

# Development/Developer Survey Summary



October 21, 2021

# Background

- Topic of interest in early 2021
- Discussion in April around practices of individual utilities
- Request after the meeting to document various practices
- Created a survey – lots of input on questions members would like to include

# Who responded?

## 9 Utilities

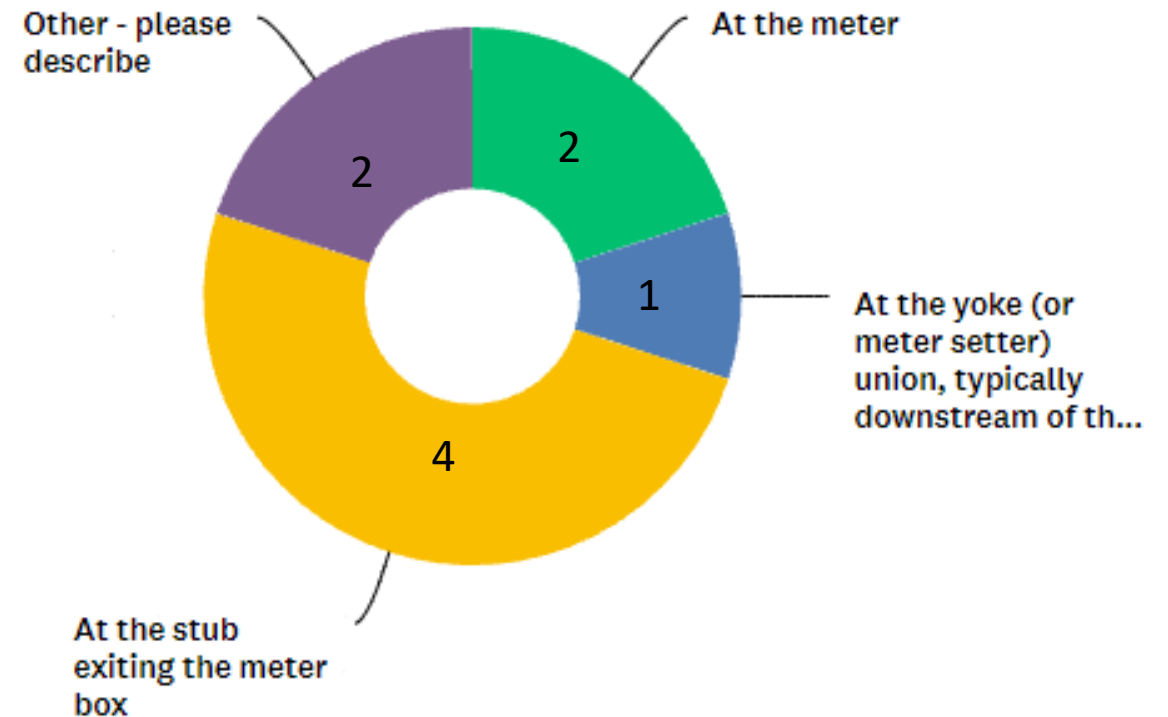
- Seattle Public Utilities
- Tacoma Water
- City of Everett Public Works
- Firgrove Mutual Water Company
- City of Renton
- Alderwood Water and Wastewater District
- City of Auburn
- Covington Water District
- Lakehaven Water and Sewer District

# Where is your public-private service line connection?

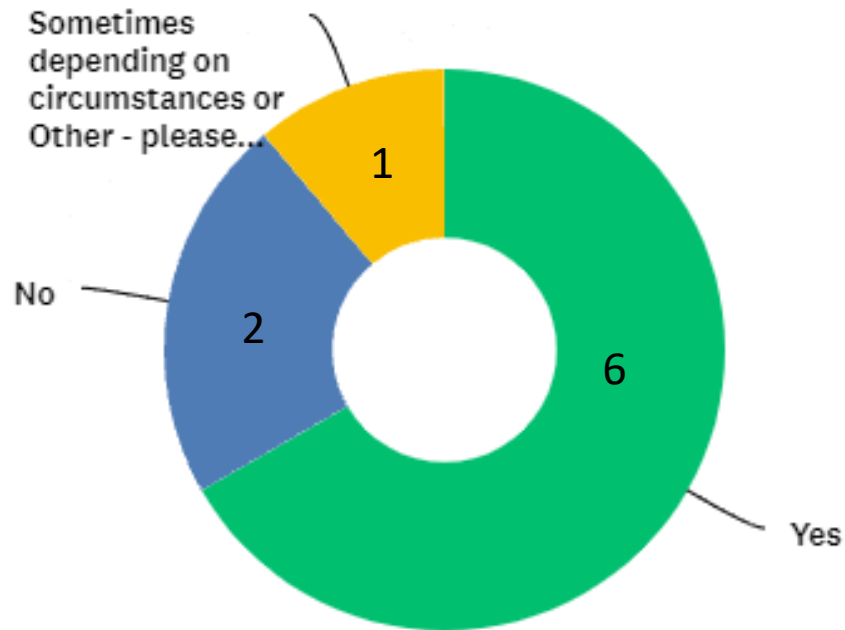


## Other

- Residential at the union, commercial/large fire at vault exit
- Coupling downstream of the meter tailpiece, typically ending one foot onto the property line



