



AGENDA MEMORANDUM
for the City Council Meeting of January 15, 2013

DATE: January 9, 2013
TO: Ronald L. Olson, City Manager
FROM: Mark Van Vleck, P.E., Interim Director, Development Services
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UPDATE TO CITY COUNCIL
Presentation concerning the City's backflow prevention program and staff's recommendation towards testing requirements.

STAFF PRESENTER(S):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Position</u>	<u>Department</u>
1. John Speights	Building Official	Development Services
2. Mark Van Vleck	Interim Director	Development Services

OUTSIDE PRESENTER(S):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Position</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1. None		

BACKGROUND :

The Backflow Prevention Program was instituted in 1996 to protect the City's potable water supply from potential hazards contaminating customer internal water distribution systems. The prevention program is regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) of 1974, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), as well as Plumbing and Building Codes. The program is administered by the Backflow Division in Development Services, and funded by the Water Department.

Property Owners with lawn irrigation systems are required to have their backflow prevention assembly inspected annually to ensure the device is operating properly. The Code of Ordinances, Section 14-281(12), more specifically, 608.1.1 of the International Plumbing Code requires that annual inspections shall be made of all backflow prevention assemblies and air gaps to determine whether they are operable.

If a backflow preventer fails on a lawn irrigation system there are many potential hazards such as lawn chemicals, fertilizer, or pet waste that can leak into our general water supply. There are currently 10, 872 active irrigation systems with backflow preventers according to our records with an annual inspection failure rate of 15%.

Currently, residents with irrigation systems are mailed two notification letters. The first is sent 30 days prior to their current certification expiring, and the second is sent the day after their certification expires. There are concerns that the wording in the notices, which we have corrected. Also, we would like to send out three notifications per year. The reminder would be sent out at 60 days, 45 days, and 3 days prior to expiration. In addition, we would also like to integrate the reminder on the resident's utility bill.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Power Point