

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 6, 1990

LETTER REGARDING CITY
REQUIREMENTS OF A WATER
LINE TO SUPPLY FIRE
HYDRANTS AND FIRE
SPRINKLERS IN VARIOUS
TYPES OF STRUCTURES
AROUND THE CITY

cc-16

City Clerk Reimche presented the following letter which had been received from Charlie Rye regarding the City's policy concerning the requirement of a water line to supply fire hydrants and fire sprinklers in various types of structures around the City and a draft reply to the letter which had been prepared by Staff:

As a concerned citizen I am writing you this letter. While working in construction for the last 30 years, many in town, I find it upsetting to observe the procedure the City of Lodi, requires the building contractor to follow for the provision of a water line to supply fire hydrants and fire sprinklers in various types of structures around the City.

After the installation of the underground 8" fire line it is required by the Public Works Department, City of Lodi, to pay them a \$5,000.00 deposit to obtain a double check valve-water meter configuration approximately 7' - 13" long, to be installed in line close to the City domestic water supply. The purpose of the check valve arrangement is to prevent water from the new line to flow back into the City water supply, as the new pipe might have bacteria in it and contaminate the City's domestic water supply.

The new pipes are installed with chlorine tablets affixed to the inside walls. After the new lines are filled with water they are left full to allow the tablets to dissolve for 3 days in order to kill any bacteria in the new lines. After this process the contractor is required to connect 2" fire hoses from the new hydrant to the City's storm drain and purge the system for 48 hours. The Public Works Department, then comes out to take water samples to their testing lab. After 3 days the results are recorded and if they are found to not be within the allowed limit the purging starts again to the point of water bills of \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00. One job required 19 acre feet of water which equals 6,250,000 gallons. With all of this in mind it is interesting to note the domestic drinking water going to these buildings and all houses is not tested.

I fully understand that it is the intent of the City to keep our drinking water safe. I just think there are better ways of doing this in view of our drought conditions. A simple check valve system would solve their problem if it were installed in the first place and left alone. This would be somewhat less expensive to the contractor, owner and the City as well.

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Your attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Rye

May 8, 1990

Lodi City Council
Call Box 3006
Lodi, CA 95241

Attn.: Alice Reirnche, City Clerk

Dear Council Members,

As a concerned citizen I am writing you this letter. While working in construction for **the** last 30 years, many in Lodi, I find it upsetting to observe the procedure the **City of Lodi**, requires **the** building contractor to follow for the provision of a water line to supply fire hydrants and fire sprinklers in various types of structures around the city.

After the installation of the underground 8" fire line it is required **by** the Public **Works** Department, City Of Lodi, to pay them a \$5,000.00 deposit: to obtain a double check valve-water meter configuration approximately 7'-3" long, to be installed in line close to the city domestic water supply. **The** purpose of the check valve arrangement is to prevent water from the new line to flow back into the city water supply, as the new pipe might have bacteria in it and contaminate the city's domestic water supply.

The new pipes are installed with chlorine tablets affixed to the inside walls. After the new lines are filled with water they are left full to allow the tablets to dissolve for **3** days in order to kill any bacteria in the new lines. After this process the contractor is required to connect 2" **fire** hoses from the new hydrant to the city's storm drain and purge the system for **48** hours. The Public Works Dept., then comes out to take water samples to their testing Lab. After 3 days the results are recorded and if they are found to not be within the allowed limit the purging

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Your attention to this matter **would** be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Charlie Rye
CR:nh

c.c. Mayor Randy Snider
Public **Works** Director. Jack Ronsko
Lodi News-Sentinel, Editor & Publisher. Fred Weybret
Lodi News-Sentinel. Michael Drummond

CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R (Randy) SNIDER, Mayor
DAVID M HINCHMAN
Mayor Pro Tempore
EVELYN M OLSON
JAMES W PINKERTON, Jr
FRED M REID

CITY OF LODI

CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET
CALL BOX 3006
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241-1910
(209) 334-5634
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THOMAS A PETERSON
City Manager

ALICE M REIMCHE
City Clerk

BOB McNATT
City Attorney

May 30, 1990

DRAFT

Charlie Rye
18450 E. Highway 88, Space 7
Lodi, CA 95240

SUBJECT: Testing Procedures for Lodi Water Mains

Thank you for sharing your concern over Lodi's procedure for testing new water main installations. The procedure that is being used in Lodi was developed working with the local contractors in the Lodi/Stockton area, i.e., Claude C. Wood Company, Teichert Construction, and Granite Construction.

One of your first concerns was related to the amount of the \$5,000 security deposit. This deposit covers the replacement value of the equipment being loaned to the contractor and ensures that if it is not returned, the cost is not borne by our water customers. The City allows different types of deposits and we would be happy to share these possibilities with you.

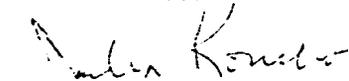
I can assure you that the overall installation, chlorination, and testing procedures work well for those contractors that are experienced in water main installations and know what they are doing. Most contractors are obtaining bacteriological approval from the City on their first test. Therefore, these contractors are only filling the water main one time plus the water used for minor flushing to remove the chlorine residual. The City does not require 48 hours of flushing.

You should be aware that if the bacteriological test fails on the first try, the contractor has the option to re-chlorinate or to flush. If the contractor elects to flush, it's only fair to our water customers and the citizens of Lodi that we charge the contractor for water used.

I would encourage you to talk to some of the local contractors familiar with water main installations to obtain their feelings on our standards.

With regard to installation of permanent check valves, State law prohibits the requirement of backflow devices on Class I and II fire services which is the most common type in Lodi.

If you have additional questions or comments you would like to make, my staff and I would be happy to discuss this matter with you in more detail.



Jack L. Ronsko
Public Wrks Director

JLR/mt

cc: City Manager
City Council