



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Michael Hill *Health Agency Director*

Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH *Health Officer/Public Health Director*

Subject: Approval of Pressure Vacuum Breaker on Landscape Irrigation Systems

May 9, 2008

Beginning July 1st 2008, the County of San Luis Obispo will no longer approve the installation of Pressure Vacuum Breakers (PVB's) on new landscape irrigation systems. The most common models used are the Wilkins 720-A or FEBCO 765. This is primarily due to the complicated installation requirements which result in improper installations causing health and safety concerns. Other factors considered prior to this decision were the consistent improper use of the PVB device as meter protection or installing the device behind buildings hundreds of feet from the water meter. Finally, in order to achieve consistency with other jurisdictions in Southern California, which have discontinued the use of PVB's, the County of San Luis Obispo will adopt this prohibition.

Use of the PVB and the Spill Resistant Vacuum Breaker used internally, such as permanently affixed to commercial dish washing machines or properly installed within hospitals and factories, will continue to be allowed.

It is the goal of this department to gradually phase out the devices by allowing existing devices to be tested as long as the device passes with no repairs needed. If the device fails for any reason it must be replaced with an USC approved Reduced-Pressure Principle Backflow Assembly (RP).

Questions regarding this policy may be addressed to Matt Giuffrida, Cross-Connection Control Inspector, at (805) 781-5567 or via email at mgiuffrida@co.slo.ca.us.

Environmental Health Services

2156 Sierra Way, Suite B | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-5544 | (F) 805-781-4211

www.slocounty.ca.gov/ehs