



## CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Robert Fisher, Acting City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Shah Nawaz, Deputy Water/Wastewater Director  
Art Vela, Director of Public Works

**MEETING DATE:** May 13, 2025

**SUBJECT:** City of Banning Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive and file.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Taking into consideration the recent Los Angeles County fires and public's general criticism about the California's water management and specific concerns about fire hydrant (FH) readiness to serve during emergencies; at the February 25, 2025, City Council Meeting, a discussion was held to develop a formal "Fire Hydrant Maintenance Plan" for the City of Banning's Water Division of the Public Works Department.

While the current practices include the inspection and maintenance of most FHs throughout the City, although not all FH are inspected. Typically, the City's Water Division staff inspect and operate fire hydrants during various activities such as: water main flushing, draining related to leak repairs, fire flow testing, installation of construction water meters, pressure testing/monitoring and visual inspections. While these activities regularly allow staff to ensure fire hydrants are maintained, it's possible that not all fire hydrants are visited and operated by staff.

In order to continue with the City's goal of providing safe, affordable and reliable water service, it is prudent for the Public Works Department to develop this formal FH Maintenance Program with the following measurable goals and objectives:

- **Inspect and operate (exercise) each FH once every two years**
  - Inspection checklist (e.g., damage, leakage, rust, bolts, breakaways, paint, lubrication, weeds, traffic markers, nozzles, caps, etc.).
  - Utilize Asset Management System Software (Nobel) to map and record all FHs that are inspected and exercised.
- **Maintain approximately 1,820 FHs**
  - Perform necessary repairs or replacements.

This maintenance program provides a systematic approach to FH maintenance in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and American Water Works Association (AWWA) Manual M-17; Fire Hydrants: Inspection, Testing and Maintenance.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The development of this formal written FH Maintenance Program will ensure that FHs are readily

available and in operable condition.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

It is anticipated that the Water Division would minimally need to add one Water Service Maintenance Worker position to be dedicated to the FH Maintenance Program. The full burden cost for a Water Service Maintenance Worker is \$145,000.

Other unknown costs would be associated with water loss (non-revenue water) during FH flushing, FH repairs/replacements, miscellaneous materials.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Do not move forward with a formal written FH Maintenance Program and continue with current practices.

**BUDGETED?:**

No

**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:**

No

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program.pdf](#)