

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date: November 20, 2018**

**To: Members of the Governing Board and WSWC TCC**

**From: District Staff**

**RE: Optional Model Language Provided as Technical Assistance for Meeting the Requirements of Action Item WSWC – 4 (Metering Private Fire Lines)**

District staff received requests for technical assistance in implementing the private fire line metering requirement action item from the 2017 update to the District’s Water Resources Plan. District staff is providing this memorandum so the Governing Board and WSWCC TCC are aware of the optional resources available to interested jurisdictions under the District’s Technical Assistance Program. Action Item WSWC – 4 (Private Fire Lines Metering Requirement) requires local water providers to adopt an ordinance or policy to detect or meter flow in private fire lines to identify avoidable system leakage and non-fire related water consumption. Specifically, the ordinance requires all private fire lines supplying new or substantially renovated commercial buildings to be outfitted with full flow meters or double detector checks. All local water providers must adopt an ordinance or policy by January 1, 2019.

Staff is offering model language in Attachment A that local water providers may want to consider using for compliance with WSWC-4. Staff convened a working group comprised of interested Water Supply and Water Conservation Technical Coordinating Committee Members to help develop this model language. This model language is being offered as an optional tool, and staff expects and encourages local water providers to take different approaches when necessary or desirable so long as such approaches satisfy the elements of the action item. This model language is optional and does not include any requirement that local water providers’ approaches be equivalent.

Ordinances and policies for detecting flow or metering private fire lines have already been adopted by many local water providers in the District. Staff used examples from within the District to help with uniformity in how the model language was written. The options in Section 3 of the model language are consistent with the major approaches currently used in the District.

Attachment A

\*NOTE: This model language for fire lines can be adopted by adding it to a local water provider’s (1) construction standards for the water system used in the development plan review process, (2) local code of ordinances, if applicable, or (3) backflow prevention program requirements. It should be added in such a way that it applies to new fire lines and existing fire lines in building undergoing substantial renovation. **Before finalizing remember to address all notes, options, and bracketed language based on local preferences and change the [local water provider] references to your jurisdiction’s name.**

**Model Language**

**Unauthorized Use of Fire Lines**

Article X – Detecting Unauthorized Use of Water in Private Fire Lines.

Section 1 – Purpose. The purpose of this Article is to detect and reduce unauthorized water usage, which includes leaks and intentional unauthorized use.

Section 2 – Applicability. ***[This Article applies to all new fire lines and existing fire lines in buildings undergoing substantial renovation****]* except for fire lines associated with (a) combination service connections designated to supply potable water for both domestic use and fire protection service through a single, metered connection to the ***[local water provider’s]*** water system and (b) one and two-family dwellings. ***[NOTE – Consider adapting applicability language to local standards, ordinances, or programs as appropriate.]***

Section 3 – Requirement for Usage Detection. Fire lines subject to this Article shall include a ***[local water provider]*** approved ***[Option 1: double check detector fire protection backflow prevention assembly] [Option 2: reduced pressure detector fire protection backflow prevention assembly] [Option 3: [insert technical details on backflow prevention with metering technology based on local preference]]***. The purchase, installation, and inspection of these backflow prevention assemblies shall otherwise be in accordance with the terms of **[*local water provider’s]*** backflow prevention program.

Section 4 – Unauthorized Use and Leaks. When unauthorized use is detected in three or more months in a 12-month period, the ***[local water provider]*** has the right to install, or require installation of, a meter to measure all usage of water through the customer’s private fire lines. Unauthorized use includes all usage of water, whether through a leak or intentional unauthorized use, except water actually used for firefighting and water used for testing with the prior approval of the ***[local water provider]***. Customer shall be required to pay to ***[local water provider]*** the costs of such meter and the associated installation. **[NOTE – Delete section 4 if you require all fire lines to have backflow prevention with metering.]**

Section 5 – Failure to Comply. The***[local water provider]*** shall have the authority to cut off water service to the customer for failing to comply with this Article upon ***[60]***-day notification. **[NOTE – Delete section 5 if you require all fire lines to have backflow prevention with metering.]**