

It's real.

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council Members
Douglas Faseler, City Manager

From: Timothy J. Howe, Director – Water / Wastewater Treatment

Through: Rick Cortes, Assistant City Manager

Subject: Backflow Prevention Management Program

Date: May 30, 2018

The TCEQ requires a public water utility to protect the water distribution system from potential contamination by maintaining a backflow prevention assembly program. A backflow prevention assembly is used to protect a potable water distribution system from potential contamination due to sudden unexpected loss of pressure within the distribution system. These assemblies are required to be tested and certified at a frequency of either one or three years. Typical residential irrigation systems are required to be certified every three years while other residential and commercial assemblies require certification annually. Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers are individuals licensed by the TCEQ to perform the certifications. All certification records must be maintained and available during a TCEQ inspection of the City's Water Plant.

Historically, Water Plant staff has maintained these records as required by TCEQ. The maintenance of this program is funded by the City and staff maintains information on basic software programs such as Microsoft Excel. The paper files are maintained by Water Plant staff in compliance with record retention requirements. The maintenance of this program requires an inordinate amount of staff time. In an effort to improve efficiency, staff has researched the use of web based backflow management systems. Many public water utilities are moving toward this new technology as a matter of improved effectiveness and efficiency.

Vepo, L.L.C. has offered a favorable proposal for the administration of the City's backflow prevention program. Their cutting edge technology is in operation in 32 other areas including Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, Conroe, The Woodlands, Southlake, and Georgetown. Their proposal is at no-cost to the City. Entering into this agreement would shift the cost of this required program from the City to the backflow prevention assembly testers operating in Seguin. Vepo's cost to the tester is \$11.50 per certification. This cost may be absorbed by the tester or passed directly to the customer. Potentially, residents and commercial customers having backflow prevention assemblies could see their cost for certification increase by \$11.50 per test.

Springs Hill Water Supply Corporation and Crystal Clear Special Utility District also serve citizens of Seguin. Both have agreed to pursue their individual agreements with Vepo, Inc. This will allow for consistency related to backflow prevention assembly management across our community. Staff recommends approval of this proposal at no cost to the City and will be available to answer any questions at the Tuesday, June 5, 2018 City Council Meeting.