

City of Hesperia

STAFF REPORT



DATE: June 3, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council Members
Chair and Board Members, Hesperia Water District

FROM: Rachel Molina, City Manager

BY: Cassandra Sanchez, Director of Public Works / City Engineer
Jeremy McDonald, Water Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Amendments to Title 14, Chapter 14 of the Hesperia Municipal Code related to Cross Connections and Backflow Devices

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the City Council and Board Members of the Hesperia Water District (District) introduce and place on first reading Ordinance No. 2025-02 regarding cross connections and backflow devices; amending Title 14, Chapter 14.04 of the Hesperia Municipal Code.

BACKGROUND

The Hesperia Water District is responsible for safeguarding the City's potable water supply from contamination and pollution resulting from the backflow of water into the distribution system. Backflow is the undesired or unintended reversal of flow of water and/or other liquids, gases, or other substances into a water distribution system.

Additionally, the City is responsible for identifying and mitigating cross connections, a condition where there is an interconnection between a potable water supply and a non-potable source via any actual or potential connection or structural arrangement between a water distribution system and any source or distribution system containing liquid, gas, or other substances not from an approved water supply. When a cross connection is identified, the user is required to install a backflow prevention device, a mechanical device consisting of two spring loaded check valves which prevents the reversal of flow into the distribution system.

There are currently 1,579 backflow prevention devices in service throughout the City. Each backflow device is annually inspected and tested by a certified tester who has been certified by the American Water Works Association. Public Works staff is responsible for managing the cross-connection control and backflow program which includes performing cross connection control surveys and record keeping of backflow prevention devices.

ISSUES/ANALYSIS

On October 6, 2017, Assembly Bill 1671 (AB 1671) was approved and filed with the Secretary of State. AB 1671 amended California's Safe Drinking Water Act through the establishment of California Health Safety Code (CHSC) sections 116407 and 116555.5. On October 2, 2019, Assembly Bill 1180 (AB 1180) was approved and filed with the Secretary of State. AB 1180 amended Section 116407 of the CHSC and added section 13521.2 to the Water Code. The

adoption of each assembly bill required the State to establish standards for backflow protection and cross-connection control through the adoption of the Cross Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH). Prior to AB 1671 and the adoption of the CCCPH, California's regulations pertaining to cross-connection control were set forth in regulations in California Code Regulations Title 17, which were adopted in 1987 with minor revisions in 2000.

Included within the CCCPH is the requirement for public water systems to perform an initial hazard assessment of each user's premises within their service area. The recommended changes to the municipal code include this requirement and specify the requirements for a backflow prevention assembly to be considered acceptable.

In addition, this update to the Ordinance and amendment to the Hesperia Municipal Code is the first step to the City Council's strategic goal to coordinate compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board's CCCPH through educational training for public and developers.

CITY GOAL SUPPORTED BY THIS ITEM

Public Safety - Ensure public safety resources adequately protect our community.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no fiscal impacts identified with this action.

ALTERNATIVE(S)

Provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Ordinance 2025-02
2. Attachment 2 – Exhibit "A" Municipal Code Title 14, Chapter 14.04. Section 14.04.09 redlines and alternative language