

# Memorandum

Date: April 14, 2003 (**Revised Date: October 16, 2003**)

To: Regional and District Engineers

From: David P. Spath, Ph.D., Chief (*Original signed by Dave*)  
Drinking Water and Environmental Management  
601 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, MS 216  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 322-2308

Subject: **GUIDANCE MEMO NO. 2003-02: GUIDANCE CRITERIA FOR THE SEPARATION OF WATER MAINS AND NON-POTABLE PIPELINES**

The purpose of this memo is to update guidance dated April 5, 1983 for consistency with proposed 2003 regulations. Should there be any modification to the proposed Water Works Standards that may impact the content of this guidance, the guidance will be amended accordingly.

## **GUIDANCE: CRITERIA FOR THE SEPARATION OF WATER MAINS AND NON-POTABLE PIPELINES**

### **BACKGROUND**

When buried water mains are in close proximity to non-potable pipelines, the water mains are vulnerable to contamination that can pose a risk of waterborne disease outbreaks. For example, sewers (sanitary sewer mains and sewage force mains) frequently leak and saturate the surrounding soil with sewage due to structural failure, improperly constructed joints, and/or subsidence or upheaval of the soil encasing the sewer. If a nearby water main is depressurized and no pressure or negative pressure occurs, that situation is a public health hazard that is compounded if an existing sewer is broken during the installation or repair of the water main. Further, failure of a water main in close proximity to other pipelines may disturb their bedding and cause them to fail. In the event of an earthquake or other disaster, simultaneous failure of all pipelines could occur.

The most effective protection against this type of drinking water contamination is adequate construction and separation of non-potable pipelines and water mains. The Waterworks Standards (Title 22, Chapter 16, Section 64572) provide separation criteria for new construction. However, when these criteria cannot be met, the risk of contamination can be reduced by increasing the structural integrity of pipe materials and joints, and ensuring minimum separation requirements are met. Therefore, the following guidance details construction criteria for the installation of water mains and non-potable pipelines to minimize the risk of contamination of drinking water.



## DEFINITIONS

- **COMPRESSION JOINT** - A push-on joint that seals by means of the compression of a rubber ring or gasket between the pipe and a bell or coupling.
- **CONTINUOUS SLEEVE** - A protective tube of high-density-polyethylene (HDPE) pipe with heat fusion joints or other non-potable metallic casing without joints into which a pipe is inserted.
- **DISINFECTED TERTIARY RECYCLED WATER** - Wastewater that has been filtered and subsequently disinfected in accordance with Section 60301.230, Chapter 3 (Water Recycling Criteria), Title 22, California Code of Regulations.
- **HOUSE LATERAL** - A sewer line connecting the building drain and the sanitary sewer main serving the street.
- **SUPPLY LINE** - Pipelines conveying raw water to be treated for drinking purposes in accordance with Section 64572 ©, **proposed** Water Works Standards.
- **WATER MAIN** – Means any pipeline, except for user service lines, within the distribution system in accordance with Section 64551.70, **proposed** Water Works Standards.
- **RATED WORKING WATER PRESSURE** - A pipe classification system based on internal working pressure of the fluid in the pipe, type of pipe material, and the thickness of the pipe wall.
- **SANITARY SEWER MAIN** - A gravity sewer conveying untreated municipal wastewater.
- **SEWAGE FORCE MAIN** - A pressurized sewer conveying untreated municipal wastewater.

## APPLICABILITY

Note that the construction criteria presented in this document apply to house laterals that cross above a water main, but not to those house laterals that cross below a water main.

Water mains or non-potable pipelines that are 24-inches in diameter or larger may pose a higher degree of public health concern because of the large volumes of flow involved. Therefore, installation of water mains or non-potable pipelines 24-inches in diameter or larger should be reviewed and approved in writing by the Department on a case-by-case basis prior to construction.

In no case, should water mains and non-potable pipelines conveying sewage or other liquids be installed in the same trench.

## REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Any new development project in which all the underground facilities are being constructed for the first time must comply with the following regulatory requirements:

### ***Existing requirements:***

#### Section 64630.(Title 22 CA Code of Regulations) Water Main Installation"

(c) Water mains shall be installed at least:

- (1) Ten feet (3 meters) horizontally from and 1 foot (0.3 meters) higher than sanitary sewer mains located parallel to the main.
- (2) One foot (0.3 meters) higher than sanitary sewer mains crossing the main.
- (3) Ten feet (3 meters), and preferably 25 feet (7.5 meters), horizontally from sewage leach fields, cesspools, seepage pits and septic tanks.

(d) Separation distances specified in (c) shall be measured from the nearest outside edges of the facilities.

(e) Where the requirements of (c) and (d) cannot be met due to topography, inadequate right-of-way easements, or conflicts with other provisions of these regulations, lesser separation is permissible if:

- (1) The water main and the sewer are located as far apart as feasible within the conditions listed above.
- (2) The water main and the sewer are not installed within the same trench.
- (3) The water main is appropriately constructed to prevent contamination of the water in the main by sewer leakage.

(f) Water mains shall be disinfected according to AWWA Standard C601-81 before being placed in service.

(g) Installation of water mains near the following sources of potential contamination shall be subject to written approval by the Department on a case-by-case basis:

- (1) Storage ponds or land disposal sites for wastewater or industrial process water containing toxic materials or pathogenic organisms.
- (2) Solid waste disposal sites.
- (3) Facilities such as storage tanks and pipe mains where malfunction of the facility would subject the water in the main to toxic or pathogenic contamination.

**Although the following requirements have not yet been adopted, they should be within the next two years and should be used as guidance for future construction.**

***Proposed requirements as of the date of this document:*****Section 64572. Water Main Separation**

(a) New water mains and new supply lines shall not be installed in the same trench as, and shall be at least 10 feet horizontally from, and one foot vertically above, any parallel pipeline conveying:

- (1) Untreated sewage,
- (2) Primary or secondary treated sewage,
- (3) Disinfected secondary-2.2 recycled water (defined in section 60301.220),
- (4) Disinfected secondary-23 recycled water (defined in section 60301.225), and
- (5) Hazardous fluids such as fuels, industrial wastes, and wastewater sludge.

(b) New water mains and new supply lines shall be installed at least 4 feet horizontally from, and one foot vertically above, any parallel pipeline conveying:

- (1) Disinfected tertiary recycled water (defined in section 60301.230), and
- (2) Storm drainage.

(c) New supply lines conveying raw water to be treated for drinking purposes shall be installed at least 4 feet horizontally from, and one foot vertically below, any water main.

(d) If crossing a pipeline conveying a fluid listed in subsection (a) or (b), a new water main shall be constructed perpendicular to and at least one foot above that pipeline. No connection joints shall be made in the water main within eight horizontal feet of fluid pipeline.

(e) The vertical separation specified in subsections (a), (b), and (c) is required only when the horizontal distance between a water main and pipeline is ten feet or less.

(f) New water mains shall not be installed within 100 horizontal feet of any sanitary landfill, wastewater disposal pond, or hazardous waste disposal site, or within 25 feet of any cesspool, septic tank, sewage leach field, seepage pit, or groundwater recharge project site.

(g) The minimum separation distances set forth in this section shall be measured from the nearest outside edge of each pipe barrel.

**ALTERNATIVE CRITERIA FOR CONSTRUCTION****Water Mains, and Sewers and Other Non-potable Fluid-carrying Pipelines**

When new water mains, new sanitary sewer mains, or other non-potable fluid-carrying pipelines are being installed in existing developed areas, local conditions (e.g., available space, limited slope, existing structures) may create a situation in which there is no alternative but to install water mains, sanitary sewer mains, or other non-potable pipelines at a distance less than that required by the regulations [existing Section 64630 (proposed Section 64572)]. In such cases, through permit action, the Department may approve

alternative construction criteria. The alternative approach is allowed under the proposed regulation Section 64551(c):

"A water system that proposes to use an alternative to the requirements in this chapter shall demonstrate to the Department how it will institute additional mitigation measures to ensure that the proposed alternative would not result in an increased risk to public health."

Appropriate alternative construction criteria for two different cases in which the regulatory criteria for sanitary sewer main and water main separation cannot be met are shown in **Figures 1 and 2**.

- **Case 1** - New sanitary sewer main and a new or existing water main; alternative construction criteria apply to the sanitary sewer main.
- **Case 2** - New water main and an existing sanitary sewer main; alternative construction criteria may apply to either or both the water main and sanitary sewer main.

**Case 1: New Sanitary Sewer Main Installation (Figures 1 and 2)**

**Zone Special Construction Required for Sanitary Sewer Main**

- A Sanitary sewer mains parallel to water mains shall not be permitted in this zone without prior written approval from the Department and public water system.
- B If the water main paralleling the sanitary sewer main does not meet the Case 2 Zone B requirements, the sanitary sewer main should be constructed of one of the following:
1. High-density-polyethylene (HDPE) pipe with fusion welded joints (per AWWA C906-99);
  2. Spirally-reinforced HDPE pipe with gasketed joints (per ASTM F-894);
  3. Extra strength vitrified clay pipe with compression joints;
  4. Class 4000, Type II, asbestos-cement pipe with rubber gasket joints;
  5. PVC sewer pipe with rubber ring joints (per ASTM D3034) or equivalent;
  6. Cast or ductile iron pipe with compression joints; or
  7. Reinforced concrete pressure pipe with compression joints (per AWWA C302-95).

C If the water main crossing below the sanitary sewer main does not meet the requirements for Case 2 Zone C, the sanitary sewer main should have no joints within ten feet from either side of the water main (in Zone C) and should be constructed of one of the following:

1. A continuous section of ductile iron pipe with hot dip bituminous coating; or
2. One of the Zone D options 1, 3, 4, or 5 below.

D If the water main crossing above the sanitary sewer main does not meet the Case 2 Zone D requirements, the sanitary sewer main should have no joints within four feet from either side of the water main (in Zone D) and be constructed of one of the following:

1. HDPE pipe with fusion-welded joints (per AWWA C906-99);
2. Ductile iron pipe with hot dip bituminous coating and mechanical joints (gasketed, bolted joints);
3. A continuous section of Class 200 (DR 14 per AWWA C900-97) PVC pipe or equivalent, centered over the pipe being crossed;
4. A continuous section of reinforced concrete pressure pipe (per AWWA C302-95) centered over the pipe being crossed; or
5. Any sanitary sewer main within a continuous sleeve.

## **Case 2: New water mains Installation (Figures 1 and 2)**

### **Zone Special Construction Required for Water Main**

A No water mains parallel to sanitary sewer mains shall be constructed without prior written approval from the Department.

B If the sanitary sewer main paralleling the water main does not meet the Case 1 Zone B requirements, the water main should be constructed of one of the following:

1. HDPE pipe with fusion welded joints (per AWWA C906-99);
2. Ductile iron pipe with hot dip bituminous coating;
3. Dipped and wrapped one-fourth-inch-thick welded steel pipe;
4. Class 200, Type II, asbestos-cement pressure pipe;

5. Class 200 pressure rated PVC water pipe (DR 14 per AWWA C900-97 & C905-97) or equivalent; or
  6. Reinforced concrete pressure pipe, steel cylinder type, per AWWA (C300-97 or C302-99 or C303-95).
- C If the sanitary sewer main crossing above the water main does not meet the Case 1 Zone C requirements, the water main should have no joints within ten feet from either side of the sanitary sewer main (in Zone C) and be constructed of one of the following:
1. HDPE pipe with fusion-welded joints (per AWWA C906-99);
  2. Ductile iron pipe with hot dip bituminous coating;
  3. Dipped and wrapped one-fourth-inch-thick welded steel pipe;
  4. Class 200 pressure rated PVC water pipe (DR 14 per AWWA C900-97 & C905-97); or
  5. Reinforced concrete pressure pipe, steel cylinder type, per AWWA (C300-97 or C301-99 or C303-95).
- D If the sanitary sewer main crossing below the water main does not meet the requirements for Case 1 Zone D, the water main should have no joints within eight feet from either side of the sanitary sewer main (in Zone D) and should be constructed as for Zone C.

### **Water Mains and Pipelines Conveying Non-potable Fluids**

When the basic separation criteria cannot be met between water mains and pipelines conveying non-potable fluids, the requirements described above for sanitary sewer mains should apply. This includes the requirements for selecting special construction materials and the separation requirements shown in Figures 1 and 2. Note that not all construction materials allowed for sanitary sewer mains will be appropriate for other non-potable fluid lines. For example, certain plastic lines may not be appropriate for the transport of some fuel products. The selection of compatible materials of construction for non-potable fluids is a decision to be made by the project engineer.

### **Water Mains and Sewage Force Mains**

- Sewage force mains shall not be installed within ten feet (horizontally) of a water main.

- When a sewage force main must cross a water main, the crossing should be as close as practical to the perpendicular. The sewage force main should be at least one foot below the water main.
- When a new sewage force main crosses under an existing water main, and a one-foot vertical separation cannot be provided, all portions of the sewage force main within eight feet (horizontally) of the outside walls of the water main should be enclosed in a continuous sleeve. In these cases, a minimum vertical separation distance of 4 inches should be maintained between the outside edge of the bottom of the water main and the top of the continuous sleeve.
- When a new water main crosses over an existing sewage force main, the water main should be constructed of pipe materials with a minimum rated working pressure of 200 psig or the equivalent.

### **Water Mains and Tertiary Treated Recycled Water or Storm Drainage**

The basic separation criteria for water mains and pipelines conveying tertiary treated recycled water or storm drainage lines are a 4-foot horizontal separation where lines are running parallel and a 1-foot vertical separation (water line above recycled or storm drainage) where the lines cross each other.

When these criteria cannot be met, the Zone A criteria apply where lines are running parallel, and the Zone C and Zone D criteria apply where the lines cross each other as shown on Figures 1 and 2. For these situations, the Zone "P" criteria are in effect and prohibit construction less than 1 foot in parallel installations and less than 4 inches in vertical (crossing) situations.

For tertiary treated recycled water and storm drainage lines, the Zone B criteria (requirements for special pipe) do not apply as the basic separation criteria is a four-foot horizontal separation criteria for parallel lines. The tertiary treated recycled water lines should be constructed in accordance with the color-coding, and labeling requirements per Section 116815, California Health and Safety Code of Regulations.

### **MISCELLANEOUS GUIDANCE**

- More stringent requirements may be necessary if conditions such as high groundwater exist. HDPE or similar pipe may be required to provide flexibility to move without potential joint leaks.
- Sanitary sewer mains should not be installed within 25 feet horizontally of a low head (5 psig or less pressure) water main.
- New water mains and sanitary sewer mains should be pressure tested in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.

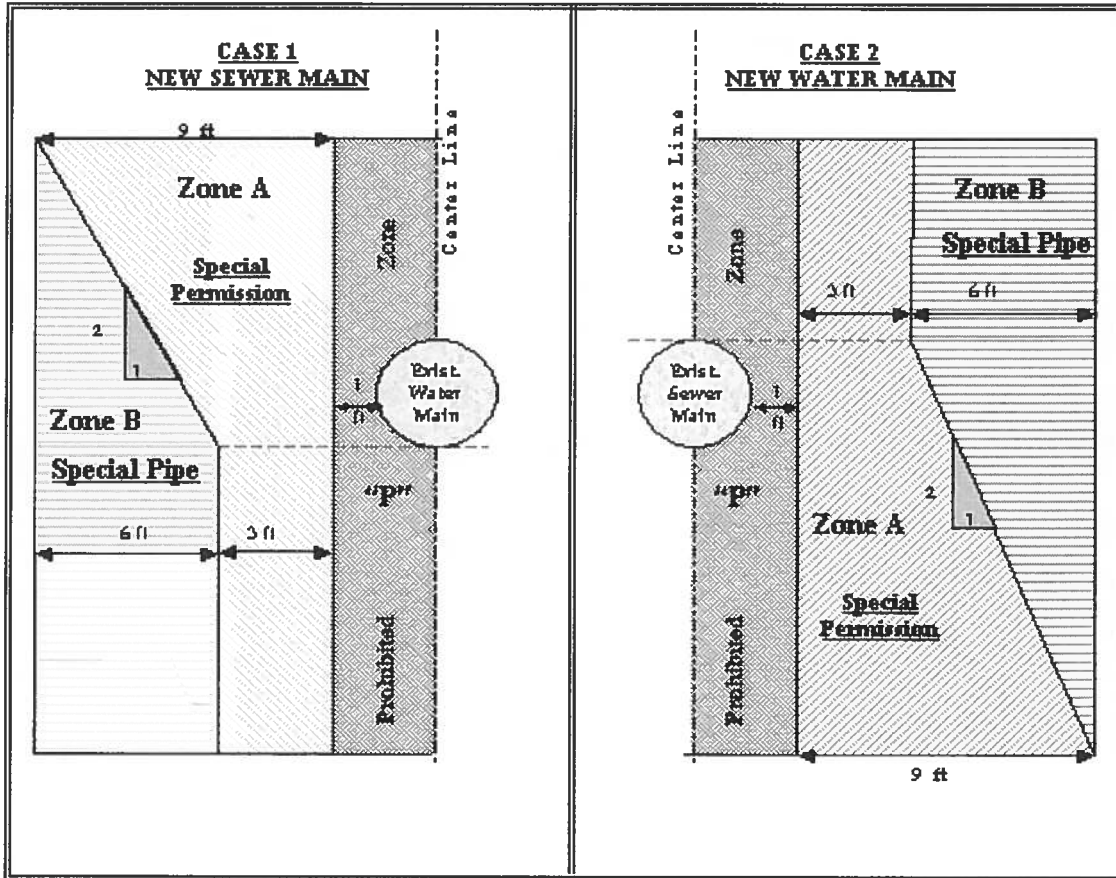


- When installing water mains, sewers, or other pipelines, measures should be taken to prevent or minimize disturbances of existing pipelines. Disturbance of the conduit's supporting base could eventually result in pipeline failure.
- Special consideration should be given to the selection of pipe materials if corrosive conditions are likely to exist. These conditions may be due to soil type and/or the nature of the fluid conveyed in the conduit, such as a septic sewage producing corrosive hydrogen sulfide.

**NOTE:** Dimensions are from the outside of the water main to the outside of the other pipeline, manhole, or sleeve.

**FIGURE 1 PARALLEL CONSTRUCTION**

**Not To Scale**



Note: Zones identical on either side of center lines.

Zones "P" is a prohibited zone. Section 64630 (e) (2) California Code of Regulations, Title 22 (Current); or Section 64572 (a) California Code of Regulations, Title 22 (Proposed).

**FIGURE 2 CROSSINGS**  
**Not To Scale**

