

**Water Use Ordinance**  
**Executive Summary**

## **Purpose**

This is the first comprehensive Water Use Ordinance prepared by Lake County Public Works. Existing water use regulations only included separate provisions for water conservation and cross-connection control. A comprehensive review of the water provisions revealed the need to develop an ordinance, update definitions and references, and clarify requirements to reflect the current operations of Lake County Public Works. The proposed Water Use Ordinance includes the following items:

### **Article 1: Introductory Provisions**

Provisions have been added and include the previous Ordinance Section 1 – Definitions. The Introductory Provisions also contain general conditions including Title, Authority, Applicability and Jurisdiction, Minimum Requirements, Purpose, Word Usage and Construction Language, Conflicting Provisions, Transitional Provisions and Definitions. The Definitions section has been greatly increased to assist the reader with some of the terms that are commonly used in the revised Ordinance.

### **Article 2: Connection to Water System**

Connection to Water System includes provisions for water service connections to the public water facilities.

- No water service connection will be allowed without a Water/Sewer Permit issued by Lake County Public Works (LCPW).
- The Ordinance requires connections of single-family dwellings within 300 feet and non-residential, multi-family or subdivision property boundaries within 1,000 feet of the existing or proposed water facilities.
- Permits will not be issued for maintenance, repair or replacement of a private water supply if water facilities exist within the above stated distance of the property line. The owner will be required to install a service connection.
- The connection shall be installed along the entire frontage of the premises to be served to the next adjacent property.
- The owner will be responsible for all costs associated with the water service connection, including pipe, valves, fittings and b-box.
- All customers are obligated to notify the County at the change of use, ownership, tenant or process that may significantly impact the amount of water used or create a potential cross-connection.

### **Article 3: Use of Water System**

- Use of Water System includes provisions for all customers to be equipped with a County-specified water meter.
- Existing non-metered customers shall be required to install a water meter upon (a) change of use, or (b) at the time the property is transferred.

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- Costs of the meter and installation will be the responsibility of the customer. All meters will be provided and owned by the County.
- The County retains the right to inspect all meters.
- The Ordinance also incorporates water restriction and conservation provisions previously included in the Water Use Ordinance.
- Water conservation provisions were expanded to require plumbing fixtures in all new construction to be US EPA WaterSense labeled products.
- If a WaterSense labeled product does not exist for a type of fixture, then the fixture shall comply with applicable water conservation criteria of the Illinois Plumbing Code.

### **Article 4: Liability**

Includes provisions reserving the right of the County to shut off water service for the purpose of repair or any other necessary purpose providing reasonable notice prior to shut-off.

### **Article 5: Cross-Connection Control**

Cross-Connection Control was revised and supplemented with the following:

- A description of the water system components and limits of responsibility of the County and owner
- A list of facilities where an approved backflow prevention device should be installed
- A detailed list of the type of protection required based on the degree of hazard

### **Article 6: Inspection**

Inspection was added allowing the director, with the owner's approval, access and inspection of plumbing, water meters, and connections.

- Refusing the director to access said premises will be subject to a 30-day notice followed by termination of water service.

### **Article 7: Fines, Penalties and Enforcements**

Includes provisions for how the County will address violations of the Ordinance.

- Violations of the Ordinance will be subject to a fine as authorized under the:
  - Administrative Adjudication Ordinance,
  - Rate Ordinance or by,
  - Statute of the State of Illinois.
- Water services may be disconnected as a result of unpaid charges, fines, penalties or violations to the Water Use Ordinance or the Sewer Use Ordinance.