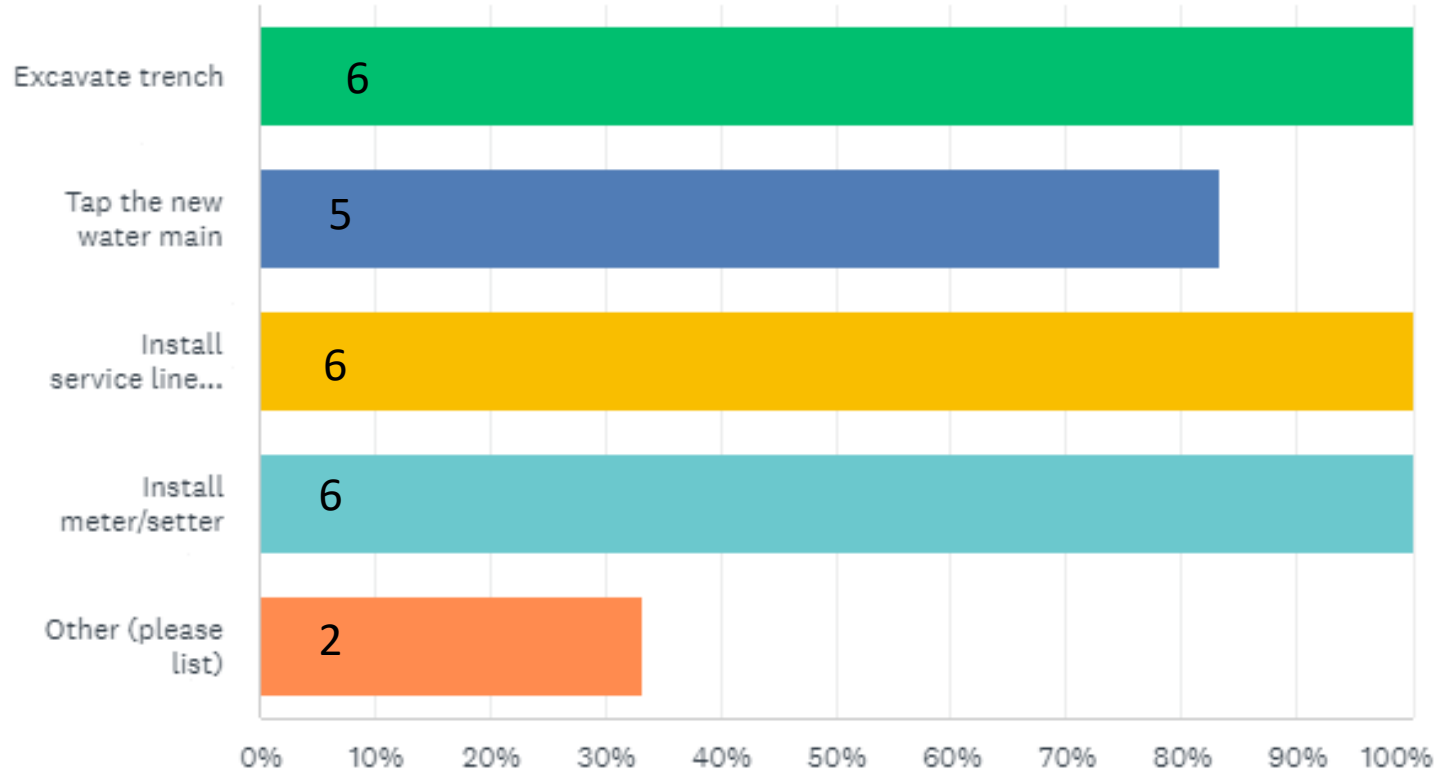
# Do you allow contractors to install water service lines (from water main to water meter) with development-related water main work?



## Comments

For new development with installation of a new water main, the Contractor installs the water service line and setter as part of the installation of the new water main. For development without the installation of a new water main, the developer pays a fee and the City water crews install the service line, setter, and make the connection to the existing main.

# What kind of contractor work is allowed?



## Comments

Contractors allowed to install of water service lines for new water mains. Services connected to existing water mains are installed by City water crews.

