



HELIX WATER DISTRICT

Guidelines for Backflow Prevention: Commercial/Irrigation/Industrial

This information sheet is intended to provide a summary of the District's Cross-Connection Control requirements for commercial water services and fire services. Further information is available in the District's Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 5.3 – Cross-Connection Control, and Section 2.7 – Fire Service Lateral, available on the HWD website.

Specific information can be obtained by contacting the District's Cross-Connection Control Coordinator, Darrin Teisher, at (619) 667-6224 or crossconnection@helixwater.org.

An approved, aboveground, Reduced Pressure (RP) backflow prevention assembly is required on commercial, industrial, irrigation, and multiple dwelling water services.

An approved, aboveground Reduced Pressure Detector Assembly (RPDA) backflow prevention assembly is required on all fire service laterals.

Before Construction:

Manufacturer cut sheets of the proposed RP and/or RPDA backflow assemblies shall be submitted to the District for approval. Only assemblies tested and approved by the University of Southern California Foundation for Cross-Connection Control Hydraulic Research shall be accepted. See list at <http://fccchr.usc.edu/list.html>.

For a fire service installation, the property owner(s) must complete the Application for Fire Sprinkler System Lateral and submit it with the legal description of the property.

Water Service Backflow Installation and Activation:

Reduced Pressure (RP) assemblies shall be installed in accordance with California State Plumbing Code or the local governing authority and per drawing WR-01 of the Water Agencies' Standards. See www.sdwas.org.

RP assemblies shall be, at a minimum, the same size as the water meter size and in no case smaller than 3/4-inch. RP assemblies shall be located as close as practical to the meter box.

RP assemblies shall be tested by any company on the District's Approved Testers List within 30 days of installation. The certification test report form shall be mailed or emailed to the District's Cross-Connection Control Coordinator. RP assemblies must be tested prior to water service activation.

Fire Service Backflow Installation and Activation:

Installation of an approved reduced pressure detector assembly (RPDA) backflow assembly shall be completed prior to activation of service by Helix Water District:

The RPDA assembly shall be installed per drawing WF-05 of the Water Agencies' Standards. See www.sdwas.org.

Contractor is responsible to forward all requirements to any/all subcontractors performing fire service installations.

Construction of the District's lateral must be completed to the end of the District's responsibility before the private line is extended to serve the property.

Contractor to notify Fire Department and Helix Water District to inspect the fire service pipe system and RPDA from the end of the District's responsibility to the building prior to backfill. **Do not cover or bury the pipe prior to inspection.**

Once the District inspector has signed off on inspection of the approved backflow assembly, the assembly must be tested by any company on the District's Approved Testers List within 30 days of installation. The certification test report form must be mailed or emailed to the District's Cross-Connection Control Coordinator.

The RPDA must have passing test results prior to activation. Helix Water District shall be notified when the fire service is ready to be activated. Only Helix Water District personnel are allowed to operate the District's valve system.

Maintenance:

Annual maintenance, testing, and certification are required for RP and RPDA assemblies and shall be done by a District-approved certified backflow assembly tester at the account holder or owner's expense. Copies of maintenance, repair, and certification data shall be mailed or emailed to the District's Cross-Connection Control Coordinator.

Mailing Address:

Helix Water District
Attn: Cross-Connection Control Coordinator
9550 Lake Jennings Park Road
Lakeside, CA 92020-3513.

Email Address:

crossconnection@helixwater.org