

CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Northstar Community Services District



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1.0 DEFINITIONS

Approved Backflow Prevention Assembly (BPA) - An assembly that is accepted, at the time of installation, by the University of Southern California Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research based on a favorable field and laboratory report; on the current USC- FCCCHR List of Approved List of Backflow Prevention Assemblies at the time of installation.

Approved Water Supply - Potable water supplied and conveyed by the Northstar Community Services District (District)

Auxiliary Water Supply - Any water supply, other than that received from the Northstar Community Services District (District) or any water source where the district does not have sanitary control.

Backflow - The undesirable reversal of flow of water or mixtures of water and other liquids, gases or other substances into the distribution pipes of the potable water supply of water from any source or sources.

Certified Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester - A person with valid certification from a certifying organization recognized by the State Water Resources Control Board pursuant to Cross Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH).

Contaminant - Any substance that shall impair the quality of water, in such a way as to create an actual hazard to the public's health.

Cross-Connection - An actual or potential connection or structural arrangement between a public or a consumer's potable water system and any other source or system through which it is possible to introduce into any part of the potable water system any used water, industrial fluid, gas, or substance other than the intended potable water with which the system is supplied.

CCCPH – Cross Connection Control Policy Handbook. Through the adoption of the CCCPH, the State Water Board is exercising its authority, under California's Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), to establish enforceable standards applicable to California's Public Water Systems. Failure to comply with the CCCPH may result in the issuance of compliance, enforcement, or other corrective actions against a PWS.

Degree of Hazard - Either a pollutant (non-health hazard) or a contaminant (health hazard). Derived from the assessment of the materials, that have potential to enter the distribution system through a cross-connection.

Direct Cross-Connection - A cross-connection which is subject to back siphonage and back pressure.

Distribution System - Shall be synonymous with NCS D's water distribution systems.

District - Shall be synonymous with Northstar Community Services District (NCS D)

Double Check Valve Backflow Prevention Assembly (DC) - An assembly composed of two independently acting, approved check valves, including tightly closing resilient seated shutoff valves attached at the end of the assembly and fitted with properly located resilient seated test cocks. The assembly shall only be used to protect against a non-health hazard (i.e., pollutant).

Health Agency- The California Division of Drinking Water.

Indirect Cross-Connection - A cross-connection that is subject to back siphonage only.

Non-potable Water - A water supply which has not been approved for human consumption by the health agency having jurisdiction.

Point of Service Connection - The terminal end of a service connection from the public water system. The point where the District no longer maintains sanitary control (downstream side of the water meter, meter tube assembly, or service valve box).

Pollutant - Any substance that shall impair the quality of the water to a degree which does not create a hazard to the public health, but which does adversely and unreasonably affect the aesthetic qualities of the water for domestic use.

Potable Water - Water which has been investigated by the California Division of Drinking Water and has been approved for human consumption.

Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Assembly (RP) - An assembly containing two independently acting approved check valves together with a hydraulically operating, mechanically independent pressure differential relief valve located between the check valves and at the same time below the first check valve. The unit shall include properly located resilient seated test cocks and tightly closing resilient seated shutoff valves at each end of the assembly. This assembly is designed to protect against a non-health hazard (i.e., pollutant) or a health hazard (i.e., contaminant).

SWRCB - State Water Resources Control Board or State Water Board

USC Manual of Cross-Connection Control - Manual of cross-connection control standards published by USC-FCCCHR

USC-FCCCHR - University of Southern California, Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to:

- (a) Protect the public potable water supply served by the Northstar Community Services District (District) from the possibility of contamination or pollution by isolating, within its customers internal distribution system, such contaminants or pollutants which could backflow or back-siphon into the public water system.
- (b) Promote the elimination or control of existing cross-connections, actual or potential, between the customer's in-plant potable water system, and non-potable water systems.
- (c) Implement an effective and sustainable cross-connection control program in compliance with the SWRCB

CCCPH and the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

- (d) Promote the education of the District's water customers in the presence or potential presence of water contamination or pollution hazards consistent with CCCPH 3.1.3 (9).

3.0 SCOPE

The District will achieve and maintain compliance with the SWRCB CCCPH by:

Implementation of a cross-connection control program. The program, or any portion thereof, may be implemented directly by the District or by means of a contract with an approved agency.

The District's cross-connection control program shall for the purposes of addressing the requirements of SWRCB CCCHP (section 3.1.3.a), but not be limited to the following elements:

- (a) The adoption of operating rules and/or ordinance to implement the cross-connection program.
- (b) The conducting of surveys to identify water user premises where cross-connections are likely to occur.
- (c) Provisions of backflow protection by the water user at the user's/owner's connection or within the user/owner's premises or both
- (d) The provision of at least one person trained in cross-connection control to manage the cross-connection program.
- (e) The establishment of a backflow prevention assembly testing procedure or system.
- (f) The maintenance of records of locations, tests, and repairs of backflow prevention assemblies.

4.0 HAZARD ASSESSMENTS

Initial and Follow-Up Hazard assessments:

For initial hazard assessments on new construction, the District will require contractors to provide a backflow survey during the plan review process. A hazard assessment will be performed by District staff prior to final permitting of the project.

For initial hazard assessments on existing service connections, the District will require homeowners to complete a backflow survey documenting any systems that may require a backflow assembly. This survey will be cross referenced with existing assemblies on record. Any discrepancies between the survey and the assemblies on record will be investigated by trained District staff. Initial hazard assessments will be completed before July, 1st 2029.

The District will perform an initial or follow-up hazard assessment under the following criteria:

- (a) If the user premises change account holder, excluding single-family residences.
- (b) If the user premises are newly connected to the District's distribution system.
- (c) If evidence exists of changes in the activities or materials on a user's premises.
- (d) If backflow from a user's premises occurs.
- (e) Periodically, as identified in the District's Cross-Connection Control Plan required pursuant to CCCPH section 3.1.4.
- (f) If the State Water Board requests a hazard assessment of a user's premises; and
- (g) If the District concludes, an existing hazard assessment may no longer accurately represent the degree of hazard.

5.0 ENFORCEMENT

General Program Enforcement:

The Northstar Community Services District is responsible for the protection of the public water distribution system from contamination due to real or potential cross-connection conditions. A component of this responsibility is the enforcement of District Code and SWRCB CCCPH, through prescribed enforcement actions as outlined below:

- (a) Notification of Non-Compliance
- (b) Termination of Water Service
- (c) Install, inspect, field test, and/or maintain a BPA at a water user's premises
- (d) Otherwise address in a timely manner a failure to comply with the cross-connection control program.

When a hazard or potential hazard to the public water system is found or suspected, the customer shall be required to install an approved backflow prevention assembly at each public water service connection to the premises in accordance with the District rules and regulations.

6.0 TESTING AND INSPECTIONS

Backflow prevention assembly tests and inspections are required:

- (a) Upon installation of a new device
- (b) Following the repair, replacement, or relocation of a device

(c) Annually (the District will notify property owner of testing deadline)

(d) Upon the request of the District's Cross-Connection Control Program Coordinator , based on previous assembly test failures, real or perceived changes in conditions on property, or result of site survey.

7.0 TIMELINE

Each backflow prevention assembly installed for protection of a District water service shall be tested by an approved tester at a minimum annually. District staff will provide water customers with notification of annual testing requirements as follows:

60 DAY EMAIL NOTIFICATION- The District shall provide notification of backflow prevention assembly test requirement sixty (60) days prior to due date.

30 DAY EMAIL NOTIFICATION- The District shall provide a second notification of backflow prevention assembly test requirement thirty (30) days prior to due date.

NON-COMPLIANT 30-DAY EMAIL NOTIFICATION- When testing of the device is past due, the District shall provide a third notice indicating non-compliance with the District's annual backflow assembly testing requirements, in addition to assessing fees in accordance with the District's Water Ordinance. The notice will provide thirty (30) calendar days for compliance.

NON-COMPLIANT 14-DAY CERTIFIED MAILER & DOOR HANGER- If the District does not receive a successful test report within 15 calendar days of the non-compliant 30-day notification, a certified mailer will be sent to the users mailing address on file and a door hanger will be placed on the front door at the service address. The notice will provide fifteen (15) calendar days for compliance.

NON-COMPLIANT COURTESY CALL/EMAIL- A final attempt to contact the customer will be made by phone 7 days prior to the scheduled shut-off date to gain compliance without needing to interrupt the water service at the property.

DOOR HANGER NOTIFICATION OF WATER SERVICE- A door hanger notification will be placed at the residence ~48 hours prior to water service interruption.

