

MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT

CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM POLICYAdopted: November 20, 2025

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect the public potable water supply of the Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD or District) from contamination due to potential and actual cross-connections. This policy is adopted pursuant to the State Water Resources Board Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (“CCCPH”). The CCCPH and “Standards and Principals for California’s Public Water Systems (“PWS”), apply to all California PWS’s as defined in California’s Health and Safety Code (Health & Saf. Code, § 116275(h)). Compliance with the CCCPH is mandatory for all California PWS’s. As of July 1, 2024, the CCCPH requirements became effective and replace the previous mandates found in Title 17, Section 7583-7605.

II. DEFINITIONS

Backflow: The reverse flow of water or other substances from a customer’s plumbing system into the public water system.

Cross-Connection: Any actual or potential connection between the public water supply and any source of contamination or pollution.

Backflow Prevention Assembly (“BPA”): An approved mechanical device designed to prevent backflow.

Customer: Any individual, business, or entity receiving water service from MCWD.

III. IMPLEMENTATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

The General Manager shall designate a Cross-Connection Control Program Coordinator (“Coordinator”) that is to be responsible for implementing and enforcing the CCCPH and MCWD’s Cross-Connection Control Program (“CCCP”). The Coordinator shall be certified by an organization recognized by the SWRCB and comply with all educational requirements provided in the CCCPH.

An appropriate BPA shall be installed by and at the expense of the customer at each customer connection where a BPA is required to prevent backflow from the customer’s premises to the domestic potable water system. It shall be each customer’s responsibility to comply with this Policy and MCWD’s CCCP pursuant to the CCCPH.

IV. CROSS-CONNECTION PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

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

V. BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES

Only backflow prevention assemblies which have been approved by MCWD shall be acceptable for installation by a customer. 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 by the CCCPH. Location of the assemblies shall be as close as practicable to the customer's connection. MCWD shall have the final authority in determining the required location of a backflow prevention assembly.

Testing of backflow assemblies shall be conducted only by certified testers approved by MCWD and testing will be the responsibility of the customer. Backflow prevention assemblies must be tested at least annually and immediately after installation, relocation, repair, or depressurization for winterization. More frequent testing may be required if deemed necessary by MCWD. No assembly shall be placed back into 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 customer. Approval must be obtained by MCWD prior to removing, relocating, or replacing a backflow prevention assembly.

Backflow assembly testers must notify the District within 24 hours if a backflow incident or an unprotected cross-connection is observed at the backflow prevention assembly. The District will immediately conduct an investigation and discontinue service to the user premises if a backflow incident is confirmed. Water service may not be restored to that user premises until the District receives confirmation of a passing assembly field test from an approved backflow prevention assembly tester.

VI. ADMINISTRATION OF CROSS-CONNECTION PROGRAM

MCWD will establish and maintain a list of approved backflow prevention assemblies as well as a list of approved backflow prevention assembly testers. MCWD shall conduct necessary surveys of customer premises to evaluate the types and degrees of hazards at a customer's premises. All such surveys shall be conducted in accordance with the CCCPH. MCWD shall notify customers

when an assembly needs to be tested. The notice shall contain the date when the test must be completed.

VII. HAZARD ASSESSMENTS

The Coordinator shall coordinate an initial hazard assessment of the premises of each District customer to evaluate the potential for backflow into the MCWD public water supply system. A hazard assessment will consider:

1. The existence of cross-connections including:
 - a. The degree of hazard to the distribution system (high, low, or no hazard);
 - b. Whether or not the backflow assembly provides adequate protection based on the degree of hazard;
2. The type and use of materials handled and present, or likely to be, on the customer's premises;
3. The degree of piping system complexity and accessibility;
4. Access to auxiliary water supplies, pumping systems, or pressure systems;
5. Distribution system conditions that increase the likelihood of a backflow event (e.g., hydraulic gradient differences impacted by main breaks and high-water demand situations, multiple service connections that may result in flow-through conditions, etc.);
6. Customer premises accessibility;
7. Any previous backflow incidents on the customer's premises; and
8. All requirements and information provided in the CCCPH.

The Coordinator shall coordinate follow-up hazard assessments and make a written finding that, in the Coordinator's judgment, the hazard assessment properly identified all hazards at the time of the assessment, the appropriate degree of hazards, and the corresponding backflow protection. Follow-up hazard assessments shall be conducted under the following criteria:

1. If a customer's premises changes account holder, excluding single-family residences;
2. If a customer's premises is newly or re-connected to the MCWD public water supply system;
3. If evidence exists of changes in the activities or materials on a customer's premises;

4. If backflow from a customer's premises occurs'
5. IF the SWRCB requests a hazard assessment of a customer's premises;
6. If the District concludes an existing hazard assessment may no longer accurately represent the degree of hazard.

All hazard assessments shall be conducted in accordance with the CCCPH.