Contractors are allowed to tap the water main only under observation of the utility inspector; install only meter setter (utility installs the meter)

# If you allow contractors to install water service lines, what construction oversight do you provide?



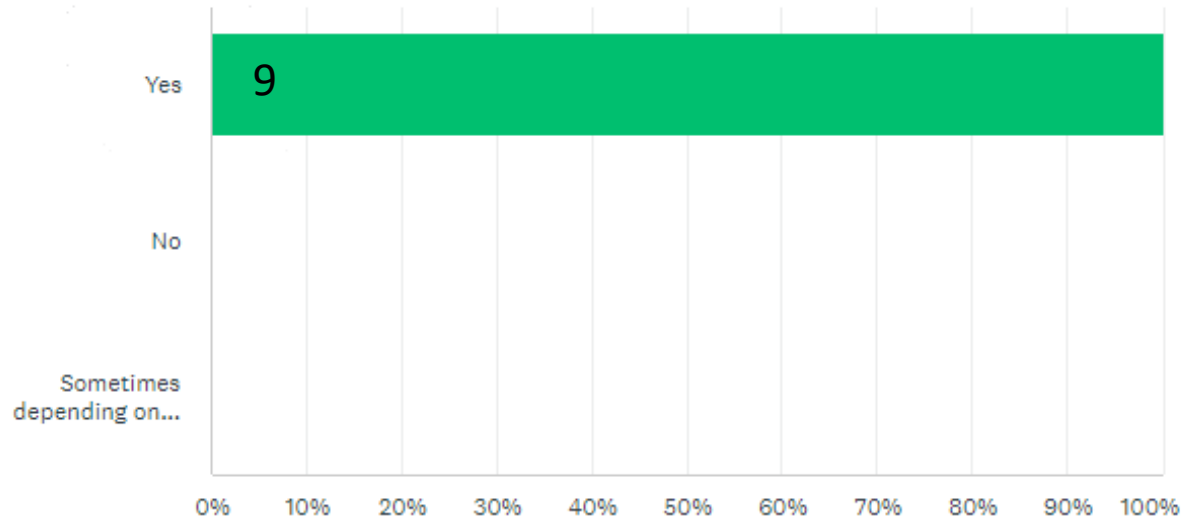
## **Inspector on site/oversight**

- Full oversight of mainline, appurtenance and service connection stub installations
- Inspector at site
- Service lines are pressure tested with the new main. The City Inspector oversees the pressure test.

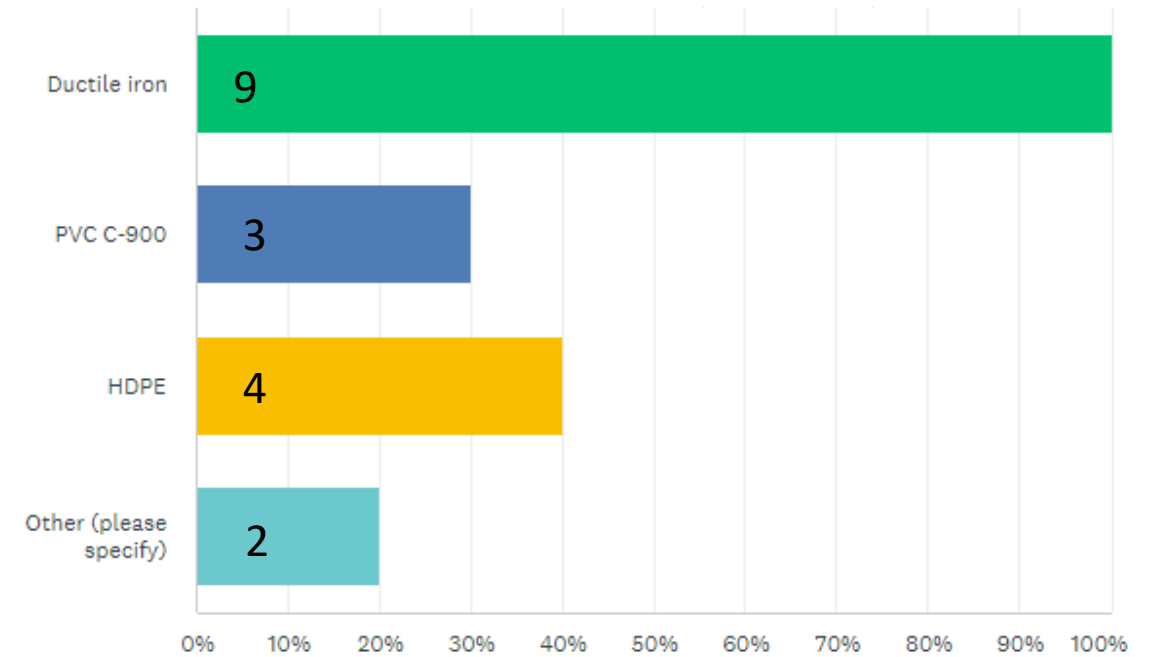
## **Inspection**

- Inspector checks prior to backfilling (2)
- Construction inspection
- Service is installed according to standards and inspected by system personnel

