

CITY OF PARAMOUNT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ORDINANCE NO. 1201

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT AMENDING SECTION 13.04.150 (PROTECTION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY) OF ARTICLE 3 (RULES AND REGULATIONS) OF CHAPTER 13.04 (WATER WORKS SYSTEM) OF THE CITY MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING WATER SUPPLY CROSS-CONNECTIONS, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION THAT THE ORDINANCE IS EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 13.04.150 of Article 3 of Chapter 13.04 of the City of Paramount Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

"13.04.150. Protection of public water supply.

A. Protection of Public Water Supply.

1. The City of Paramount shall operate a cross-connection control program:
 - a. To protect the public water supply against actual or potential cross-connection by isolating within the premises contamination that may occur because of some undiscovered or unauthorized cross-connection on the premises;
 - b. To eliminate existing connections between drinking water systems and other sources of water that are not approved as safe and potable for human consumption;
 - c. To eliminate cross-connections between drinking water systems and sources of contamination; and
 - d. To prevent the making of cross-connections in the future.
2. The City's cross connection program is adopted pursuant to the State Water Resources Control Board guidance document entitled "Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH)," dated July 1, 2025, as amended from time to time. In the event of a conflict between this Section 13.04.050 and mandatory provisions of the CCCPH, the terms of the CCCPH shall control.
3. It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation at any time to make or maintain or cause to be made or maintained, temporarily or permanently, for any period of time, any cross-connection between plumbing pipes or water fixtures being served with water by the City Water Department and any other source of water supply, or to maintain any sanitary fixture or other appurtenances or fixtures which by reason of their construction may cause or allow backflow of water or other substances into the water supply system of the City or the service of water pipes or fixtures of any consumer of the City.

B. Cross-Connection Protection Requirements.

1. General Provisions.

- a. Unprotected cross-connections with the public water supply are prohibited.
- b. Whenever backflow protection has been found necessary, the City will require the water customer to install an approved backflow prevention device at their own expense for continued services or before a new service will be granted.
- c. Wherever backflow protection has been found necessary on a water supply line entering a water customer's premises, then any and all

water supply lines from the City's mains entering such premises, buildings, or structures shall be protected by an approved backflow prevention device. The type of device to be installed will be in accordance with the requirements of this Chapter.

2. Where Protection Is Required.

- a. Each service connection from the City water system for supplying water to premises having an auxiliary water supply shall be protected against backflow of water from the premises into the public water system unless the auxiliary water supply is accepted as an additional source by the City, and is approved by the public health agency with proper jurisdiction.
- b. Each service connection from the City water system for supplying water to any premises on which any substance is handled in such fashion as may allow its entry into the water system shall be protected against backflow of the water from the premises into the public system. This shall include the handling of process waters and waters originating from the City water system which have been subjected to deterioration in sanitary quality.
- c. Backflow prevention devices shall be installed on the service connection to any premises having: (i) internal cross-connections that cannot be permanently corrected and controlled to the satisfaction of the State or local Health Department and the City; or (ii) intricate plumbing and piping arrangements or entry to all portions of the premises is not readily accessible for inspection purposes, making it impracticable or impossible to ascertain whether or not cross-connections exist.

3. Type of Protection Required.

- a. The type of protection that shall be provided to prevent backflow into the approved water supply shall be commensurate with the degree of hazard that exists on the consumer's premises. The type of protective device that may be required (listing in an increasing level of protection) includes: double check valve assembly ("DC"), reduced pressure principle backflow prevention device ("RP"), and an air-gap separation ("AG"). The water user may choose a higher level of protection than required by the City. 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 given in Table 1. Situations not included in Table 1 shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and the appropriate backflow protection shall be determined by the City or health agency.

