
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2007 MARCH 27
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING
SUBJECT: PLUMBING BYLAW ENFORCEMENT
PURPOSE: To inform Council of enforcement of the Plumbing & Waterworks Bylaws

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received for information.

REPORT

As of 2003 March 01, the Plumbing and Waterworks Bylaws have required new industrial, commercial and multi-tenant buildings to install backflow prevention assemblies in their plumbing systems. This protects the City drinking water supply from contamination due to water flowing back from private property plumbing. Backflow assemblies are also required on all industrial, commercial and residential properties when works such as irrigation systems and swimming pools are built. Property owners must file an annual testing report to confirm that the backflow assembly is working properly.

There has been a high level of compliance with the requirements for installation and monitoring of backflow assemblies, and the vast majority of property owners provide the required annual testing report either on time or with one or two reminders. Three or four property owners, however, have not provided the testing report despite repeated requests from staff.

To protect the City's drinking water supply, the Plumbing and Waterworks Bylaws allow the City to turn off the water supply if an annual testing report is not filed.

For the information of Council, staff are preparing to notify the few property owners who have not filed testing reports that their water supply will be shut off unless a testing report is filed. These property owners have been previously reminded several times by mail of the requirement to submit the testing report.


To: City Manager
From: Director Planning & Building
Re: Plumbing Bylaw Enforcement
2007 March27..... Page 2



Staff will meet with the property owners directly to explain the situation and allow further time to file a report. Prior to shutting off the water supply, staff will also impress on these property owners that the water will be shut off unless the required report is provided.

The City Solicitor agrees with this approach. The alternative is for staff to go through a costly and time consuming litigation aimed at getting a Judge to compel the property owner to file the report.

This is for the information of Council.


B. Luksun
Director Planning & Building

WDM:ap
Q:\bylaw\plumbingbylawenfrep.doc

cc: Director Engineering – (Attn: Grant Tessar)
City Solicitor
Chief Building Inspector