# Do you allow contractors to install water main extensions?



# What type of pipe material do you allow developers to install?



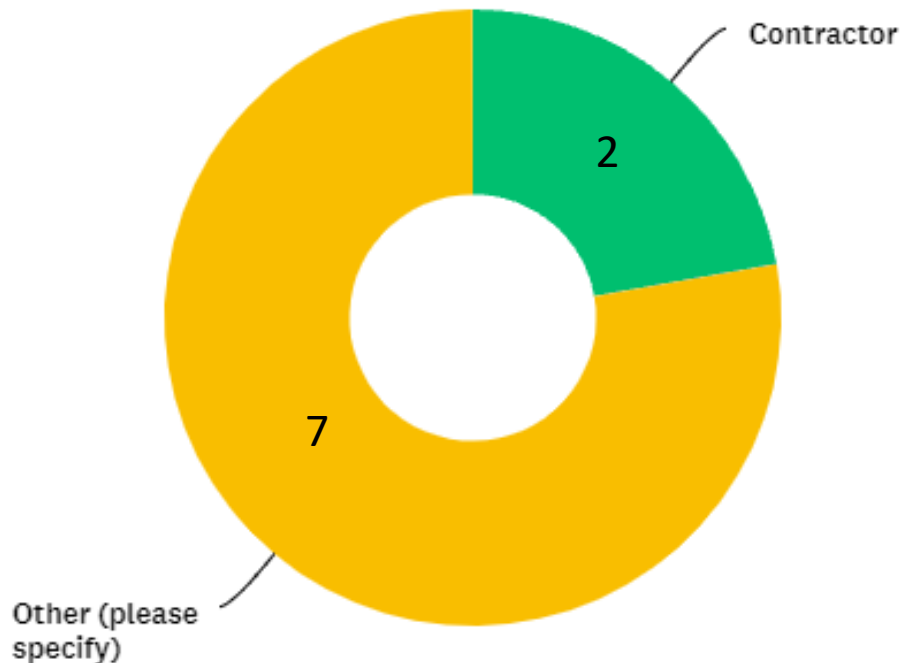


# If you allow contractors to install water mains, who completes testing of the new main (pressure and disinfection)?

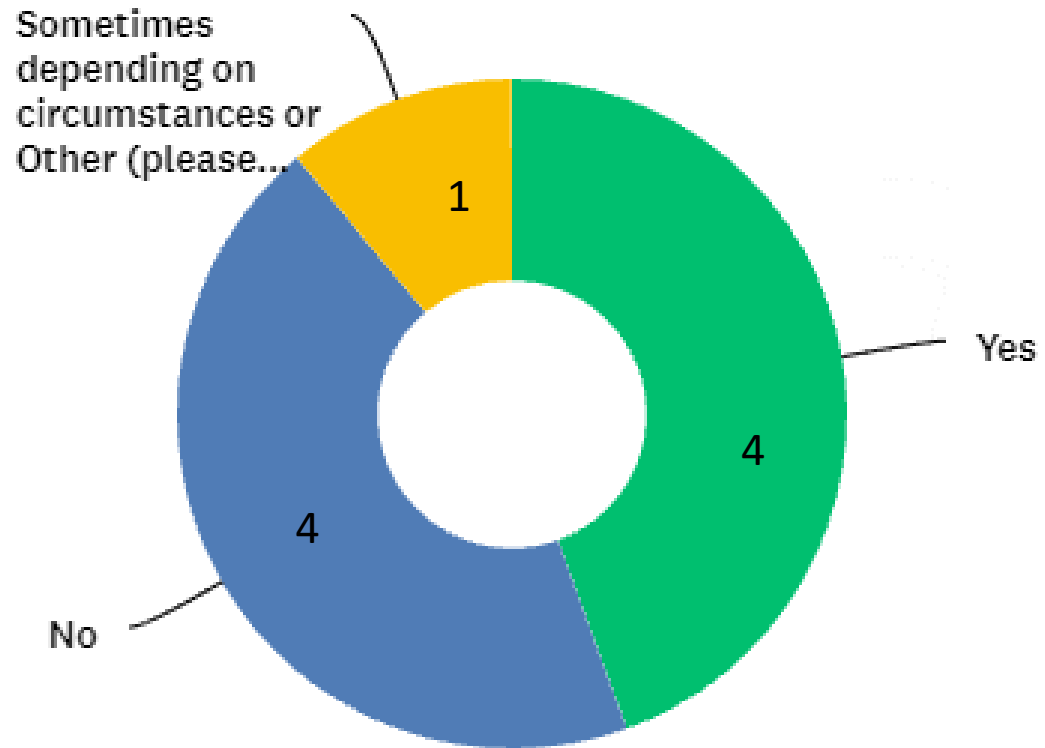
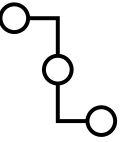


## Comments/other:

- For pressure test contractor performs per spec with utility inspector observation, utility/City does disinfection (2)
- Contractor with utility personnel oversight.
- Contractor performs the pressure testing and poly-pigging of the new main under supervision of the City Inspector. The City disinfects the main and charges the developer based on a linear footage of pipe chlorinated. The City makes the final connection to the existing main after all satisfactory pressure testing and disinfection of the new main
- Contractor pressure test and disinfect, City inspector collect purity sample
- Contractor sets up pump and tests for inspection. Disinfection utility staff sets up w/ District rented hydrant cart and chlorinator.
- Contractor with inspectors observing pressure and disinfection testing



If you allow contractors to install water mains, do you allow contractors to make the final connection from a new water main to the existing water system?