WATER SERVICE INTERRUPTION- The water service requiring the backflow prevention device may be terminated until a successful test report is received by the District. Extensions may be allowed by the District under special circumstances.

8.0 REQUIREMENTS FOR FIELD TESTING AND INSPECTING BPA

Backflow Prevention Assembly (BPA) Testing:

- All backflow prevention assemblies shall be tested in accordance with the District Water Ordinance and SWRCB CCCHP by a certified backflow prevention assembly tester.
- It is the testers' responsibility to keep certification current and up to date with the District by submitting

certification cards to the District.

- All backflow test reports must be entered into the District's Syncta backflow portal by the tester. Test reports will then be verified and approved by qualified District staff.
- All field test kits, or gauge equipment must be recognized by USC and annually tested/calibrated for accuracy. Calibration results for test kits or gauge equipment must be submitted to the District.
- Following the testing of each backflow prevention assembly, the water service account holder, property owner, or tester shall submit a completed test report to the District by using the District Syncta Tester portal, in accordance with the District's Backflow Prevention Assembly Test Instructions, prior to the testing deadline.
- All backflow prevention assemblies must be repaired or replaced within 30 days of notification of the failure. Extensions may be allowed by the NCSD Cross Connection Control Coordinator.
- Non-testable backflow preventers are not considered adequate backflow protection at NCSD.
- Backflow prevention assembly testers must notify the District as soon as possible within 24 hours if a backflow incident or an unprotected cross-connection is observed at the backflow prevention assembly or prior to the user premises during field testing. The District will immediately conduct an investigation and discontinue service to the user premises if a backflow incident is confirmed, and water service will not be restored to the user premises until the District receives confirmation of a passing field test from a backflow prevention assembly tester and the assembly is protecting the public water supply.

9.0 BACKFLOW INCIDENT RESPONSE PROCEDURE

The District's backflow incident response procedure will follow the requirement in CCCPH section 3.5.2 along with District policy as outlined; investigating and responding to suspected backflow incidents including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Consideration of complaints or reports of changes in water quality as possible incidents of backflow.
- (b) Water quality sampling and pressure recording.
- (c) Documentation of the investigation, and any response and follow-up activities.

10.0 BACKFLOW INCIDENT NOTIFICATION

- (a) The District will notify the State Water Board of any known incident of backflow within 24 hours of the determination. If required by the State Water Board, The District will issue a Tier 1 public notification pursuant to CCR, Title 22, Section 64463.1.
- (b) If required by the State Water Board, The District will submit, by a date specified by the State Water Board, a written incident report describing the details and affected areas of the backflow incident, the actions taken by the District in response to the backflow incident, and the follow up actions to prevent future

backflow incidents.

- (c) District staff may terminate a water service connection without notice upon the discovery of a real or potential cross-connection condition presents an immediate hazard to the potable water supply. Immediate termination of water service connections may occur under one or more of the following conditions:
- (i) Direct or indirect cross-connection exists between the public water system and a sewer system
 - (ii) Unprotected direct or indirect cross-connection between the public water system and a high hazard or lethal contaminant
 - (iii) Unprotected direct or indirect cross-connection between the public water system and an approved water supply

11.0 RECORDKEEPING

The District's recordkeeping policy includes:

- (a) Recordkeeping information required pursuant to CCCPH section 3.5.1.
- (b) Location and type of each BPA.
- (c) Highest threat potential hazard from which a given BPA is protecting the public water system distribution system.
- (d) NCS D uses a software program, Syncta, to ensure recordkeeping is compliant with the CCCPH.

12.0 LOCAL COORDINATION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

During the new construction and remodel process, the District requires contractors to provide a backflow survey during the plan review process. The District will coordinate with local plumbers to ensure that adequate backflow assemblies are installed and are commensurate with the degree of hazard posed by the system. A hazard assessment will be performed by District staff prior to final permitting of the project.

The District will coordinate with local backflow testing agencies during annual tests to ensure that adequate backflow protection is provided for existing hazards.

The District will coordinate with homeowner's associations, property managers and maintenance employees for assistance in hazard assessments as well as investigation of backflow incidents to ensure the public water system is protected.

In order to educate the public on cross-connection and the importance of protecting the public water system from potential contamination, the District will use the following resources:

- District website

- Mailings such as monthly bills
- Local publications such as Northstar Living

13.0 NCSD CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL COORDINATOR

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