Table 1 TYPE OF BACKFLOW PROTECTION REQUIRED	
Degree of Hazard	Minimum Type of Backflow Prevention
A. Sewage and Hazardous Substances.	
1. Premises where the public water system is used to supplement the reclaimed water supply.	AG
2. Premises where there are waste water pumping and/or treatment plants and there is no interconnection with the potable water system. This does not include a single-family residence that has a sewage lift pump. A RP may be provided in lieu of an AG if approved by the health agency and the City.	AG
3. Premises where reclaimed water is used and there is no interconnection with the potable water system. A RP may be provided in lieu of an AG if approved by the health agency and the City.	AG
4. Premises where hazardous substances are handled in any manner in which the substances may enter a potable water system. This does not include a single-family residence that has a sewage lift pump. A RP may be provided in lieu of an AG if approved by the health agency and the City.	AG
5. Premises where there are irrigation systems into which fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides are, or can be, injected.	AG
B. Auxiliary Water Supplies.	
1. Premises where there is an unapproved auxiliary water supply which is interconnected with the public water system. A RP or DC may be provided in lieu of an AG if approved by the health agency and the City.	AG
2. Premises where there is an unapproved auxiliary water supply and there are no interconnections with the public water system. A DC may be provided in lieu of a RP if approved by the health agency and City.	RP
C. Fire Protection Systems.	
1. Premises where the fire system is directly supplied from the public water system and there is an unapproved auxiliary water supply on or to the premises (not interconnected).	DC
2. Premises where the fire system is supplied from the public water system and interconnected with an unapproved auxiliary water supply. A RP may be provided in lieu of an AG if approved by the health agency and City.	AG
3. Premises where the fire system is supplied from the public water system and where either elevated storage tanks or fire pumps which take suction from the private reservoirs or tanks are used.	DC

D. Premises where entry is restricted so that inspections for cross-connections cannot be made with sufficient frequency or at sufficiently short notice to assure that cross-connections do not exist.	RP
E. Premises where there is a repeated history of cross-connections being established or reestablished.	RP

- b. Two or more services supplying water from different street mains to the same building, structure, or premises through which an interstreet main flow may occur, shall have at least a standard check valve on each water service to be located adjacent to and on the property side of the respective meters. Such check valve shall not be considered adequate if backflow protection is deemed necessary to protect the City's mains from pollution or contamination; in such cases the installation of approved backflow devices at such service connections shall be required.
- C. Backflow Prevention Devices.
- 1. Approved Backflow Prevention Devices.
 - a. Only backflow prevention devices that have been approved by the City shall be acceptable for installation by a water customer connected to the City's potable water system.
 - b. The City will provide, upon request, a list of approved backflow prevention devices to any affected customer.
 - 2. Backflow Prevention Device Installation. Backflow prevention devices shall be installed in a manner prescribed in Section 3.3.2 ("Installation Criteria for Backflow Protection") of the CCCPH. Location of the devices should be as close as practical to the customer's connection. The City shall have the final authority to determine the required location of a backflow prevention device.
 - a. Air-Gap Separation. The air-gap separation shall be located on the customer's side of and as close to the service connection as is practical. All piping from the service connection to the receiving tank shall be above grade and be entirely visible. No water use shall be provided from any point between the service connection and the air-gap separation. The water inlet piping shall terminate a distance of at least two pipe diameters of the supply inlet, but in no case less than one inch above the overflow rim of the receiving tank.
 - b. Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Device. The approved reduced pressure principle backflow prevention device shall be installed on the customer's side of and as close to the service connection as is practical. The device shall be installed a minimum of 12 inches above grade and not more than 36 inches above grade measured from the bottom of the device and with a minimum of 12 inches side clearance. The device shall be installed so that it is readily accessible for maintenance and testing. Water supplied from any point between the service connection and the RP device shall be protected in a manner approved by the City.
 - c. Double Check Valve Assembly. The approved double check valve assembly shall be located as close as practical to the customer's connection and shall be installed above grade, if possible, and in a manner where it is readily accessible for testing and maintenance. If a double check valve assembly is put below grade it must be installed in a vault such that there is a minimum of six inches between the bottom of the vault and the bottom of the device, so that the top of the device is no more than a maximum of eight inches below grade, so there is a minimum of six inches of clearance between the side of the device with

the test cocks and the side of the vault, and so there is a minimum of three inches clearance between the other side of the device and the side of the vault. Special consideration must be given to double check valve assemblies of the "Y" type. These devices must be installed on their "side" with the tests cocks in a vertical position so that either check valve may be removed for service without removing the device. Vaults without an integrated bottom must be placed on a three-inch layer of gravel.