**Other comments**

Contractor with utility oversight

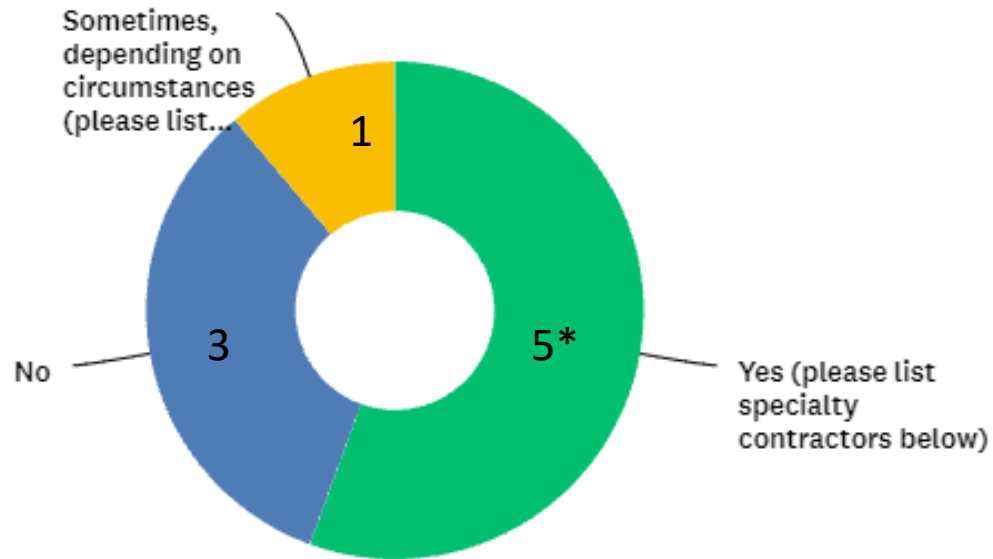
If you allow contractors to make the final connection from a new water main to the existing water system, what construction oversight do you provide?



### **Lots of active oversight and inspection!**

- We provide on site construction inspection at all stages. We also support construction activity with shutdowns and customer notifications.
- System personnel provide oversight the entire time.
- Inspection
- Inspector and operations staff at site. Operations staff operate valves.
- Full inspection oversight including inspection of backfill and compaction
- Full oversight
- A District inspector must be onsite to observe the work

# Do you allow “Wet-Tap or Hot-Tap” specialty-contractors to perform large water service taps or fire hydrant taps on existing water mains?



## Specialty Contractors Listed

Speer Taps

Legacy Tapping

Ferguson

\*one utility noted yes, but not large services

## Size of small service lines?

Utility	Sizes
Tacoma Water, Seattle Public Utilities	2" and smaller
Firgrove Mutual Water Company	¾"-2"
City of Renton, Lakehaven Water and Sewer District	1", 1.5", 2"
Alderwood Water and Wastewater District	¾", 1"
City of Auburn	1-2"
Covington Water District	1.25-2"
City of Everett Public Works	½-2"

## Standard materials for small service lines

Material	Responders
Copper	6*
Poly	3
Type K Soft Copper	1
HDPE	2

\*One utility noted copper for 1"

# What are your standard materials for "large" service lines (2" or larger)?

## **Lots of ductile iron!**

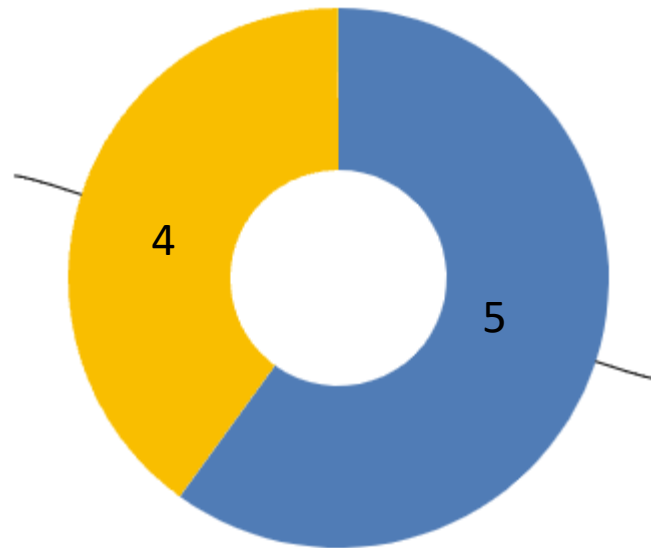
- Ductile iron and plastic when circumstances warranted (stray current, soil contamination, corrosive soil, etc.)
- Poly or copper
- 2" – Type K Soft Copper; 4" or larger - Ductile Iron
- Ductile iron for 3" and larger
- Ductile iron (2)
- DI, copper
- DI or HDPE

# For attached ADUs: When Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are constructed on a single-family lot, how do you provide water service?



