

September 9, 2014

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To: Ventura County Water Purveyors

Subject: Ventura County Waterworks Manual (VCWWM) (2nd Edition)

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved the Ventura County Waterworks Manual (VCWWM) (2nd Edition) on September 9, 2014. The VCWWM establishes the minimum acceptable standards for the design and construction of additions or changes to existing water supply facilities in the unincorporated areas of Ventura County of Ventura and for the purpose of County or County-dependent special district approvals. These standards apply to any facilities or system in the County that meets any one or more of the following conditions:

- a. Is currently in or plans to be located within the County or County-dependent special district owned or controlled rights-of-way.
- b. Serves, or plans to serve, water to any land development project which is subject to any approval issued by the County or a County-dependent special district.
- c. Provides fire protection service in the Ventura County Fire Protection District (FPD).

The principal requirement that is included in the approved version of the VCWWM that was not previously required is that of a "Water Availability Letter" (WAL). The WAL is a letter from the water purveyor which declares that the purveyor's water system has the necessary capacity to satisfy the domestic and firefighting requirements for the project or service area identified in the letter. The WAL must be signed by a member of the purveyor's Board of Directors or General Manager. The WAL must include a description of the existing system and its characteristics and an analysis, prepared and stamped by a civil engineer, which includes the methods and analysis used for determining compliance with the VCWWM. Receipt and acceptance of the WAL by the County is a prerequisite to a purveyor issuing additional "will serve" letters. This new requirement was implemented because experience has shown that, incrementally, "will serve" letters for additional services had been issued by some purveyors to add connections to existing water systems without taking into account the cumulative effect of all previous additions.



Herbert L. Schwind
Director, Engineering Services

