



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Utilities

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San Diego Begins Three-Year Valve Maintenance Program to Improve Water Distribution System

SAN DIEGO – A three-year, citywide program starting this January will help protect the longevity and operation of the City water system. The preventative maintenance program conducted by the Public Utilities Department will require the testing of more than 75,000 gate valves on the City’s distribution water mains.

“Our water system is vitally important, and this program will benefit all San Diegans to ensure these valves are functioning properly,” said Halla Razak, the City’s Director of Public Utilities. “Preventative maintenance projects such as this are essential to a reliable water system for our customers.”

In an emergency such as a water main break, sections of the water distribution system may need to be shut down without delay to minimize water waste.

Over the course of the next three years, the valves will be assessed in all areas of the City. The first neighborhoods where valves will be tested will be in the Lake Murray and San Carlos areas.

During the opening and closing of the valves, customers may experience discolored water and sediment or low water pressure for a short period of time. Although the water may be discolored, this poses no health threat and is not harmful. Running several cold taps in your house or place of business at full force for a period of a couple of minutes should remove any discoloration from the water. It may also be necessary to repeat this exercise after 30 minutes in some cases. Running water outside through a garden hose into your landscaping is also an effective way to purge discolored water and would help to save water considering the current drought condition. The screens on your water faucets may need to be cleaned to remove collected sediment.

The valve maintenance program will normally take place between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information about the program, please call the Public Utilities Department at 619-515-3500 or email water@sandiego.gov

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