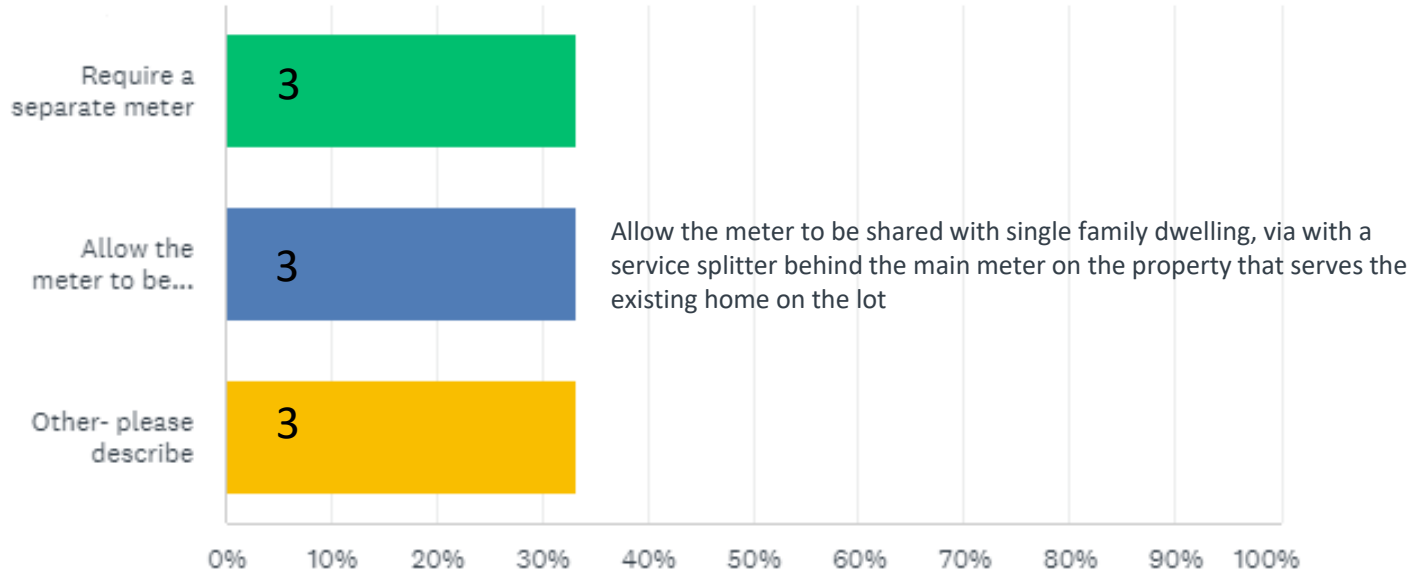
## Other

- Attached ADU's are normally served by extending plumbing. We allow the meter to be shared as long as the fixture count can be served by the current meter
- We allowed the service to be shared with the single-family dwelling
- No policy developed yet
- Allow a service splitter behind the main meter on the property if sufficient service line & meter size exist for both SFR & ADU



Allow the meter to be shared with single family dwelling, via with a service splitter behind the main meter on the property that serves the existing home on the lot

# For detached ADUs: When ADUs are constructed on a single-family lot, how do you provide water service?

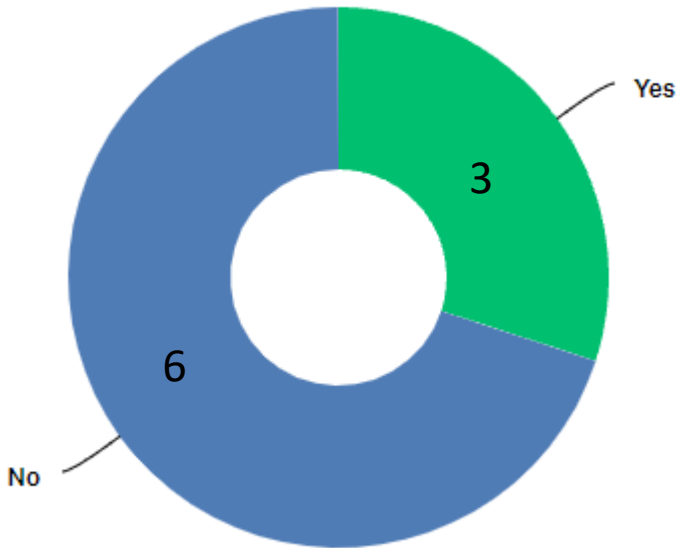


## Comments

- Allow meter to be shared but require agreement to be signed not to subdivide and they pay extra base rate and connection charges. Or they can have T&M install of a new service line, separate meter, agreement and pay connection charges.
- We allow both.
- Require a separate meter for the ADU if single service line & meter size is insufficient to serve both SFR & ADU.