3. Backflow Prevention Device Testing And Maintenance.
 - a. The owners of any premises on which, or on account of which, backflow prevention devices are installed, shall have the devices tested by a person who is certified by an appropriate governing agency and has demonstrated their competency in testing of these devices to the City. Backflow prevention devices must be tested at least annually and immediately after installation, relocation or repair. The City may require a more frequent testing schedule if it is determined to be necessary. No device shall be placed back in service unless it is functioning as required. A report in a form acceptable to the City shall be filed with the City each time a device is tested, relocated, or repaired. These devices 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 customer.
 - b. The City will notify affected customers by mail when annual testing of a device is needed and also supply customers with the necessary forms which must be filled out each time a device is tested or repaired.
4. Backflow Prevention Device Removal. Approval must be obtained from the City before a backflow prevention device is removed, relocated, or replaced.
 - a. Removal. The use of a device may be discontinued and the device removed from service upon presentation of sufficient evidence to the City to verify that a hazard no longer exists or is not likely to be created in the future;
 - b. Relocation. A device may be relocated following confirmation by the City that the relocation will continue to provide the required protection and satisfy installation requirements. A retest will be required following the relocation of the device;
 - c. Repair. A device may be removed for repair; provided the water use is either discontinued until repair is completed and the device is returned to service, or the service connection is equipped with other backflow protection approved by the City. A retest will be required following the repair of the device; and
 - d. Replacement. A device may be removed and replaced provided the water use is discontinued until the replacement device is installed. All replacement devices must be approved by the City and must be commensurate with the degree of hazard involved.
- D. User Supervisor. At each premises where it is necessary, in the opinion of the City, a user supervisor shall be designated by and at the expense of the water customer. This user supervisor shall be responsible for the monitoring of the backflow prevention devices and for avoidance of cross-connections. In the event of contamination or pollution of the drinking water system due to a cross-connection on the premises, the City shall be promptly notified by the user supervisor so that appropriate measures may be taken to overcome the contamination. The water customer shall inform the City of the user supervisor's identity on, as a minimum, an annual basis and whenever a change occurs.

E. Administrative Procedures.

1. Water System Survey.

- a. The City shall review all requests for new services to determine if backflow protection is needed. Plans and specifications must be submitted to the City upon request for review of possible cross-connection hazards as a condition of service for new service connections. If it is determined that a backflow prevention device is necessary to protect the public water system, the required device must be installed before service will be granted.
- b. The City shall discontinue service of water to any water user if a backflow prevention assembly required by this Chapter is not installed, correctly tested, and maintained, or if it is found that a backflow preventer assembly has been removed, by-passed, or if an unprotected cross-connection exists on the premises. Service will not be restored until such conditions or defects are corrected.
- c. The water user's system shall be open for Hazard Assessments at all reasonable times to authorized representatives of the City to determine whether cross-connections or other structural or sanitary hazards, including violations of these regulations, exist. When such a condition becomes known, the City shall deny or immediately discontinue service to the water user by providing for a physical break in service line until the water user has corrected the condition(s) or defect(s) in conformance with applicable State laws and the City's Program.
- d. The City may, at its discretion, require a reinspection for cross-connection hazards of any premises to which it serves water. The City will transmit a written notice requesting an inspection appointment to each affected water customer. Any customer which cannot or will not allow an on-premises inspection of their piping system shall be required to install the backflow prevention device the City considers necessary.

2. Customer Notification—Device Installation.

- a. The City will notify the water customer of the survey findings, listing corrective action to be taken if required. The type of backflow preventer required shall meet the minimum requirements set forth in Table 1 above, but the survey's listed corrective actions may require a more protective backflow preventer on a case by case basis depending upon the degree of hazard, actual or potential, or as otherwise specified in this Chapter.
- b. The City recognizes the Los Angeles County Fire Department's authority over fire protection systems and will not override its decisions unless a customer's fire protection system is specifically designed to accommodate the pressure drop associated with a Reduced Pressure device. Since fire protection systems are approved and regulated by the Fire Department, any modifications to these systems fall outside the City's jurisdiction. However, in the interest of public health and water quality protection, the City will strongly advise customers against adding chemicals to their fire protection systems.
- c. The City's water system shall be protected by an approved air-gap separation or reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly at the service connection on any premises where there is a high-hazard connection, as specified in Appendix D of the CCCPH.
- d. The City's water system shall be protected against backflow from the premises by the installation of a backflow prevention assembly in the service line on any premises where security requirements or other prohibitions or restrictions render it impossible or impractical to make conduct a cross-connection hazard assessment. In this case, the City

will likewise require maximum protection, meaning an approved air-gap separation or an approved reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly that shall be installed in each service to the premises.

