



GEORGETOWN COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Administration	(843) 237-9727	Finance/Purchasing	(843) 527-3204
Engineering	(843) 237-9719	Customer Service	(843) 546-8408
Fax (Pawleys Island)	(843) 237-1515	Fax (Georgetown)	(843) 527-3004

P.O. Box 2730
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

P.O. Box 2748
Georgetown, SC 29442

www.gcwsd.com



February 25, 2008

Dear Valued Irrigation Customer:

The Georgetown County Water and Sewer District would like to extend to you its gratitude for your continuing compliance with the District's current Cross Connection Control (Backflow) Program. Cross connection control is essential for the protection of public potable (drinking) water supplies. Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow, from any source, back into the customer's plumbing system or the potable water system as a result of a cross connection. This reversal of flows can cause contamination of the potable water system. The majority of sprinkler irrigation systems in the District's service area are connected to a potable water system, thereby creating such a cross connection. An approved backflow prevention device will protect you, your family, and your neighbors from contamination of the potable water supply if a backflow incident were to occur.

As an irrigation customer, the District's policy requires you to have your backflow device tested on an annual basis. The burden of hiring and scheduling certified testers to comply with the policy has been your responsibility. However, the District's Board of Directors is considering changes to the current cross connection control policy to make the program as convenient as possible and cost effective as possible while ensuring the highest level of protection to the public. Under the proposed new policy the District will assume the responsibility of testing, repairing, and replacing failed backflow devices for a monthly fee of \$5. This is an average annual savings of \$40 based upon rates charged by private contractors for this service. Should a device need replacement, the savings are even greater. Based upon a recent survey, the average charged replacement cost for a failed device by private contractors is \$325. Through this new policy and charge, there will be no additional cost to you, beyond the \$5 monthly service charge.

In summary, the proposed charges and savings are as follows:

	Testing Fee	Savings	Replace Device	Savings
GCWSD	\$60/Annually	\$40/Annually	Included, no charge	\$320
Private Contractors Average	\$100/Annually	None	\$320 per incident	None

The District's Board of Directors will be giving consideration to these proposed changes and fee structure at its March 13, 2008 meeting. This meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the District's Georgetown office, which is located on U.S. 521.

The most important benefit from this program is the reassurance of knowing that the water you draw from your tap is safe to drink for you and your family. In the event that you have questions regarding this new program, please call either our Operations Director Brad Corkum or me at 237-9727.

Sincerely,

Larry Dickerson
Assistant Executive Director



U.S. EPA Region IV
1995 Safe Drinking Water Act
ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT

F:\Data\Larry Dickerson\Misc\Ly Backflow Policy Changes.doc