



**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020**

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**SUBJECT**     **Cross Connection Control Bylaw No. 3516 – Amendment**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

Update of the current Capital Regional District (CRD) Cross Connection Control Bylaw No. 1, 2008 (No. 3516).

**BACKGROUND**

This amendment was brought forward to the September 18, 2019 Regional Water Supply Commission meeting but, due to time constraints, it was deferred and is being presented at this meeting.

On November 1, 2005, the Chief Medical Health Officer issued an Order under Section 25 of the *BC Drinking Water Protection Act*. This Order, to owner/operators of the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Supply System, required actions to implement a mechanism (i.e., a bylaw) to address the significant risk of contamination of the drinking water through cross connections. In agreement with the affected municipalities and electoral areas, the CRD passed the Cross Connection Control Bylaw in 2006. This bylaw was amended in 2008 by means of Bylaw No. 4047 and resulted in the still current Bylaw No. 3516.

In 2017, the Province enacted the new *BC Building Act* to create consistency across all local governments. This new Act clarified that local governments could not administer bylaws that exceed technical requirements set out in the BC Building Code (Code). This necessitated some minor changes to the current Bylaw No. 3516 and also gave staff an opportunity for a general bylaw update.

The proposed changes will bring Bylaw No. 3516 in line with the technical requirements of the Code and the administrative model of the Canadian Standard Association (CSA) B64.10-11 regarding backflow preventer selection, installation and maintenance.

Key changes, in addition to the alignment with the Code, will be (see Appendix B):

- The addition of a process to address the protection of bulk water connections to the CRD water main. These connections are not addressed under the Code.
- Removing the current requirement of conducting audits of Severe Hazard Facilities every seven years. This would allow staff to do re-audits and follow ups on an as-needed basis and also address the ever-growing number of new connections.
- Removing the exclusion of multi-residential buildings (i.e., apartment buildings). According to the CSA, these are classified as Moderate Hazard Facilities and CRD Cross Connection Control staff need to inspect and bring these facilities into compliance to protect the drinking water. Risks to be assessed are boiler systems, fire sprinkler systems, water towers, irrigation systems and pools.
- Water suppliers to Restricted Access Premises (for instance, First Nation Reserves or federal facilities) are now required to install backflow preventers at the connection site if the downstream customer does not voluntarily follow Code standards.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

### *Alternative 1*

1. That CRD Bylaw No. 4340 “Capital Regional District Cross Connection Control Bylaw No. 1, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2019” be introduced and read a first, second time and third time; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4340 be adopted.
3. That CRD Bylaw No. 4343, “Capital Regional District Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 67, 2016”, be introduced and read a first, second time and third time; and
4. That Bylaw No. 4343 be adopted.

### *Alternative 2*

That Bylaws No. 4340 and 4343 be referred back to staff for further review.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Financial Implications*

The existing CRD Cross Connection Control Program is funded through the water rates. No additional funds are needed for implementing the updated Cross Connection Control Bylaw.

### *Regulatory Implications*

The CRD Cross Connection Control Bylaw is the main tool for the program to ensure protection of the drinking water system from contamination through improper plumbing practices. The program was developed in response to an order from the CRD’s regulator, Island Health, based on concerns for human health risks. Across the region, the combination of local government inspections and CRD cross connection control has been successful in preventing major public health incidences due to substandard plumbing practices. The updated Bylaw incorporates current regulatory requirements associated with the provincial and federal building codes and standards.

### *Intergovernmental Implications*

Alignment of Bylaw No. 3516 and the BC Building Code will result in better partnerships and acceptance with the building and administration departments of the various districts, municipalities and areas serviced by the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Supply. Affected municipalities have been consulted on the changes to the requirements for bulk water connections to CRD supply mains and new requirements to connections to Restricted Access Facilities. Island Health has also been consulted on the proposed changes.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Capital Regional District developed and initiated the CRD Cross Connection Control Bylaw to mitigate the risk of contamination to the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Supply System. Since 2006, the CRD Cross Connection Control Program has carried out facility audits and maintained all the data pertaining to the current backflow devices registered throughout the CRD. The

updated BC Building Act required the CRD to align with the new legislation and has given the CRD an opportunity to make general updates to the current bylaw. Upon adoption by the Board, this amended bylaw will continue to be an important tool for water quality protection and be in alignment with today's BC Building Code and CSA Standards.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That CRD Bylaw No. 4340, "Capital Regional District Cross Connection Control Bylaw No. 1, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2019" be introduced and read a first, second time and third time; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4340 be adopted.
3. That CRD Bylaw No. 4343, "Capital Regional District Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 67, 2016", be introduced and read a first, second time and third time; and
4. That Bylaw No. 4343 be adopted.

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| Submitted by: | Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Senior Manager, Environmental Protection       |
| Concurrence:  | Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer |
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| Concurrence:  | Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer                        |

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A: Bylaw No. 4340, Capital Regional District Cross Connection Control Bylaw No. 1, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2019
- Appendix B: CRD Cross Connection Control Bylaw No. 3516, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2019 – showing revisions
- Appendix C: Bylaw No. 4343, Capital Regional District Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 67, 2019