



City of Oceanside

300 North Coast Highway,
Oceanside, California 92054

Staff Report

File #: 25-985

Agenda Date: 10/1/2025

Agenda #: 14.

DATE: October 1, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Water Utilities Department

TITLE: AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 37, ARTICLE IX RELATING TO CROSS-CONNECTION AND BACKFLOW DEVICES

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council introduce an ordinance amending Chapter 37, Article IX relating to cross-connection and backflow devices to comply with the new requirements of the updated Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

This ordinance amendment applies to all new residential construction that requires fire sprinklers as a condition of issuing building permits. Fire sprinklers require constant water pressure to ensure that they are available in the event of a fire, at which time they would be activated to help suppress any fire before it spread to other portions of the building. As part of having a fire sprinkler system, a cross-connection control device is necessary to prevent the water from backing up into the distribution system, potentially causing contamination of drinking water supplies.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has updated the Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook, requiring the City to update Chapter 37, Article IX relating to cross-connection and backflow devices. The previous requirement called for the installation of a Dual Check Valve for residential fire sprinkler systems. These devices are no longer permitted because they are not testable. Therefore, the effectiveness of the device is not verifiable.

Per SWRCB Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook, water meters that serve an automatic fire sprinkler system along with the domestic water system shall be equipped with a double check (DC) backflow preventer with shut off valves and test ports.

Alternatively, a DC backflow device is not required if the user premises has only one service connection, if a single, water industry standard water meter is provided to measure combined domestic flow and fire protection system flow, if the fire protection system is constructed using piping materials certified to meet National Sanitation Foundation/American National Standards Institute Standard 61, and if the fire protection system is designed as a passive purge system with looped

pipng within the structure and connected to one or more routinely used fixture(s) (e.g., toilet, water faucet, clothes washer) to prevent stagnant water, minimize microbial growth, and to keep the water fresh.

The amendment to Chapter 37, Article IX will consist of removing the definition of a *Dual Check Valve Device* and adding the definition of a *Passive Purge System*. In addition, in Section (C)(6), the requirement for Dual Check Valve Devices will be replaced with the requirement for a Passive Purge System.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to this action, it is an administrative change to comply with current law.

COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT

The Utilities Commission reviewed staff's recommendation at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 16, 2025.

CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS

The referenced documents have been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved as to form.

Prepared by: Martin Popma, Water Utilities Manager
Reviewed by: Frederick Mayo, Water Utilities Director
Submitted by: Jonathan Borrego, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Staff Report
2. Ordinance