It is anticipated that 94% of permitted facilities will receive an annual inspection in FY 2012-13. These annual inspections help prevent and control illness related to the transmission of infection or contamination in food and water, and help prevent disease transmission and injury.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2011-12 Actual	FY 2012-13 Projected
Percent of permitted facilities receiving an annual inspection	94%	94%

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no Net County Cost.