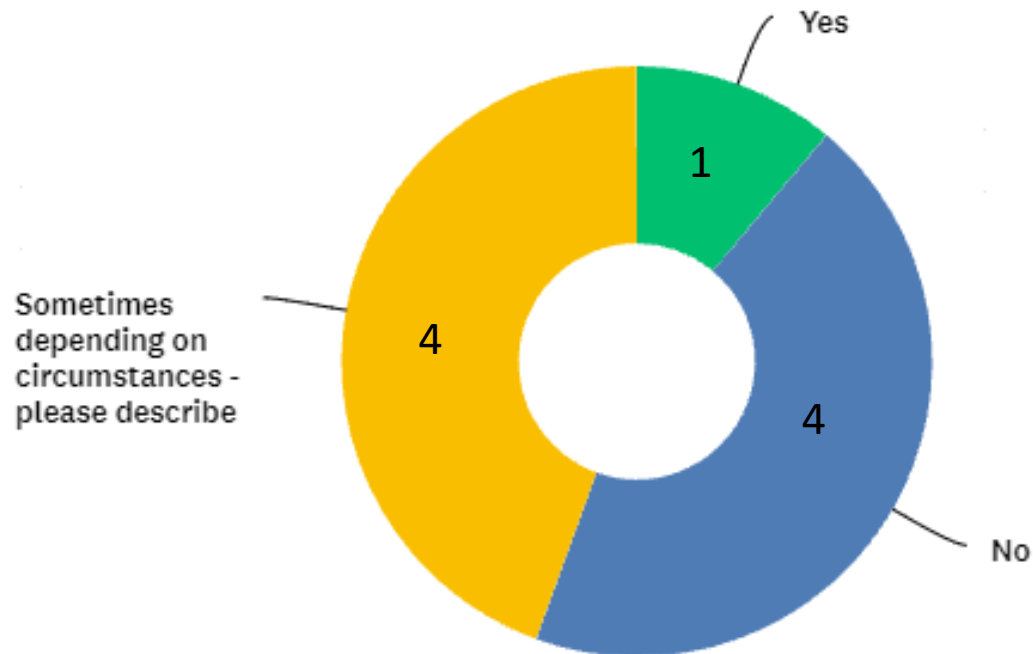
# For **detached ADUS**: Do you provide water service connections at reduced rate that is below the cost to provide a water meter service line to a single-family home?



### Comments

- If the ADU shares the service, they only pay an additional SDC
- We require 50% of the system development charge (SDC), but the service line installation and meter drop-in are at full rate

