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June 30, 2025

To: Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers

Subject: **DEADLINE EXTENDED - BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY TESTERS**

This letter is to inform you that the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (Water Board), has extended the effective date of the new certification requirements for Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers to **July 1, 2026**. As a result, certificates issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) will remain valid until that date.

The Water Board previously adopted the *Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook*, which establishes updated certification standards for individuals performing backflow prevention assembly testing. These changes affect both Public Health's certification program and individuals currently certified through our department.

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, 2026 (unless further amended by the Water Board), 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 <https://bit.ly/45IUYjZ>.

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