



# NOTICE

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO - 1222 FIRST AVENUE, M.S. 501, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101**

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**DATE:** June 12, 2015  
**TO:** All Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Public Utilities Department  
**SUBJECT:** Maintaining AMI Devices in Meter Boxes and on Street Lights

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Based on the need to comply with the Governor's Executive Order regarding mandatory conservation and to avoid possible penalties, the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department (PUD) has launched its Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Program. The AMI Program uses radio-based technology to read water meters, eliminating the need for manual meter reads.

This technology will be rolled out Citywide. Therefore, AMI endpoints, which transmit meter information to the AMI system, will soon be on the vast majority of meters in San Diego. These AMI devices provide interval consumption data to the PUD's Customer Service Division. If these devices are damaged or communication interrupted, the Division will be alerted of the critical situation. The endpoints are installed in water meter boxes, coffins and vaults adjacent to the meter and in some cases a separate flat round antenna is installed through the meter box lid. This antenna is connected to the endpoint via a cable. As such, it is important that care and specific procedures are taken when removing the lid to avoid damaging the antenna, cable and or endpoint.



At some locations where AMI devices have been installed, some of these devices have been damaged/disconnected/removed by both City and private contractors working in and around the meter boxes. For City contractors, specifically, this appears to be associated with CIP work on waterline upgrade projects. This equipment has to be positioned/installed in a specific manner to perform optimally, so if the equipment is disturbed it needs to be returned to the exact position it was in originally and with the end points installed pointed upwards as shown below. The PUD's code compliance staff is following up on cases of damaged equipment and will be issuing citations and invoices to responsible contractors.



Below are some photos demonstrating a typical installation of an AMI endpoint and an example of how the equipment was left after work by a City contractor:



Below is a photo of how these sites are left by the contractors:



You are responsible when working in and around meter boxes. If you encounter these endpoints, use proper care and do not disconnect them from the registers on top of the water meter. Also if the lid has an antenna drilled through, do not change or tamper with the lid and inform the Resident Engineer about the location of that lid.

Another component of the AMI system are the Network Devices. The Network Devices are strategically placed units that collect interval meter reading data from multiple meters for transmission to the Department Control Computer.

These devices are critical to the performance of the network and any damage or outage would diminish service to our customers. The loss of a device for any significant period will have severe impacts.

Below are photos of these network devices. Please call the number on the sticker on the Network device (619-515-3525) if your work will impact these street lights as these are assets that belong to the City of San Diego. The City will be seeking reimbursement for any costs of disruption of this network.



Below is an example of the sticker attached to the device.



If you encounter any bad installations, disconnected/broken/buried ERTS or inadvertently damage any devices or cables, please contact our AMI Project Manager Arwa Sayed at (619) 362-0121 immediately.