



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Doug Culbert, Deputy Director of Environmental Services—Streets and Utilities

PREPARER: Doug Culbert, Deputy Director of Environmental Services—Streets and Utilities

DATE: June 4, 2025

TITLE: **Adopt Ordinance No. 1578, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Amending Chapter 3, Water, of Title VII, Public Works, of the Arcata Municipal Code.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council adopt Ordinance No. 1578, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Amending Chapter 3, Water, of Title VII, Public Works, of the Arcata Municipal Code; waive reading of the text and consent to read by title only.

INTRODUCTION:

The City Council introduced Ordinance No. 1578 at their May 21, 2025, regular meeting. Previously, Ordinance No. 1239 became effective on August 4, 1995, which updated the Arcata Municipal Code related to backflow prevention and cross-connection control for the City’s drinking water system. In July 2024 the California State Water Resources Control Board, exercising its authority under the California Safe Drinking Water Act, adopted regulations in the Cross Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH) to establish enforceable standards applicable to California Public Water Systems (PWSs). The Policy Handbook also provides the basis for regulating the use and management of cross-connection control programs and backflow prevention assemblies, and related requirements for supporting programs and policies.

Environmental Services staff recommends adoption of a new ordinance amending the City’s municipal code to comply with the regulations of the CCCPH and codify the rules and procedures in the City’s Cross-Connection Control Program to be congruent with the newly adopted regulations in the CCCPH.

BACKGROUND:

The current Arcata Municipal Code refers to the outdated regulatory handbook and does not include regulatory aspects newly required by the State. The City’s Cross Connection Control Program (CCCP) is designed to maintain the safety and potability of the water in the City of Arcata’s Public Water System (PWS) by establishing rules and procedures to prevent the contamination of public drinking water by the backflow of water or other fluids. The purpose of the CCCP is to protect the public water supply from the possibility of contamination by isolating contaminants which could backflow or back-siphon into the public water system within its customers’ internal distribution system. This program will also promote the elimination or control of cross-connections, actual or potential, between its customers’ private drinking water system(s) and anything that could

contaminate or pollute it and provide for the maintenance of a cross-connection control program to effectively prevent the contamination or pollution of all drinking water systems. This ordinance will give the City's updated CCCP the authority it needs to be enforceable under the conditions of the new State-adopted Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook.

DISCUSSION:

The CCCPH was adopted in July 2024 and Publicly Owned Water Systems subject to the new policy must be compliant with the policy by July 1, 2025. Environmental Services staff have reviewed the new regulations and updated the City's Cross Connection Control Plan to meet the requirements of the CCCPH. Under the new regulations, the City is required to appoint a certified Cross-Connection Control Program Coordinator (CCCPC) who is responsible for the protection of the public potable water distribution system. The City has provided training for staff to obtain Cross Connection Control Specialist certification which is mandatory to serve as the CCCPC.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The ordinance, if adopted, will bring the City into compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board's Cross Connection Control Policy Handbook.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

The proposed ordinance amendments clarify definitions and rationale, roles and responsibilities, and standards to implement an existing program designed to protect the municipal water supply from contamination. The amendments do not impose new requirements that would alter the baseline impacts associated with the existing program. Because the program is intended for the protection of the environment by reducing the likelihood of draining the municipal water system to flush contaminants, which would impact natural resources, and because the amendments do not change the baseline associated with the existing regulatory program, the proposed action does not have the potential to have a significant effect on the environment and qualifies for the common sense exemption (CEQA Guidelines 15061(b)(3)).

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance will have minimal impact on the City's Water Fund, and all costs pertaining to carrying out the updates in this ordinance have been budgeted within the Water Fund for this current fiscal year.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1578, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Amending Chapter 3, Water, of Title VII, Public Works, of the Arcata Municipal Code; waive reading of the text and consent to read by title only. Consent Calendar vote.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Ordinance No. 1578