



City of Needles, California Request for Commission Action

☐ CITY COUNCIL ☒ BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: July 1, 2025

Title: Adopt the State Water Resources Control Board Cross-Connection Control (CCC) Plan

Background: On December 19, 2023, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted the Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH), which took effect on July 1, 2024, and replaces the cross-connection control regulations found in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 17.

All California public water systems (PWS) are required to comply with the requirements in the CCCPH. The primary objective of the CCCPH is the protection of public health through the establishment of standards intended to ensure drinking water supplies are protected from hazards associated with the backflow of unknown substances into the distribution system.

All PWS must adopt a Cross-Connection Control (CCC) Plan by July 1, 2024. "Cross-Connection Control Plan" refers to a plan that public water systems are required to implement to protect their water supply from contamination due to cross-connections.

The CCCP must include a description of how compliance will be maintained, a hazard assessment process to identify backflow risks, and additional backflow inspection and testing processes. New requirements include a record tracking system, designation of site user supervisors for potentially hazardous sites, and descriptions of corrective actions. To ensure full compliance with new requirements, the city utilized a third party to complete the CCCP.

The adopted CCC must be submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for review and comments. The submitted plan may be changed at the request of the SWRCB. The next steps are to complete an on-site survey of every backflow connected to the water system.

Fiscal Impact: Third-party on-site survey costs are estimated to be \$1,700 to \$3,400 to be funded by the adopted FY26 annual budget for the water department.

Environmental Impact: The need to prevent cross-connections with auxiliary water supplies or contaminant sources was identified over 100 years ago in California, and the ability for unprotected cross-connections to cause illness and disease has been well-established. However, the risk posed by backflow can be mitigated through preventive and corrective measures, primarily through the installation of backflow prevention devices and assemblies. Cross-Connection Control programs seek out and correct cross-connections within the distribution system and individual service connections. Corrective measures after a detected incident include activities such as flushing and cleaning the distribution system. These measures may help mitigate adverse health effects from any contaminants that may remain in the distribution system.

Recommended Action: Adopt the State Water Resources Control Board Cross-Connection Control (CCC) Plan



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Submitted By: Rainie Torrance, Utility Manager
Bryan Hickstein, Chief Plant Operator

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 6/24/2025

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐

Agenda Item: _____