

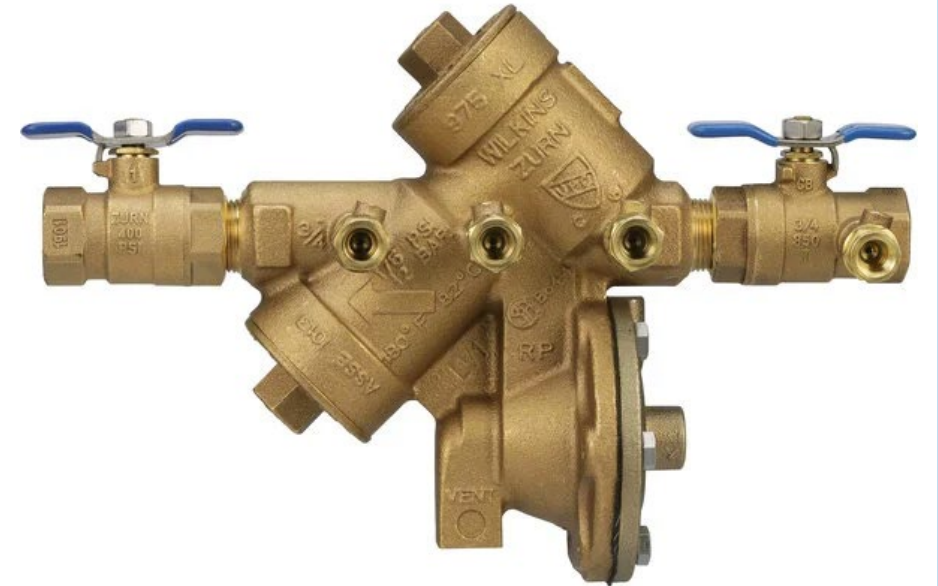
Ordinance to Amend Corpus Christi Code to Enhance Backflow Prevention Standards and Compliance Procedures

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What is Backflow?

- Backflow happens when water flows in the wrong direction from a potentially polluted source into the clean drinking water system
- To prevent this, many homes and businesses have backflow prevention devices installed
- These devices keep water flowing in only one direction towards your tap
- Preventing backflow is important - it protects public health by keeping pollutants, chemicals and bacteria out of the drinking water
- Backflow prevention is required by law



Reduced Pressure Assembly (RPZ)

Background

- Due to ongoing drought conditions, Corpus Christi Water (CCW) has observed an increase in well construction
- To ensure compliance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulations and safeguard the potable water system from backflow contamination, it is essential to enforce proper backflow prevention measures as required by TCEQ
- TCEQ RG-478 states residences, buildings, or facilities that:
 - Use an auxiliary water supply, such as a private well, a rainwater-harvesting system, or a pump in a lake, must install a reduced pressure assembly (RPZ) at the meter connection or provide an air gap at the meter



Reduced Pressure Assembly (RPZ)
installed at the meter

Ordinance to Amend Corpus Christi Code Section 55-37

CCW is requesting amending Section 55-37 to clearly address properties with private water wells that also have access to public water service

- Establish requirements to avoid cross connection between the City water supply and water wells
 - Ordinance will require compliance with TCEQ regulations by mandating either a reduced pressure backflow assembly at the water meter or an air gap
 - If air gap is present, an inspection will be required at least once every three years
 - If no air gap exists, a reduced pressure assembly must be installed at the meter and tested annually by a certified backflow assembly tester



Ordinance to Amend Corpus Christi Code Section 55-37 (continued)

- Test report submittal
 - Backflow assembly testers will be required to submit test reports electronically via the City's designated third-party database within 10 days of testing
- Backflow prevention device filing fee
 - Filing fee was originally established by Development Services which previously managed the Backflow Prevention Program
 - In 2018, the Backflow Prevention Program was transferred to CCW
 - Testers pay \$20 filing fee to the City's designated third-party database vendor for each report submitted, with \$9 returned to CCW to help fund program operations
 - Since CCW is running the Backflow Prevention Program, it make sense to move the filing fee out of Development Services Fee Schedule into Section 55-37

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Thank you!

