



Council Agenda Report

From: David Athey, Water Resources Manager

Subject: Approval of a Resolution Authorizing an Agreement between the City and San Luis Obispo County for Cross Connection Inspections

CEQA Determination: The City finds that this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378.

Date: June 17, 2025

Facts

1. In 2015, the City and the County of San Luis Obispo (County) entered into a 10-year agreement for the cross-connection inspection services, which is currently in effect from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2025.
2. The City and the County desire to enter into another 10-year agreement for the same cross-connection inspection services.
3. Cross-connection services are needed to ensure the protection of the City's water system and comply with State law pertaining to cross-connections and backflow elimination.
4. The City contracts with the County because the County has qualified staff who are trained, experienced, expert, and competent to provide cross-connection inspection services.
5. The City does not have the staffing with the training and time to complete all cross-connection inspections. This agreement allows the City to complete all required inspections without hiring additional staff.
6. The agreement is a time and cost contract. The City will only pay for actual inspection-related time and materials used by the County.
7. The proposed agreement may be terminated with 30 days' notice by either party without cause.

Options

1. Take no action; or
2. Approve a contract for another 10-years with the County of San Luis Obispo for cross-connection inspection services; or
3. Approve a shorter-term contract with the County; or
4. Provide alternative direction to staff.

Analysis and Conclusions

Cross-connection inspections are required by the State of California Title 17 to protect the health and safety of the City water system customers and users. Cross-connections typically occur when potable water piping is connected to non-potable or contaminated water pipes. This can result in bacterial, chemical, or physical contamination of City water. Cross-connections can be found on hose bibbs, irrigation sprinkler systems, fire sprinkler systems, livestock water containers, wells, water storage tanks and evaporative coolers. The problem is a dynamic one, because piping systems are continually being installed, altered, or extended.

Cross-connection inspections are conducted as a way of identifying and eliminating these types of connections. By contracting with the County, City staff can focus on water system operation and maintenance and forgo the ongoing training and lengthy inspections that are required by the State. The County has expertise and staff and using County resources makes economic and time sense. The program has worked well with the City and County over the last 10 years.

Fiscal Impact

The total cost of the contract for ongoing yearly time and material costs is approximately \$20,000 to 30,000, or \$200,000 to \$300,000 over the 10-year agreement. These costs are included in the City's Water Fund baseline budget and rate studies. As such, no additional action is necessary.

CEQA

The City finds that this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), and 15378.

Recommendation (Option 2)

Approve Resolution 25-XXX, approving the Agreement with the County of San Luis Obispo for Cross-Connection Inspection Services in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, and incorporated herein by reference, and authorizes the City Manager to execute the Agreement, subject to any minor, technical, or non-substantive changes as approved by the City Manager and the City Attorney.

Attachments

1. Resolution 25-XXX – Cross Connection Inspection Services SLO County
 - a. Cross Connection Contract