

STAFF REPORT



SUBJECT: Backflow Prevention / Cross-Connection Control – Professional Services Proposal
MEETING: Council Meeting - 11 Sep 2022
DEPARTMENT: Public Works/Development Services
STAFF CONTACT: Steve Killen

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends entering into a professional services agreement with Hardin & Associates Consulting to conduct site visits for non-compliant backflow prevention devices connected to the city's potable water system.

BACKGROUND:

Texas has promulgated regulations that mandate all public water suppliers have a program to require backflow prevention devices be installed to protect against contamination of public water supplies. Effective January 1, 1996, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) required all public water systems comply with Texas Administrative Code, Title 30, Chapter 290, which states as follows:

"§290.44 Water Distribution. (h). (1). No water connection from any public drinking water supply system shall be made to any establishment where an actual or potential contamination or system hazard exists without an air gap separation between the drinking water supply and the source of potential contamination. Under these conditions, additional protection shall be required at the meter in the form of a backflow prevention device ...on those establishments handling substances deleterious or hazardous to the public health. The water purveyor need not require backflow protection at the water service entrance if an adequate cross-connection control program is in effect that includes an annual inspection and testing by a certified backflow prevention device tester. It will be the responsibility of the water purveyor to ensure that these requirements are met."

The TCEQ began full enforcement of these regulations and evaluates public water systems for compliance through a public water system inspection program. All systems found without a program or with an inadequate program may risk potential enforcement action in the form of fines each day from the TCEQ until an approved program is in place.

PROPOSAL:

Hardin & Associates will assist in managing the City's Cross-Connection Control Backflow Device Program to ensure and safeguard the water distribution system and protect the health of the city's customers by maintaining a high level of backflow prevention and cross-connection control.

Services were first engaged during the last fiscal year after a TCEQ potable water system audit. This service is a next-phase initiative to ensure compliance with program requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY:

The agreement proposes to provide the above identified services for a sum of \$50,000.

Funds were requested and approved in the water service enterprise fund during the 2022-23 budget process.

ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for consideration:

1. Do not recommend approval of the professional services agreement as presented or
2. Recommend an alternate scope of work.

ADVANTAGES:

1. Recommending approval will enable immediate action to address the backlog of non-compliant devices that potentially jeopardize the public water supply.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. None identified.