




CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

DATE: March 12, 2018

TO: Ed Lavalley, ICMA-CM, MPA, City Manager

FROM: Javier A. Vargas, MPA, Utilities Director 

COUNCIL DATE: March 27, 2018

SUBJECT: **CITY OF VENICE CROSS-CONNECTION
CONTROL PROGRAM PROPOSED CHANGES**

Background:

In order to protect the City's drinking water, the City of Venice is required to meet state and federal requirements. These requirements, as stated in the Florida Administration Code, require the City to establish and implement a Cross-Connection Control Program [CCCP] to protect the community water system from contamination caused by cross-connections. This program includes a written plan that was developed using accepted practices of the American Water Works Association's Manual, as incorporated into Florida Administrative Code.

The City's CCCP was initially adopted by Council in November of 1992. This manual has been updated in 2003, 2007, and 2014 to comply with new regulations, and technology. As required by our current CCCP, the Utilities Department relies upon each customer to secure installation, testing, and repair services of a company or individual qualified to conduct such work.

In light of recent feedback received from Council and customers, the Utilities Department would like Council to consider significant revisions to the City Cross-Connection Control Program. If approved by Council, these proposed changes will be applicable to approximately 10,000 existing backflow devices. However, these proposed changes will not affect fire sprinkler systems.

Proposed Plan of Action:

- Present a 5-year program to the Stakeholders Work Group.
- Include project cost into the Utilities Rate Study an estimated cost of \$250,000/year.
- Prepare requests for bid to secure these services on a large scale basis.
- Effective October 1, 2018.

Benefits:

This proposed plan offers the following benefits:

- Enhances the protection of public drinking water system, reduce confusion, improve customer satisfaction.
- The proposed plan is customer friendly, proactive and cost effective.

- It is anticipated that overall this plan will significantly reduce the individual resident cost for testing, repair, and replacement.

Requested Action:

Authorize staff to revise existing ordinance for 1st and 2nd readings by City Council at the earliest possible dates, and to implement proposed plan.

City Attorney Review:

N/A

Risk Management Review:

N/A

Funds Availability (account number):

Based on Council's approval, funding will be included within the upcoming Utilities Rate Study.