

TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER

FROM: DOUG MONN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: CITY CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS – RESIDENTIAL WATER METER

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2010

NEEDS: For City Council to consider a one (1) inch water meter as the standard for all new construction on one-and two family dwellings and individually metered attached single-family dwellings (townhouses).

FACTS:

1. The 2010 California Residential Code becomes effective January 1, 2011. It mandates fire sprinkler systems for new single family residential dwellings and townhouses.
2. Residential sprinkler systems are typically installed as part of the potable water system and require water flow beyond the capacity of the City's current standard three quarter ($\frac{3}{4}$) inch meter.
3. Commercial structure fire sprinkler systems are not metered as they connect directly to the City's water distribution system. As a result they have no effect on the size of the water meter for the structure.
4. Upsizing minimum residential water meters to a one (1) inch will not equate to more water usage as the capacity would only be used as a result of a fire.
5. The Water Connection Fee for a one (1) inch water meter is currently \$20,040. The current cost of a three quarter ($\frac{3}{4}$) inch water meter is \$12,000. It is suggested the 1" meter for residential units requiring a fire system be offered at the same cost as a standard $\frac{3}{4}$ meter. The one (1) inch water meter is required as the result of the state mandate and does not add demand against, or value to the water distribution system.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: The change to the Building Code by the State of California mandating residential fire sprinklers requires the installation of a minimum one (1) inch water meter in new residential construction.

A one (1) inch water meter is required due to new residential fire sprinkler requirements, adds no new continuous demand for water, thus can be priced at the current three quarter ($\frac{3}{4}$) inch rate.

Commercial construction calculated to show need for a one (1) inch water meter would pay the price established by resolution (\$20,040), and any residence requiring a calculated need in excess of a standard one (1) inch water meter would pay the cost that water meter established by resolution.

POLICY

REFERENCE: State Health and Safety Code Section 17922

FISCAL

IMPACT: The City presently installs approximately nineteen (1) one inch (1) water meters per year. The one inch (1) meters mostly serve commercial/industrial applications requiring the demand capacity of a one inch (1) meter to supply the services or products they deliver. New commercial/industrial building projects requiring a one inch (1) meter as a result of demand needs would continue to pay the established connection fees associated with a one inch (1) meter necessary to offset the cost of providing the on-going reoccurring demand capacity.

Increasing residential meters to a one inch (1) standard to accommodate the residential sprinkler mandate would not result in a fiscal impact to the water fund as it will not increase daily water demand. The additional capacity demand provided by the increased meter size would only be used in conjunction with a residential fire.

- OPTIONS:**
- a. Approve Resolution No. 10 XXX; or
 - b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

Prepared by: Clyde Ganes
Deputy Building Official

Attachment: Resolution

RESOLUTION N0. 10-XXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES ESTABLISHING ONE INCH WATER METERS AS THE MINIMUM STANDARD FOR ALL ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS

WHEREAS, the State of California Building Standards Commission adopts a new set of building codes every three years; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2011 a new set of building codes will become law in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paso Robles is required by the State of California to enforce the Building Codes; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 California Residential Code, when enacted on January 1, 2011, will require fire sprinklers in all detached one-and two-family dwellings; and

WHEREAS, engineering a system for the residential fire system requires an additional emergency water flow; and

WHEREAS, the current standard for a residential installation is a three quarter ($\frac{3}{4}$) inch meter; and

WHEREAS, it is not possible to achieve adequate supply for a residential fire sprinkler system using a standard three quarter ($\frac{3}{4}$) inch water meter; and

WHEREAS, installation of a one (1) inch residential water meter is necessary to provide adequate flow for a residential fire sprinkler system; and

WHEREAS, upsizing the meter does not equate to an increase in water usage; and

THEREFORE, BE IT NOW RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council does hereby authorize the use of a one (1) inch water meter as a standard installation on all one- and two-family dwellings. The cost of which is the same as a three quarter ($\frac{3}{4}$) inch water meter, plus the actual meter cost.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles on this 21st day of December, 2010 by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk