FIRE SERVICE POLICY
MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT

GENERAL

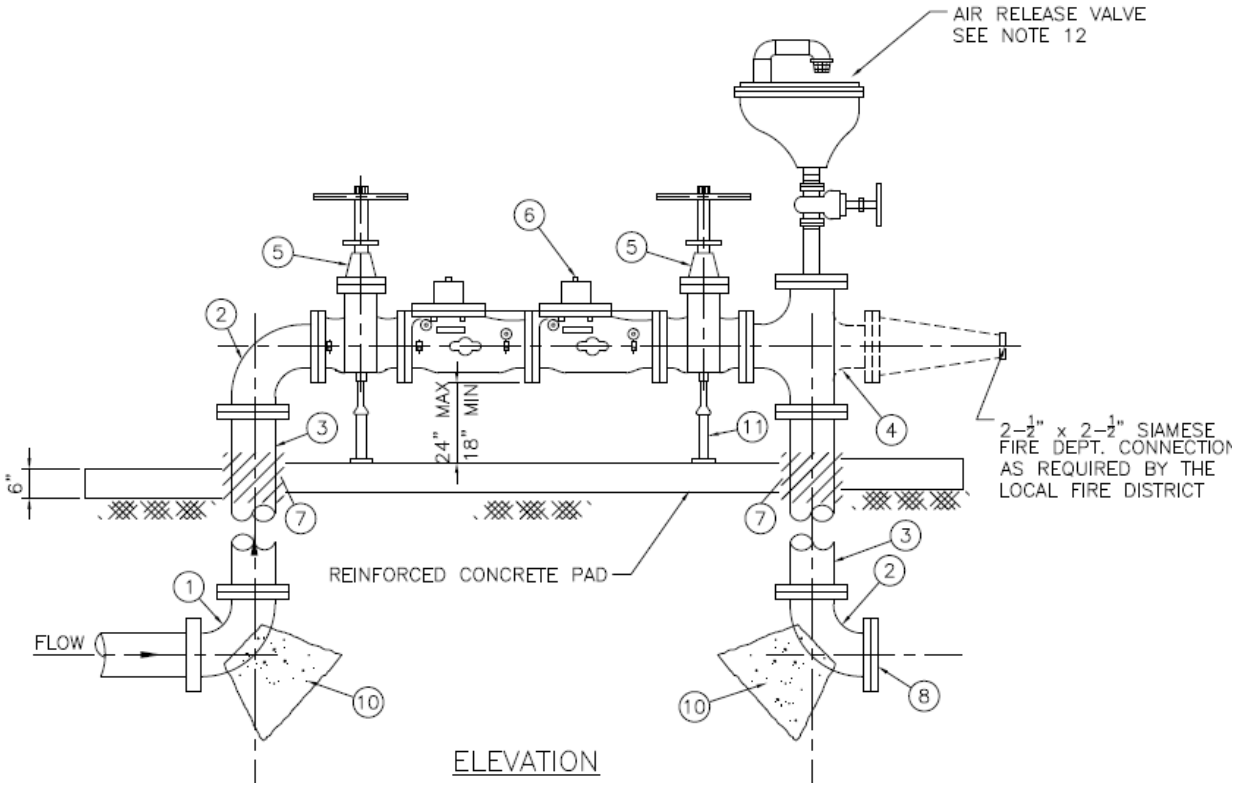
Marina Coast Water District charges customers with separate fire service connections a monthly fee, based upon the size of the fire service connection. District Ordinance 58 defines the size of the fire service as the size of the backflow prevention valve (also known as a "check valve") installed on the fire service lateral, but authorizes the District Engineer to reduce the size of the fire service for purposes of determining the applicable monthly fire service fees if the on-site fire pipeline is smaller than the backflow prevention valve (backflow prevention assembly). The purpose of this policy is to standardize the methods for requesting a reduced fire service size assessment for both the Central Marina and Ord Community Service Areas.

Building fire services supply the on-site fire sprinkler systems and private on-site hydrants. They are designed to meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, and the required flow rates are determined based upon the size and type of building and are approved by the local fire jurisdiction. Fire systems are typically designed to provide a required flow rate and pressure at the two highest sprinkler heads in the system. The fire system design calculation considers the entire system from the water main through the service lateral, the backflow prevention assembly, the on-site piping and the sprinkler heads. The pressure loss across a backflow prevention assembly is inversely proportional to the valve size (the smaller the check valve, the bigger the pressure loss), so the backflow prevention assembly may be larger than the other on-site piping.

LATERAL AND PIPELINE SIZE

The fire service lateral is the pipe which connects the District's water main to the customer's on-site piping. The lateral ends at the backflow prevention assembly, which is typically located at or near the property boundary along the public right-of-way. The backflow prevention assembly is installed above-grade, as shown in the diagram below. If the customer's on-site piping reduces in size after the backflow prevention assembly, it may be visible above-grade, or the reduction may occur below-grade (point 8 in the diagram).

There is typically one fire service connection per building. Parcels with multiple buildings may have a single large fire service serving all buildings, or separate fire services for each building. Buildings with multiple tenants or condo units typically have a single fire service to the building, unlike the domestic water service which may be metered for each unit. The fire service customer is the owner of the backflow prevention assembly connected to the District's fire service lateral. The District will not subdivide the fire service bill among multiple tenants or condo owners.



APPLICATIONS

Customers desiring to have the assessed size of their fire service reduced from the size of the backflow prevention assembly to the size of the on-site piping must submit a written request (letter) to the District Engineer. The request must include the following information:

1. Customer Name
2. Account Number
3. Property Address for the subject fire service
4. Size of the backflow prevention assembly on the fire service
5. Size of the on-site fire system piping past the backflow prevention assembly

The customer must provide documentation of the on-site piping sizes. Any of the following items may be submitted:

1. Approved building plans showing the fire system piping and sizes
2. Fire system design calculations for the building, signed by the system designer, showing the piping sizes
3. Photographs of the pipeline reducer after the backflow prevention assembly. Include a ruler or tape measure in the photograph to provide a scale.

4. Photographs of the building fire riser. Include a ruler or tape measure in the photograph to provide a scale. Note that a site inspection will be required to verify the riser size and verify that it is the only fire pipeline to the building.
5. Number of turns required to close or open the first gate valve (or post indicator valve) past the backflow prevention assembly. The size of an underground gate valve may be determined by the number of rotations it takes to fully open or close the valve (see table). Note that a site inspection will be required to verify the size.

Valve Size (in)	No. Rotations
3	7
4	14
6	20
8	27
10	33
12	38

APPROVALS

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 58, the District Engineer shall review all requests for reducing the assessed size of fire services. If the provided documentation is not sufficient to verify the size of the on-site piping, a staff member may contact the customer and conduct an on-site inspection. Once verified, the District Engineer shall notify the customer in writing of the approval and assessed fire service size, with copy to the Customer Service Supervisor to update the customer account. If the request cannot be verified or if the site inspection finds that the on-site piping matches the backflow prevention assembly size, the District Engineer shall notify the customer in writing that the request is not approved, and include a list of the missing documentation, if applicable.

APPEALS

If the customer's request is not approved by the District Engineer, then the customer may appeal the District Engineer's decision by filing a written appeal to the General Manager within ten (10) business days of the date of the District Engineer's decision. The decision of the General Manager shall be final and conclusive.

AUTHORITY: This Rule is adopted pursuant to MCWD Code Section 1.04.120