



## GEORGETOWN COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

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Pawleys Island, SC 29585

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May 14, 2007


Dear Irrigation Inspector:

Cross connection control is essential for the protection of public potable (drinking) water supplies. A cross connection occurs when a backflow event results in the reversal of flow, from any source, back into the customer's plumbing. This reversal of flows can cause contamination of the potable water system and your on site plumbing. 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. In order to prevent a contamination, a backflow prevention device is required to protect you, your family, and your neighbors if a backflow incident were to occur.

Previously, the District's policy required all irrigation customers to have their backflow device tested on an annual basis. The burden of hiring and scheduling a certified tester to comply with the policy was your responsibility. The District's Board of Directors has carefully reviewed the success of this program and has decided to make the changes to the program that they feel will make it more convenient and cost effective as possible for you and the District while ensuring the highest level of protection for the public. Under the new program, the District will assume the responsibility of testing, repairing, and replacing failed backflow devices for a monthly fee of \$4.00. This is an average annual savings to you of approximately \$52 based upon our review of rates charged by private contractors for this service. Should a device need replacement, the savings are even greater. Under this new program, there will be no additional cost to you, beyond the \$4 monthly service charge. As we understand it most private inspectors charge one fee for inspection and additional charges for major maintenance and replacement.

This new program will go into effect July 1, 2008. Irrigation customers will be charged the monthly service rate of \$4.00 with the start of the July billing cycle. Some irrigation customers may already have long term contracts with private firms. If you wish to continue honoring your agreement with the firm please provide the District with a copy of the agreement before July 1, 2008. Once your agreement expires the District will begin providing this service. The District will not honor agreements entered into after May 19, 2008.

The most important benefit from this program is the assurance 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 Billy Webb Operations Supervisor or Doris Simmons Customer Advocate at 237-9727.

Sincerely,  
  
Brad Corkum  
Operations Director



U.S. EPA Region IV  
1999 Safe Drinking Water Act  
Excellence Award

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