Agenda Item: 12.B
Date of Meeting: January 12, 2026
Department: Public Works

STAFF REPORT

To:	City Council
From:	Nora Gamino
Subject:	**ORDINANCE - Introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Chapter 13.06 Relating to Cross-Connection Control**
Prepared On:	January 6, 2026
Attachments:	Ordinance No. XXX Update to Title 13 Cross-Connection Control

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Background/History:
The City of Bishop owns and operates a public water system regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW). As part of this responsibility, the City is required to protect the public water supply from contamination or pollution caused by actual or potential cross-connections between the potable water system and non-potable or auxiliary water sources.

The City's existing Cross-Connection Control regulations were originally adopted under former Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations. Effective July 1, 2024, the State repealed former Title 17, Sections 7583 through 7605, and implemented the Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH), which now establishes mandatory statewide requirements for cross-connection control programs.

Although the City previously updated portions of Title 13, the existing Chapter 13.06 no longer reflects the current State regulatory framework or clearly aligns local code authority with CCCPH requirements. As a result, a comprehensive repeal and replacement of Chapter 13.06 is necessary to modernize the City's ordinance, clarify customer responsibilities, and ensure continued compliance with State drinking water regulations.

Analysis/Discussion:
The proposed ordinance repeals and replaces Chapter 13.06 of Title 13 in its entirety and establishes a modern, enforceable framework for cross-connection control that is consistent with current State requirements.

Adoption of this ordinance is required to maintain compliance with State drinking water regulations. The Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH) establishes mandatory statewide requirements for all public water systems in California, and the City is required to

maintain enforceable local authority to implement and enforce these requirements. Failure to align the City's municipal code with current State standards could result in regulatory findings or enforcement actions by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

The ordinance is intentionally structured to:

- Establish clear legal authority for the City to require backflow protection, conduct inspections, and enforce compliance;
- Clearly define customer responsibilities, including installation, maintenance, testing, access, and cost responsibility; and
- Avoid over-prescribing operational details that are more appropriately addressed through administrative procedures and standard operating practices.

Rather than embedding technical or procedural requirements in municipal code, the ordinance refers to the standards set by the CCCPH and authorizes the Public Works Director to adopt and maintain standard operating procedures to implement the Cross-Connection Control Program. This approach ensures regulatory compliance while allowing the City flexibility to adapt procedures over time without requiring frequent code amendments.

The ordinance also strengthens enforcement authority by explicitly authorizing corrective actions, service discontinuance when necessary to protect public health, cost recovery for enforcement actions, and a clear appeals process. A defined administrative appeal pathway is included within the ordinance itself, eliminating the need for a separate City appeals policy and addressing due-process considerations.
Overall, the proposed ordinance modernizes the City's Cross-Connection Control regulations, aligns local code with State standards, and provides a clear and defensible framework appropriate for a small municipal water system.

The ordinance is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), as it consists of organizational and administrative actions that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Budget Impacts:
There are no direct budget impacts associated with adoption of this ordinance. The updated framework is expected to improve administrative efficiency by clarifying authority and responsibilities and by separating operational procedures from municipal code.

Legal Review:
City Attorney Pucci has reviewed this item and finds that the recommended action complies with the law.

Recommended Action:
Council consideration to introduce, by title only, an ordinance repealing and replacing Chapter 13.06 of Title 13 of the Bishop Municipal Code relating to Cross-Connection Control.

Approved By: Ethan Aukee 1/6/2026
Approved By: Pam Foster 1/7/2026
Approved By:
Approved By: