

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER
DECEMBER 19, 2023**

ITEM 2

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL POLICY HANDBOOK.

DISCUSSION

The Division of Drinking Water has completed development of a Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH) which will replace existing cross-connection control regulations in CCR Title 17. Existing cross-connection control regulations were adopted in the 1980s, have not been substantially revised, and are now inadequate to address current cross-connection control concerns. Assembly Bills 1671 (2017) and 1180 (2019) authorized the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to replace existing cross-connection control regulations in CCR Title 17 with a policy handbook. The CCCPH better-defines and increases the scope of cross-connection control programs for California's public water systems through requirements for cross-connection control plans, more robust assessments of hazards, more detailed requirements for installation of backflow prevention assemblies, and notification of the State Water Board when a backflow incident is suspected. The development of the CCCPH has included two public comment periods and a board workshop on October 17, 2023. The Division of Drinking Water has addressed the comments provided during those public comment opportunities and revised the CCCPH as necessary.

The CCCPH also requires public water systems to use certified individuals to perform certain actions as part of the cross-connection control plan. The CCCPH defines the criteria for organizations that perform that certification, including testing, revocation, and recertification requirements.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve the Cross-Connection Control Handbook replacing California Code of Regulations Title 17.

FISCAL IMPACT

Division of Drinking of Drinking Water staff work associated with or resulting from the action will be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Adopt the Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook as appended to the resolution with an effective date of July 1, 2024, thereby satisfying the requirements of Health and Safety Code section 116407;
2. Direct State Water Board staff to file a CEQA Notice of Exemption consistent with paragraph 8, above; and
3. Authorize the Executive Director or their delegee to make any non-substantive corrections to the Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook deemed necessary for clarity or consistency, and to effectuate the repeal of existing cross-connection control regulations.

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the resolution approving the CCCPH to better ensure that California public water systems provide drinking water to customers that is free of backflow contamination.