



City of Santa Barbara
Public Works Department

Interoffice Memorandum

DATE: September 8, 2011
TO: Board of Water Commissioners
FROM: Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager *RB*
SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to SBMC Title 14 – Metering Requirements

During review of a recent development application, we became aware of an inconsistency between the metering requirements as added to the City Plumbing Code in 1989 and now included in Santa Barbara Municipal Code (SBMC) Section 22.04.030, and an earlier provision in SBMC Section 14.20.160 dating back to 1963. The newer language implemented the important water conservation benefits of requiring individual City metering of all new dwelling units. Deletion of the earlier language was inadvertently omitted at the time of the adoption of the 1989 standards. Below are the relevant sections. We will be recommending to City Council that the older language be deleted to remove the inconsistency and will be asking for the Commission's recommendation on the matter at the September 12, 2011 meeting.

Current Metering Requirements Originally Adopted in 1989 – No Changes Proposed:

SBMC Section 22.04.030.D

419. Water Meters Required.

419.1. Group R Occupancies. Each dwelling unit, including, but not limited to, apartments units, shall be served by a separate City water meter. Except in projects of less than five (5) dwelling units, such meter shall serve only uses within the dwelling unit, and other uses shall be served by an additional separate City water meter.

419.2. Occupancies Other Than Group R. All occupancies other than Group R on a single parcel of land may be served by a single meter, except that no such meter shall also serve any Group R occupancy.

Older Section – Proposed for Deletion:

SBMC Section 14.20.160 Frontage Premises to be Separately Connected - Exception.

All water furnished by the City to any structure, building, house, flat, tenement, ground floor, business room or store or any unimproved realty under one (1) ownership in or outside the City, having a street or road frontage, shall be through a separate service connection; provided, however, that where two (2) or more houses owned by the same persons are situated on one (1) lot, and have only one (1) frontage on the same street or road, such houses may be furnished with water through one (1) and the same service connection; and provided further, that each house now having a street or road frontage shall be deemed as separately connected for the purpose of the charge or collection for water furnished, and the owner shall be liable for such water so furnished any one (1) connection. (Ord. 2931 §2(part), 1963; prior Code §44.52.)

BF/bf