VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

A Public Agency Organized July 12, 1954

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BACKFLOW DEVICE FREEZE PROTECTION

Dear Customer;

Valley Center Municipal Water District ("VCMWD" or "District") has a very active and ongoing cross-connection control/backflow prevention program which is one component we use to assure delivery of a high-quality supply of water. This program requires each water meter that VCMWD installs to have a District approved backflow device installed as meter protection. It also prevents any water from flowing in reverse direction should our system lose pressure. Many of the homes in the District have fire suppression systems and have two (2) water meters – one for domestic water (brass in color), and one to supply your fire system (red in color). The devices are installed above ground per the State and County health code as well as the VCMWD Administrative Code.

We have found that **your area may be subject to freeze from time to time**. Should this occur, your backflow device may freeze due to the location and exposure of the device. You may experience no water (frozen) or damage to the device caused by frozen internal water that may crack or warp the brass internal parts. Therefore, the District recommends you **winterize your backflow devices** to protect them from a frost or freeze should it occur. The freeze only lasts a few hours and then it tends to warm up. For this reason, you only need to prevent the cold from settling on your device.

An inexpensive way to do this would be to cover the devices with a piece of black roofing felt or material similar to that used to protect flowers and plants from frost. There are products available such as decorative fiberglass rock that would cover the device year-round and be aesthetically pleasing for your property. These are available at home improvement, agricultural supply stores, and online. Please visit our website at vcmwd.org/services/Water-and-Customer-Service to view photographs depicting how to protect your device.

The responsibility of protecting the backflow devices is that of the customer.

Should you have any questions on this matter, please contact the District office.

Thank you,

Valley Center Municipal Water District