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June 12, 2025

To: Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers

Subject: **BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY TESTERS**

This letter is to inform you of a change implemented by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (Water Board), and the impacts on the Department of Public Health (Public Health) and constituents that obtain a Certificate as a Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester from Public Health. The Water Board adopted the Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook, which sets standards for plumbers who serve as Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers (Testers).

The Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook now requires that anyone testing meter protection backflow assemblies obtain a certificate issued by a Water Board-recognized organization. After careful consideration, Public Health has determined that it is unable to qualify as a Water Board-recognized organization. While the Cross Connection and Water Pollution Control Program within Public Health is knowledgeable in the testing needed to certify Testers, Public Health is unable to meet the requirements of the Water Board to become a recognized organization for certifying Testers.

Effective July 1, 2025, Public Health's certification for a backflow prevention assembly Tester is no longer recognized for testing **meter protection backflow assemblies**. Public Health is still authorized to maintain a certification program for Testers who limit their activities to **internal backflow prevention assemblies**, which are intended to protect the potable water system within the building.

All Industry Professionals

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Public Health will accept certificates issued by Water Board-recognized organizations, therefore, those who test both meter protection and internal protection backflow prevention assemblies will not have to obtain certificates from two different testing agencies.

Testers who obtain a certificate from a Water Board-recognized provider will be required to submit a valid copy of their certificate to the Cross Connection and Water Pollution Control Program to perform annual testing of internal backflow prevention assemblies. Results submitted for internal backflow assembly tests from a tester without a certificate on file will not be valid.

To view the Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook, please visit bit.ly/3Hgg7B3.

For information on State-Recognized and Accredited Cross-Connection Control Specialist Certifications, please visit:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/cccp.html.

For additional questions regarding the Department's certification of Testers, please call the **Cross Connection & Water Pollution Control Program** at (626) 430-5290 or refer to the Frequently Asked Questions at <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/faq/changes-backflow-prevention-assembly-tester-certification.htm>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lusi Mkhitarian".

Lusi Mkhitarian
EH Services Manager