VIII. ENFORCEMENT

When MCWD encounters customers that represent a clear and immediate hazard to the MCWD public water supply system that cannot be immediately abated, the procedure for terminating water service shall be instituted. Conditions or 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 MCWD public water supply system and the sewer line.
3. Unprotected direct or indirect connection between the MCWD public water supply system and a system or equipment containing contaminants.
4. Unprotected direct or indirect connection between the MCWD public water supply system and an auxiliary water system.

For condition 1, MCWD will terminate service to a water user's premises after providing customer with 30 days' notice. If no action is taken within the allowed time period water service shall be terminated.

For conditions 2, 3, or 4, MCWD 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 MCWD.

MCWD maintains the legal authority to install, inspect, field test, and/or maintain a BPA at a customer's premises if the customer fails to comply in a timely manner with the District's Policy. The customer will be billed for all costs of goods and services provided by the District.

IX. RECORDKEEPING

MCWD shall establish and maintain a recordkeeping system that includes the following: criteria:

1. If a customer's premises changes account holder, excluding single-family residences;
2. For each installed BPA, the associated hazard or application, location, owner, type, manufacturer and model, size, installation date, and serial number.
3. For each AG installation, the associated hazard or application and the location, owner, and as-built plans of the AG.
4. Results of all backflow prevention assembly field testing, AG inspection, and swivel-ell inspections and field tests for the previous three calendar years, including the name, test date, repair date, and certification number of the BPA tester for each assembly field test and AG and swivel-ell.
5. Repairs made to, or replacement or relocation of, backflow prevention assembly for the previous three calendar years.
6. The most current cross-connection tests (e.g. shutdown test, dye test).
7. Descriptions and follow-up actions related to all backflow incidents.
8. Any copy of the contract or agreement that pertains to any portion of the District's CCCP that is carried out under contract or agreement.
9. The current Cross-Connection Control Policy.
10. Any public outreach or education materials issued for the previous three calendar years.

The District shall provide the above records to the SWRCB upon request. The District shall perform periodic audits of backflow assembly testing data to verify completeness and accuracy.

X. BACKFLOW INCIDENT RESPONSE AND REPORTING

The District shall maintain written procedures for cross-connection incident response and shall review and update these procedures annually to ensure they align with the requirements outlined in CCCPH Section 3.5.2. These procedures are provided in Appendix A.

XI. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

MCWD shall establish a public outreach and education program focused on cross-connection control and backflow protection. This program will be aimed to inform staff, customers, and the community about cross-connection control and backflow protection. To fulfill this requirement, MCWD may use various methods, including periodic inserts in water bills, pamphlet distribution, new customer documentation, email communications, and consumer confidence reports. All public education materials distributed by the District shall meet the minimum public awareness requirements set forth in the CCCPH.

XII. LOCAL ENTITY COORDINATION

MCWD shall collaborate with any relevant local entities involved in cross-connection control or public health protection to conduct hazard assessments, ensure the provision of appropriate backflow protection, and assist in the investigation of backflow incidents. Local entities may include but are not limited to the Town of Mammoth Lakes Community and Economic Development Department, Town of Mammoth Lakes Public Works Department, Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District, Mono County Department of Environmental Health, Mono County Department of Public Health, maintenance and plumbing businesses, and other public and private entities.

APPENDIX A**CROSS-CONNECTION INCIDENT RESPONSE PROCEDURES**

- A. Procedures
 - 1) The District will give consideration to all complaints or reports of changes in water quality as possible incidents of backflow.
 - i. Complaints may be received by email, telephone call, or through the District's website complaint page.
 - 2) The District shall immediately conduct an investigation and discontinue service to a customer's premises if a backflow incident is confirmed, and water service must not be restored to that customer's premises until the District receives confirmation of a passing assembly field test from a certified backflow prevention assembly tester and the assembly is protecting the District's water supply.
- B. Investigation
 - 1) District staff will investigate the property identified by the complaint/reporting party.
 - 2) District staff will document any current work completed or in-progress that may have affected water quality, as a source of disrupted water quality.
 - 3) As needed, District staff will complete water quality sampling and pressure recording.
- C. Documentation of the investigation, response, and follow-up activities will be completed and recorded by District staff.
 - 1) Documentation of all backflow incident responses shall be retained by the District for no less than ten years.
- D. Notification of customers
 - 1) The District will notify potentially affected customers of known or suspected incidents of backflow within 24 hours of determination.
- E. Reporting backflow incidents
 - 1) The District will notify the SWRCB and Mono County Department of Health of known or suspected incident of backflow within 24 hours of determination.
 - 2) If required by the SWRCB, the District will issue a Tier 1 public notification pursuant to CCR, Title 22, Section 64463.1
 - 3) If required by the SWRCB, the District will submit, by a date specified by the SWRCB, a written incident report describing the details and affected area of the backflow incident, the actions taken by the District in response to the backflow incident, and the follow up actions to prevent future backflow incidents. The written report will contain all information requested by the SWRCB including Appendix F of the CCCPH.