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**BULLETIN: WATERFLOW TESTS FOR FIRE SYSTEMS****PURPOSE:**

To save water, due to the 2014 drought state of emergency by clarifying that there are alternates to waterflow tests and, that when alternates are not available, older waterflow test data may be used.

**BACKGROUND:**

The design of fire protection systems such as fire hydrants and automatic fire sprinkler systems requires certain information about water pressures and flow rates that is usually obtained by waterflow tests. These tests result in water usage that is not reclaimed. Historically, DSA has required the waterflow tests be no older than 6 months at time of project submittal. Section 23.2.1.1 of NFPA 13 requires the test to be conducted no more than 12 months from the time of submittal and also allows the authority having jurisdiction to exercise discretion when determining how current the waterflow test data must be. In addition, current codes and standards accept and encourage alternate means of determining or obtaining waterflow data.

**DECLARATION:**

1. In lieu of waterflow tests, DSA currently accepts and will continue to accept one of the following:
  - A letter signed by the local fire authority certifying the available flows and pressures.
  - An analysis by the applicable water agency (or licensed civil or fire protection engineer) that determines the available flows and pressures. This analysis shall be performed using knowledge of the flows and pressures in the system, taking into account the future expected growth and demand of the community.
2. Where a waterflow test is used for the purposes of the design of fire hydrants or automatic fire sprinkler systems, DSA will, due to the current drought state of emergency, accept waterflow tests that have been conducted up 12 months prior to the date the project is submitted.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

- 2013 California Building and Fire Codes
- 2013 NFPA 13
- 2013 NFPA 24
- DSA Project Submittal Guideline: Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems