

**NURA MEMORANDUM**  
**#17-08**

**DATE:** September 13, 2017

**TO:** NURA Board & Advisors

**FROM:** Debbie Tuttle, NURA Executive Director

**SUBJECT: Backflow Prevention Improvements - Eligibility for BUAG Grant**

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional information regarding the Backflow Prevention program per the board's request at the August 9, 2017 meeting. Staff is asking for board direction to determine if backflow devices should be eligible under the Business Utility Assistance Grant (BUAG) program.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) requires every water provider to maintain a Cross-Connection Control (Backflow Prevention) Program in accordance with the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation (5 CCR 1002-11) which went into effect January 1, 2016.

The Backflow Protection Program is to protect public health by preventing contaminated water (used water, industrial fluids, gases, or water below state standards for drinking water quality) from flowing out of a facility's water system into the City's water distribution system.

The City is required by the state to survey a certain percentage of the total commercial property and non-single family residents each year to reach goals set by the CDPHE by 2020. When the City surveys these properties, a compliance date of 90 days is set by the City to control the connection. For more detailed information on the program, and the City ordinance (16-27-10) on the three (3) ways the City is required to comply with CDPHE's regulations is outlined in **Attachment A**.

The City developed a list of approximately 600 water meters that meet the requirements to be surveyed and/or controlled. Of which approximately 80% (480) of non-single family residents (duplexes and apartments), commercial, and industrial buildings, churches, and irrigation systems have been completed. Of the total inspections, 75% were required to install a new backflow prevention system.

There are an estimated 100 remaining meters to be surveyed by October, 2020. Of the remaining meters, there are no estimates of how many will be required to replace their existing backflow prevention systems.

The State is requiring the City to complete the survey of businesses in the next 40 months to ensure implementation and compliance. The City is aiming to have this project completed by late 2018 or early 2019. This will allow enough time for staff to recheck its databases and establish accurate compliance by the 2020 deadline.

**POTENTIAL OPTIONS:** The following are four potential options for the board's consideration:

1. Eliminate backflow improvements as an eligible improvement under the BUAG program;
2. Include the backflow improvements, and allocate a smaller financial contribution towards backflow improvements (ex. 50% of total costs, not to exceed \$750);
3. Include backflow improvements, and increase the 2017 budget allocation for the program; or
4. Set a specific amount from the current BUAG budget to be allocated for these improvements (ex. \$5,000), and applicants will be provided grants on a first-come basis until the budget is expended.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:** The 2017 budget was approved for 50,000 for Business Utility Assistance Grants (BUAG). As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, there have been three (3) approved for a total of \$19,084.45, and one paid out for last year for \$10,000. Leaving \$20,915.55 remaining through the end of 2017 for approved utility improvements and upgrades under the BUAG program.

Unless the board decides it wants to allocate additional funding beyond the approved budget, there are limited funds available for the remainder of the year to assist businesses and property owners under the current BUAG grant program.

**STAFF REFERENCE:**

If have any comments or questions, you may contact Debbie Tuttle at [dtuttle@northglenn.org](mailto:dtuttle@northglenn.org) at 303-450-8743.

**Cross Connection Rule Information (5 CCR 1002-11.39) effective 1/1/16:**

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) requires every water provider to maintain a Cross-Connection Control (Backflow Prevention) Program in accordance with the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation (5 CCR 1002-11) which went into effect Jan 1, 2016.

The Backflow Protection Program is to protect public health by preventing contaminated water (used water, industrial fluids, gases, or water below state standards for drinking water quality) from flowing out of a facility's water system into the City's water distribution system.

We are required to survey a certain percentage of the total list each year to reach goals set by the CDPHE by 2020. When the City surveys a businesses, a compliance date of 90 days is set by the City to control the connection in 3 ways:

**Per City Ordinance (16-27-10) updated in Dec, 2015:**

(a) Customers shall cooperate with the installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, repair and replacement of backflow prevention assemblies and with the survey process.

(b) For any identified uncontrolled cross-connections, the City shall complete one of the following actions:

- (1) Control the cross-connection
- (2) Remove the cross-connection
- (3) Suspend service to the cross-connection

(c) The City shall give notice in writing to any owner whose plumbing system has been found to present a hazard to the potable water supply through an uncontrolled cross-connection. The notice and order shall state that the owner must install an approved reduced pressure principle device at each service connection to the owner's premises to contain the water service. The notice and order will give a date by which the owner must comply with the order.

Note: The 2009 International Plumbing Code (IPC) regulates how the backflow devices and associated plumbing is installed.

**Impacts across the City:**

The City developed a list +/- 600 Water Meters that meet the requirements to be surveyed and/or controlled. These include Non-Single Family Residents (Duplexes, Apartments), Commercial, and Industrial Buildings, Churches, and Irrigation systems.

Of the +/- 600, we have currently surveyed ~80%. Resulting in an est. 100 Meters to be surveyed by Oct, 2020. The State is requiring the City to complete the survey of businesses in the next 40 months and to ensure implementation and compliance. The City is aiming to have this project completed by Late 2018 or early 2019, in order to have the ability to recheck our databases and establish accurate compliance by the 2020 deadline.

Of the est. 100 Meters left, there are only a few meters that are 2 inch size and most are 1 inch or 3/4 inch. (The smaller size are more reasonable to install and work on as they are a more common size).



**Public Works**

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**Date**

**Dear (insert name),**

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) requires the City of Northglenn to maintain a Cross-Connection Control (Backflow Prevention) Program in accordance with the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation (5 CCR 1002-11). The purpose of this program is to protect public health by preventing contaminated water (used water, industrial fluids, gases, or water below state standards for drinking water quality) from flowing out of a facility's water system into the City's water distribution system.

**An inspection of your facility was performed on (insert date) at (insert location) and was found to be Out of Compliance with the City of Northglenn's Cross-Connection Control Program Code (Chapter 16, Article 27).**

Per City Ordinance (16-27-10), your facility must take corrective action to meet regulations within 90 days of the date of this letter or the City will shut your water off on **(insert 90 days). Corrective action**. In addition, within that 90 day period, the installed device(s) must pass inspection by a Certified Cross-Connection Control Technician. A technician from the city will do a follow-up to ensure adequate protection was achieved.

**Reminder – All facilities are required to have the Cross-Connection Control Devices inspected annually by a Certified Cross-Connection Control Technician (16-27-8).** A copy of the inspection report must be filed with the City of Northglenn within 14 days of the inspection. Submit a copy of your inspection report via email (preferred method) to [backflow@northglenn.org](mailto:backflow@northglenn.org), fax (303-450-4044), or by mail. If an assembly fails the required annual inspection, the failed device must be repaired within 30 days and re-inspected (16-27-10). Copies of records including repairs made and new inspection report must be filed with the City within 14 days of the inspection.

The City appreciates your compliance with this important public health protection program. Please contact me with any questions or concerns regarding your Cross Connection assembly system.

*Alex Arnold*  
Backflow Prevention Specialist  
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