

AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTING A CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM
TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM

THE AUSTIN CREEK MUTUAL WATER COMPANY DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I – PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the public water supply system from contamination due to potential and actual cross-connections. This shall be accomplished by the establishment of a cross-connection control program as required by State regulations. This ordinance is adopted pursuant to Title 17, Section 7583 – 7605, inclusive, of the California Code of Regulations, entitled “Regulations Relating to Cross-Connections”.

SECTION II – RESPONSIBILITY

The cross-connection specialist shall be responsible for implementing and enforcing the cross-connection control program. An appropriate backflow prevention assembly shall be installed by and at the expense of the water user at each user connection where required to prevent backflow from the water user’s premises to the domestic water system. It shall be the water user’s responsibility to comply with the Austin Creek Mutual Water Company’s requirements.

SECTION III – CROSS-CONNECTION PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

The type of protection that shall be provided to prevent backflow into the public water supply system shall be commensurate with the degree of hazard, actual or potential, that exists on the water user’s premises. Unprotected cross-connections with the public water supply are prohibited. The type of backflow prevention assembly that may be required (listed in decreasing level of protection) includes: Air-gap separation (AG), Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Assembly (RP), and Double Check Valve Assembly (DC). The water user may choose a higher level of protection than required by the water supplier. The minimum types of backflow prevention required to protect the approved water supply at the user’s water connection to premises with varying degrees of hazard are listed in Table 1 of Section 7604, Title 17. Situations which are not covered in Table 1 shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and the appropriate backflow prevention shall be determined by the water supplier or health agency.

SECTION IV – BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES

Only backflow prevention assemblies which have been approved by the Austin Creek Mutual Water Company shall be acceptable for installation by a water user. A list of approved backflow prevention assemblies will be provided upon request to any affected customer. Backflow prevention assemblies shall be installed in a manner prescribed in Section 7603, Title 17. Location of the assemblies shall be as close as practical to the user's connection. The Austin Creek Mutual Water Company shall have the final authority in determining the required location of the backflow prevention assembly.

Testing of backflow assemblies shall be conducted only by qualified testers and testing will be the responsibility of the water user. Backflow prevention assemblies must be tested at least annually and immediately after installation, relocation or repair. More frequent testing may be required if deemed by the Austin Creek Mutual Water Company. No assembly shall be placed back in service unless it is functioning as required. These assemblies shall be serviced, overhauled, or replaced whenever they are found to be defective and all costs of testing, repair, and maintenance shall be borne by the water user. Approval must be obtained from the Austin Creek Mutual Water Company prior to removing, relocating or replacing a backflow prevention assembly.

SECTION V – ADMINISTRATION

The cross-connection control program shall be administered by the cross-connection control specialist. The Austin Creek Mutual Water Company will establish and maintain a list of approved backflow prevention assemblies as well as a list of approved backflow prevention assembly testers. The Austin Creek Mutual Water Company shall conduct necessary surveys of water user premises to evaluate the degree of potential health hazards. The Austin Creek Mutual Water Company shall notify users when an assembly needs to be tested. The notice shall contain the date when the test must be completed.

SECTION VI – WATER SERVICE TERMINATION

When the Austin Creek Mutual Water Company encounters water uses that represent a clear and immediate hazard to the potable water supply that cannot be immediately abated, the procedure for terminating water service shall be instituted. Conditions of water uses that create a basis for water service termination shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Refusal to install or to test a backflow prevention assembly, or to repair or replace a faulty backflow prevention assembly.
2. Direct or indirect connection between the public water system and a sewer line.

3. Unprotected direct or indirect connection between the public water system and a system or equipment containing contaminants.
4. Unprotected direct or indirect connection between the public water system and an auxiliary water system.

For condition 1, the Austin Creek Mutual Water Company will terminate service to a water user's premises after proper notification has been sent. If no action is taken within the allowed time period, water service shall be terminated.

For conditions 2, 3, or 4, the Austin Creek Mutual Water Company shall take the following steps:

1. Make reasonable effort to advise the water user of intent to terminate water service;
2. Terminate water service and lock service valve. The water service shall remain inactive until correction of violations has been approved by the Austin Creek Mutual Water Company.

SECTION VII – EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall supersede all previous cross-connection control ordinances and shall take effect thirty (30) days from the date of its adoption. Before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its adoption, this Ordinance shall be published in The Press Democrat, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Santa Rosa, California.