- f. Devices will not require retrofitting in existing systems with a single detector check valve provided that the check valve is tested in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (“NFPA”) 25 requirements, does not require repair or replacement, and does not otherwise create a risk to public health. If the existing single detector check does not meet NFPA 25 requirements or requires repair or replacement, a minimum DC protection shall be installed and brought above grade. New customers are required to upgrade the backflow protection to current standards prior to water service being provided. Notwithstanding this provision, installations that create a risk to public health will require retrofit.
 - g. The City must ensure its distribution system is protected with no less than DC protection for a user premises with a fire protection system within ten years of adoption of the CCCPH.
3. Customer Notification—Testing and Maintenance.
- a. The City will notify each affected water user when it is time for the backflow prevention device installed on their service connection to be tested. This written first notice shall provide the water customer 40 calendar days to have the device tested and submit results to the City.
 - b. A second notice shall be sent to each water customer who does not have their backflow prevention device tested as prescribed in the first notice within the 40 calendar day period allowed. The second notice will give the water customer a 20 calendar day period to have his or her backflow prevention device tested.
 - c. A third and final notice will be given within a 10 calendar day period.
- F. Water Service Termination. When the City encounters water uses that represent a clear and immediate hazard to the potable water supply that cannot be immediately abated, the City shall institute the procedure for discontinuing the City water service.
1. Basis for Termination. Conditions or water uses that create a basis for water service termination shall include, but are not limited to, the following items:
 - a. Refusal to install required backflow prevention device,
 - b. Refusal for inspection of water use on the premises,
 - c. Refusal to test a backflow prevention device,
 - d. Refusal to repair a faulty backflow prevention device,
 - e. Refusal to replace a faulty backflow prevention device,
 - f. Direct or indirect connection between the public water system and a sewer line,
 - g. Unprotected direct or indirect connection between the public water system and a system or equipment containing contaminants,
 - h. Unprotected direct or indirect connection between the public water system and an auxiliary water system,
 - i. A situation which presents an immediate health hazard to the public water system.
 2. Water Service Termination Procedures. To terminate water service, the City will take the following steps:

- a. The City shall provide reasonable notice to the customer in writing specifying the corrective action needed and the time period in which it must be done, as well as an opportunity for a hearing on the necessity for such termination where there is a non-immediate hazard to the City water system.
 - b. While the City will make reasonable efforts to advise the water user of intent to terminate water services where there exists an immediate health hazard to the public water system, the City may summarily terminate water service without prior notice in extenuating circumstances involving actual high hazard cross-connection control premises, as specified in Appendix D of the CCCPH, or other premises that require backflow protection provided by an air gap or a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly identified during a hazard assessment, which pose a significant and immediate threat to the potable water supply.
 - c. If no corrective action is taken by the deadline, the City may terminate water service and lock the service valve. The water service will remain inactive until correction of violations has been approved by the City.
 - d. The termination of water service due to non-compliance shall be subject to the City's Delinquent Water Tagging/Shut-Off Reconnection fee.
3. Enforcement. The City has the authority to take corrective actions if a water user fails to comply with these provisions regarding the installation, inspection, field testing, or maintenance of required backflow prevention assemblies. Failure to install or adequately maintain cross-connection control constitutes a threat to the potable water supply."

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases of this Ordinance be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

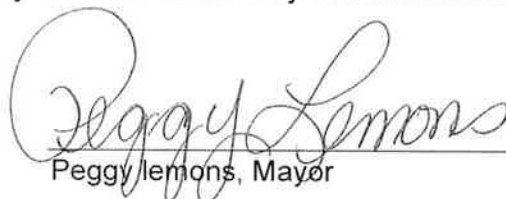
SECTION 3. CEQA. This Ordinance is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines and is not a project which has the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

SECTION 4. ADOPTION AND EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after its second reading and adoption.

SECTION 5. CERTIFICATION. The City Clerk shall certify the adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause the same to be posted and codified in the manner required by law.

INTRODUCED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Paramount, California on the 27th day of May, 2025.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paramount at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Paramount, California on the 10th day of June, 2025.


Peggy Lemons, Mayor

ATTEST



Heidi Luce, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Nicholas R. Ghirelli, City Attorney

