



## **CITY OF BELVEDERE**

450 San Rafael Avenue  
Belvedere CA 94920  
Telephone (415) 435-3838

### **Installation of Backflow Prevention Devices**

- 1) General information on city Ordinance 94-3**
- 2) Directions for applying for a permit prior to installing a backflow prevention device**
- 3) Directions for applying for a waiver based on technical reasons**
- 4) Directions for applying for a waiver based on previous history**
- 5) Waiver applications**
- 6) Diagrams of backwater valve systems**

**INFORMATION REGARDING ORDINANCE 94-3  
(Regulating the Use of Public and Private Sewers and Drains)**

- I. Effective date:**  
September 1, 1994
- II. Installation deadline:**  
September 1, 1996
- III. Who does it affect?:**  
Virtually every private property in Belvedere which has plumbing fixtures.
- IV. What are the basic parameters of the regulations?**
  - A.** Requires a backflow device on each sewer lateral in the City.
  - B.** Requires a connection to the City sewer system where private septic systems now exist.
  - C.** Provides for general regulation of specific construction requirements for all private sewers and drains within the City.

**V. BACKFLOW DEVICES**

All residents are required to have a **City-approved** backflow prevention device installed or verified by the City building department. The City **will not** be responsible for determining the location of either your building sewer lateral line or an existing backflow device. However, the City will assist you in locating your manhole. If you have an existing device and know the location of it, call City Hall at 435-3838 and ask to have it inspected. If you do **not** have a device, use this information to get a device installed.

It is important to understand that ALL properties must have the backflow prevention device installed. Those who did not install the device and are not eligible for a Waiver will be required to install the device prior to the issuance of any building permits, revocable licenses, residential building reports, and other building-related permits. It should be noted that properties which have a sewage lateral that is near or in bay waters may be required to have two backwater preventers installed. The two devices are required so as to prevent contamination of the bay should a sewage backup occur.

Those property owners who are affected by the requirement to abandon Private Septic Systems should contact the City Engineer at 435-3838. Those residents or contractors who require information regarding sewer construction should contact the City Engineer or Public Works Superintendent at 435-3838.

## **DIRECTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR A BACKFLOW DEVICE PLUMBING PERMIT OR WAIVER**

### **PERMIT ISSUANCE:**

The Homeowner, or a licensed Contractor, may make application for the permit to perform the installation (see **installation** and **inspection** requirements below). If a Contractor performs the work, they will need a current City of Belvedere business license, be licensed by the State, and have evidence of current Worker's Compensation insurance.

### **INSTALLATION AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS:**

Several types of backflow preventers are approved by the City. The aluminum cap on the Contra Costa type shall be painted: flat brown or flat black. For those projects which require a cut into the sewage lateral line, an inspection of the reconnected line prior to replacing the covered earth, is required.

All backwater valves shall be located outside of the building perimeter foundation, except for structures over bay waters. The horizontal measurement of the atmospheric type valve in relation to the lowest plumbing fixture is as follows:

(A) In the case of toilets, the valve opening must be at least 6" below the closet flange. (B) In the case of all other plumbing fixtures, the valve opening must be 6" below the lowest plumbing fixture drain (measured from the drain trap weir).

Please call City Hall at (415) 435-3838 to request the necessary inspection per instructions on the back of the Job Card.

## APPLICATION FOR WAIVER

A waiver from the obligation of the installation of the backwater valve requirements may be granted under certain circumstances:

### **I. Technical waiver**

- A. Where a manhole cover exists upstream of the lateral connection to the City main line, and
- B. Where the manhole cover upstream from the lateral connection is at least 2 feet lower than the lowest plumbing fixture, and
- C. Where the manhole cover is not likely to be parked on by a vehicle.

### **II. Waiver based on past history and cost of compliance (effective April 7, 1995)**

- A. Property owner attests that no sewage flooding has occurred in the preceding 10 years and,
- B. Provides evidence that the cost of compliance would exceed \$1,000 and,
- C. Indemnifies and hold the City harmless from any damages occurring from sewage flooding and,
- D. Accepts recordation of agreement with the property title.

Property owners who wish to be exempted from the required installation of a backflow device must make application through the forms provided. City personnel will not be responsible for providing information required on the forms other than the location of the nearest manhole cover in relationship to the applicants' property, in the case of the waiver based on technical reasons. To arrange for that information should it be unknown to you, contact the **Public Works Superintendent** at (415) 435-3838.

The **Waiver based on past history** must be signed by the owner in the presence of a Notary. You make an appointment with the City Notary for this service at (415) 435-3838. There is no charge for the City's notary service on this form; the Marin County Recorder's office does charge a recordation fee.

Perhaps the most difficult portion of the three criteria required on the technical waiver form is the relationship of the upstream manhole cover to the flood level rim of the lowest plumbing fixture. In some cases, only an engineer or plumber

using a surveying instrument will be able to supply this information. Submit your completed application to City Hall.

Each application for Waiver will be reviewed by the Public Works Superintendent and Building Official. Their recommendation for acceptance or denial will be forwarded to the City Manager. The decision of acceptance or denial will be conveyed to you in writing within 30 days of your application. If your application is denied, you will be required to install the backflow device.