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COMMISSIONERS

**DIGHTON WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**

**WATER CONNECTION MORATORIUM REGULATION**

**Section 1. Authority**

The Board of Water Commissioners of the Dighton Water District adopts this Regulation pursuant to its authority under Chapter 359 of the Acts of 1950, and any other special or general law pertaining to the use and regulation of the District's public water supply system.

**Section 2. Purpose and Reasons**

This regulation is adopted to protect the public health, safety and the environment and to protect the integrity of the District's public water supply system by prohibiting new water service connections for residential and commercial users for a temporary period of time to allow the District to study system wide capacity issues and to determine whether and upon what terms and conditions new connections may be permitted in the future.

The ability of the District to allow new connections to the District's public water supply system is limited by the capacity of its public water supply and treatment plant. The District has five (5) wells which have a registration of .74 MGD. Cedar #1 has a registration of 119 GPM but is only capable of producing 44 GPM. Cedar #2 has limitations due to piping issues that were not corrected when the plant went online in 2006, the same piping issue is present at Walker #1 and #2. The wells are dependent on recharge from rain and do not sustain their capacities with increased demand for extended periods of high demand. The distribution system cannot be unidirectionally flushed properly due to the limitations of the Treatment plant and our storage capacity. The treatment plant was intended to treat up to 1500 GPM but can presently only be run at 750 GPM due to existing design and treatment process limitations. The District pumped 192 MG last year but lost 30 MG in the treatment process. This water loss represents over 2 months of winter usage. When the plant was built the District had 1200 service connections, but has increased to 1900 connections presently. The rate of planned and

anticipated real estate development within the District is expected to result in a substantial number of new connections and increased demand for water. The Board of Water Commissioners has determined that new connections and resulting increase in demand will negatively affect water quality unless and until the District improves and expands its water supply, treatment, and distribution systems, including but not necessarily limited to improving the efficiency of its treatment process, completing a water audit, implementing a leak detection program, improving the capacity of its wells and expanding its water supply sources. Additionally, the District must reserve capacity for emergency situations and fire protection.

Time is needed to study and address the foregoing issues. The moratorium is intended to remain in effect only as long as the Board of Water Commissioners deem necessary, initially up to two (2) years, to complete a review of the District's water supply, treatment and distribution systems and to develop adequate capacity to allow new connections to the system.

### **Section 3. Water Connection Moratorium**

For a period of two (2) years from the effective date of this Regulation, the District shall not approve applications for new connection to the District's public water supply system as follows:

Residential Uses. This moratorium will apply to new residential lots that are not on record with the Registry of Deeds as of the date of this moratorium. New residential subdivisions and lots shown on "Approval Not Required" plans that are recorded with the Registry of Deeds after the effective date of this moratorium will not be approved for water connections during the time period that the moratorium is in effect. This moratorium does not apply to lots that are shown on existing plans on record with the Registry of Deeds as of the effective date of this moratorium.

New multi-family developments will not be approved for water connections during the moratorium irrespective of whether they are on pre-existing lots or newly created lots.

Commercial Uses. The Board of Water Commissioners will consider applications for new commercial connections on a case-by-case basis during the moratorium. The Board will require any applicant to demonstrate that the proposed connection will not adversely impact the capacity of the water supply system. If the Board determines that the system does not have adequate capacity for the proposed connection it reserves the right to either deny the application, or to allow the connection with conditions designed to reserve adequate capacity of the water supply system.

This moratorium shall not apply to connections which are solely for fire protection purposes.

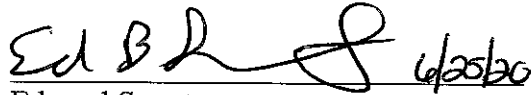
### **Section 4. Effective Date**


This Regulation shall take effect upon its passage and publication.

### **Section 5. Severability**

The invalidity of any section, provision, paragraph, sentence or clause of this Regulation shall not invalidate any other section, provision, paragraph, sentence or clause thereof.

Adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020 by the Board of Water Commissioners of the Dighton Water District:

  
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