



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Public Works



Date: February 24, 2016
Board Meeting Date: April 12, 2016
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors, Acting as the Governing Board for County Service Area No. 11

From: James C. Porter, Director of Public Works

Subject: Rules and Regulations Amendments for County Service Area No. 11

RECOMMENDATION:

Acting as the Governing Board of County Service Area No. 11, adopt a resolution amending Sections 6 and 6.03 of the Rules and Regulations for County Service Area No. 11, implementing a Cross Connection Control Program.

BACKGROUND:

On December 8, 1992, your Board adopted Resolution No. 56747, which established regulations and rates schedules for furnishing of water service within County Service Area No. 11.

On June 26, 2012, your Board adopted Resolution No. 072027, which authorized the imposition of increased water rates and meter service charges for County Service Area No. 11 (CSA No. 11). The new rates and charges were anticipated to generate adequate revenue to support routine operation and maintenance of the system, perform upgrades, and to stay in compliance with Federal and State Regulations.

On November 3, 2015, your Board adopted Resolution No. 074168, which authorized an agreement with Bracewell Engineering Inc. (Bracewell) to provide operation and maintenance services for County Service Area No. 7 and CSA No. 11, for the term of October 23, 2015 through October 22, 2018. The scope of work under this agreement for CSA No. 11 included the annual testing of the backflow prevention devices (assemblies).

DISCUSSION:

The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB) issued Domestic Water Supply Permit No. 02-17-15P-4100582 (Permit) for the CSA No. 11 water system on August 5, 2015. The Permit sets several requirements, one of which is

for CSA No. 11 to ensure compliance with Section 7584, Chapter 5, Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations to protect the water system from contamination by implementing a Cross Connection Control Program (CCCP). The timeline outlined in the Permit requires CSA No.11 to adopt a CCCP by December 31, 2015, complete an evaluation to determine where cross connections may likely occur by July 1, 2016, and ensure that all required devices are satisfactorily installed and operating by December 31, 2016. The SWRCB has provided a four month extension for CSA No. 11 to adopt the CCCP by April 30, 2016.

The purpose of a CCCP is to protect the water supply against cross-contamination that may occur due to undiscovered or unauthorized cross connections on a customer's system or backflow. Private wells and storage tanks are examples of potential sources of cross-contamination. Backflow assemblies were installed for most of the properties in CSA No. 11 when the water system was constructed in 1992. These devices have been tested annually by CSA No. 11 and the testing costs are included in the water rates. However, these actions alone do not adequately comply with the current State regulations. The Permit requires the following as part of the CCCP:

1. Adoption of operating rules to implement the CCCP.
2. Conduct surveys to identify water premises where cross connections are likely to occur.
3. Provision of backflow protection by the water user at the user's connection.
4. Provision of at least one person trained to carry out the CCCP.
5. Establishment of a procedure or system for testing backflow preventers and annual certification.
6. Maintenance of records of locations, tests and repairs of backflow preventers.

Section 6, "Special Equipment," and Section 6.03, "Repair and Certification of Special Equipment", of the current rules and regulations for CSA No. 11, require the installation and annual testing of backflow assemblies but does not contain a formal CCCP. The proposed revisions to Section 6 and 6.03a of the rules and regulations would adopt and establish a CCCP for CSA No. 11. Assistance in implementing the CCCP will be provided by the County's Environmental Health Services Division (Environmental Health). Environmental Health currently provides administration and enforcement of the CCCP for the water system in County Service Area No. 7 as described in Chapter 4.72 of the County Ordinance Code. The CCCP for CSA No. 11 shall also incorporate the regulations of County Ordinance Code Chapter 4.72.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

Approval of this action contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by providing CSA No. 11 the authority to implement an effective Cross Connection Control Program to protect the potable water supply.

FISCAL IMPACT:

We estimate that the cost to implement the CCCP will be approximately \$3,000. This

amount includes Department and Environmental Health staff costs to conduct initial surveys of each property serviced by CSA No. 11 and issue individual notices to each property owner in CSA No. 11 requiring a backflow assembly. Environmental Health has estimated the annual program maintenance fee will be approximately \$2,300 the following fiscal year with a 9% annual increase thereafter. The CCCP costs were not anticipated when the current water rates and meter service charges were adopted in 2012.

The estimated cost to install a backflow prevention assembly is between \$600 to \$1,000, depending on the type and amount of work involved. Most CSA No. 11 properties, however, already have backflow assemblies and will not have to install one. The annual testing services and cost have been included as part of the operation and maintenance services provided by Bracewell for FY 2015-16 through FY 2017-18. The annual testing cost is \$40 per assembly. These services and costs do not include major repairs, or replacement of the assemblies if the assemblies fail to pass the annual test. Major repairs or replacements of backflow assemblies have been and will continue to be the responsibility of the customers or property owners.

The Department is recommending that CSA No. 11 continue to perform the annual testing, certification, and minor repairs of the backflow assemblies. The Department is also recommending that the CCCP implementation costs be paid from the CSA No. 11 revenue and that the future annual CCCP costs be evaluated for inclusion in the water rates and meter service charges or billed separately to each customer with a backflow assembly. After the CCCP is implemented, the Department will have a better understanding of actual costs, additional requirements, and the preferred option for complying with all of the CCCP elements (CSA No. 11 responsibility or customer/property owner responsibility). The cost to procure, install, maintain, perform major repairs or replacement of backflow assemblies will remain the responsibility of the property owner or customer. Implementation of the CCCP will include notifying property owners and customers in CSA No. 11 of the CCCP, the property owner's responsibilities, and CCCP requirements.

There is no direct impact to the General Fund.