

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

<b>(1) DEPARTMENT</b> Public Health	<b>(2) MEETING DATE</b> 5/8/2012	<b>(3) CONTACT/PHONE</b> Penny Borenstein (805) 781-5519	
<b>(4) SUBJECT</b> Request to approve renewal contracts (Clerk's File) with drinking water supplier agencies to have Environmental Health Services provide cross connection inspection services.			
<b>(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION</b> It is recommended that the Board approve the renewal of Cross Connection Inspection Services contracts (Clerk's File) with the following drinking water purveyors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cambria Community Services District</li> <li>▪ Los Osos Community Services District</li> <li>▪ Rural Water Company</li> <li>▪ Woodlands Mutual Water Company</li> <li>▪ San Simeon Community Services District</li> <li>▪ East Airport Mutual Water Company</li> <li>▪ Fiero Lane Water Company</li> <li>▪ Garden Farms Community Water District</li> </ul>			
<b>(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S)</b> Fees / General Fund	<b>(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT</b> \$186,717.00	<b>(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT</b> \$186,717.00	<b>(9) BUDGETED?</b> Yes
<b>(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business			
<b>(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<b>(12) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED?</b> BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
<b>(13) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR)</b> N/A		<b>(14) W-9</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<b>(15) LOCATION MAP</b> N/A	<b>(16) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT?</b> No	<b>(17) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date <u>October 19, 2010</u>	
<b>(18) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW</b>			
<b>(19) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S)</b> All Districts -			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Penny Borenstein, MD, Health Officer  
(805) 781-5519  
DATE: 5/8/2012  
SUBJECT: Request to approve renewal contracts (Clerk's File) with drinking water supplier agencies to have Environmental Health Services provide cross connection inspection services.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve the renewal of Cross Connection Inspection Services contracts (Clerk's File) with the following drinking water purveyors:

- Cambria Community Services District
- Los Osos Community Services District
- Rural Water Company
- Woodlands Mutual Water Company
- San Simeon Community Services District
- East Airport Mutual Water Company
- Fiero Lane Water Company
- Garden Farms Community Water District

## **DISCUSSION**

The purpose of a cross connection inspection services program is to prevent drinking water supplies from being contaminated by harmful substances that would render drinking water unsafe for human consumption. A cross connection is defined as any connection between a drinking water supply and a potential source of contamination. Water distribution systems are designed with the intention of the water flowing in a certain direction, that is, from the distribution system to the consumer. However, hydraulic conditions within the system may at times deviate from normal conditions, causing water to flow in the opposite direction. Such a condition is called "backflow," and is a common problem in public water systems.

By state law, each large public water system is required to have a certified cross connection control specialist on staff, or contract with an outside person or agency to provide such expertise. Rather than have each water purveyor provide their own certified cross connection control specialist, it is more cost effective for most purveyors to have the Environmental Health Services' Cross Connection Inspector do the work.

Environmental Health Services has provided cross connection inspection services to the county's water purveyors since the Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance No.1175 in 1971. The first fee-for-service contracts for cross connection inspection services between the County and the water purveyors were approved by the Board in 1978. Although cross connection inspection services have been continuously provided to the purveyors via contract since 1978, at the recommendation of County Counsel, the Health Agency has been working with the water purveyors to update their contracts for cross connections services.

The updated contracts will terminate on June 30, 2015 or June 30, 2016 depending upon the water purveyor. The Health Agency currently has updated contracts with sixteen (16) drinking water purveyors for providing cross connection inspection services. The approval of the eight (8) attached contracts will result in a total of twenty-four (24) contracts with

drinking water purveyors for these services. The twenty-four (24) contracts have not been renewed for many years and the Board approval will bring them up to date. While the intended term of the contracts was five (5) years, the process of review and obtaining signatures has taken two years in some situations. Moving forward, it is our intention to renew the contracts in a timely fashion every five (5) years.

Since conducting the program for the purveyors for thirty-four (34) years, the agencies now depend on Environmental Health Services to deliver cross connection expertise. Since certified specialists are hard to find, purveyors have access to an affordable skilled person. And since fees are based on time working in each purveyor's district, all of the systems, including smaller systems, can afford the skilled expertise they need.

### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

The Cross Connection Inspection Services contracts have been reviewed for form and legal effect by County Counsel. Each water purveyor has reviewed and signed the contract. The County's Risk Management Office has also reviewed the contracts.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The Cross Connection Inspection Services contract is a time and costs contract.

The cost of administering the program for each purveyor is charged at an hourly rate that includes compensation for the County's inspector, departmental overhead, clerical support and office supplies. Both parties acknowledge that the Board of Supervisors set, amend and modify the hourly rate at least annually and at other times as necessary. Therefore, the water purveyor agencies recognize that, as part of the yearly update of the County Fee Schedule, the hourly rate will change annually by the action of the Board without further agreement or action by the purveyors, as long as the contract is in force.

The hourly rate charged to the purveyors for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 is eighty-eight dollars (\$88.00) per hour. The hourly rate for FY 2012-13 will be nine-two (\$92.00) dollars per hour.

Revenue in Fiscal Year 2010-2011 was \$104,258. The total cost of the program in FY 2010-11 was \$186,717. The program in FY 2010-11 was 55% revenue offset. Estimates for Fiscal Year 2011-12 revenue and program costs are roughly the same as for Fiscal Year 2010-11. The Health Agency has incrementally increased the hourly rate over the past 16 years and will continue to do so. In addition, with the forthcoming policy changes which will result in many additional contracts with small water purveyors, the percentage of revenue offset is expected to significantly increase and approach full cost recovery. Approval of the contracts will not increase the General Fund contribution.

### **RESULTS**

Public water systems are better protected with an inspector designated solely for cross connection inspection work. With this kind of specialization and daily practice comes a greater degree of expertise and thus better public health protection.

Approval of the contracts will provide continued cross connection inspection services to the above indicated public water systems. Continuation of the contracts will also ensure that new development is properly protected against the backflow of harmful contaminants into the public water supply. Overall, this collaborative arrangement will result in continued cross connection prevention and public health protection for the county's public water systems.

This program contributes to the Public Health Department's mission as well as the County's desired result of a healthy community.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Clerk's File Statement for Cross-Connection Inspection Services Contracts