# Do you require new water mains to be cleaned with foam “Poly Pigs” instead of just flushing the pipes?



## “Sometimes” comments:

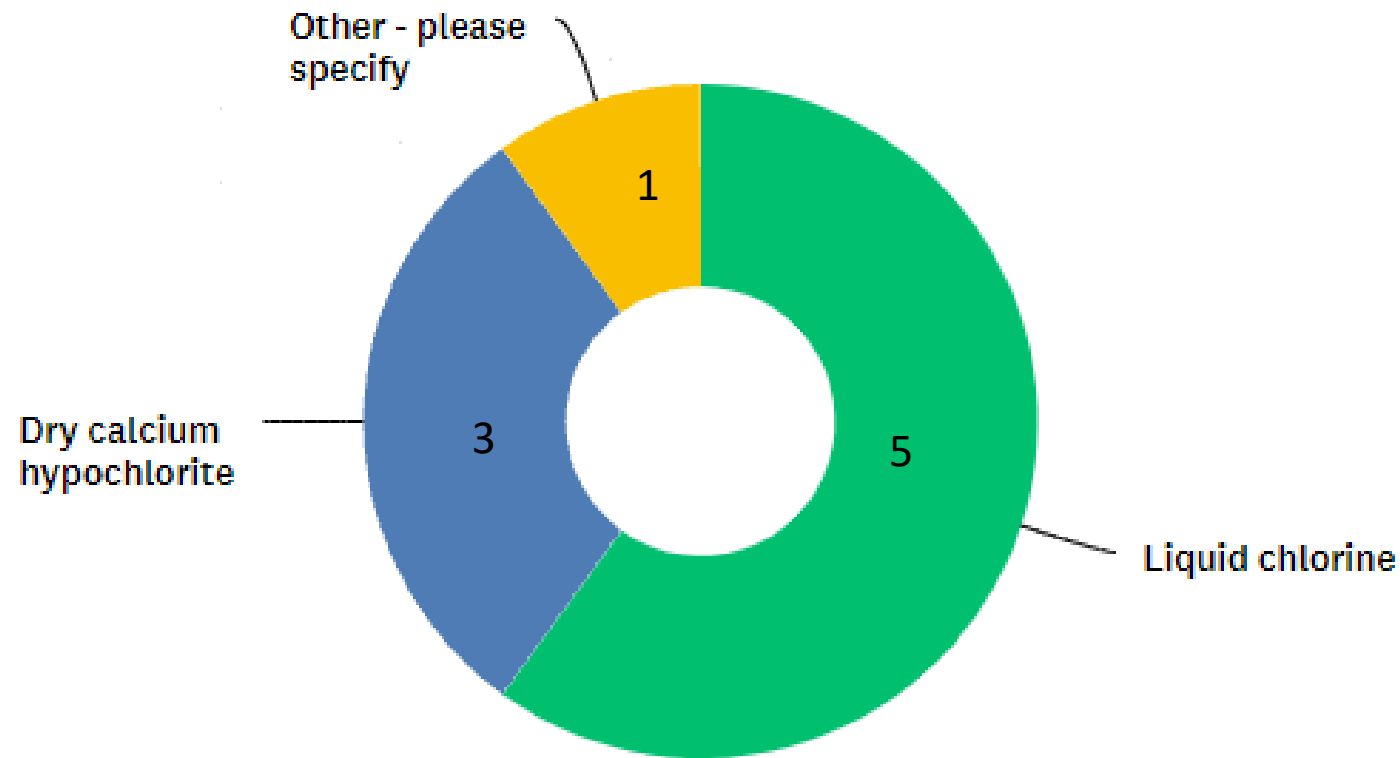
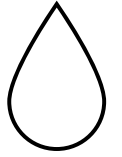
- We don't require pigging of the pipe, however we do require swabbing of the connections.
- When normal flushing does not do the job.
- Just for end connections on one stick of pipe or less.
- If the contractor cannot pass disinfection test.

# What is the minimum duration you require for the hydrostatic pressure-test of new mains?



- 15 minutes (3)
- 15 minutes at 200 psi
- 3 - 15 min tests per tested section
- 30 minutes
- 2 hours
- 2 hours with no more than 5 psi of pressure loss
- 4 hours

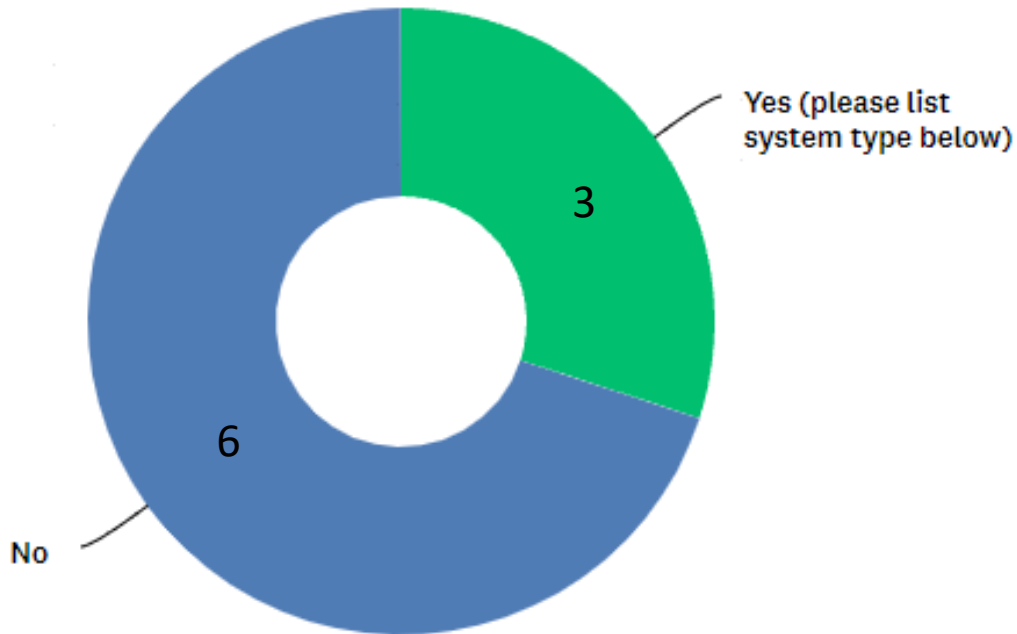
# What is your disinfection method for new water mains?



## Other

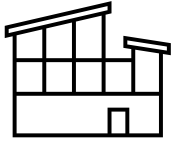
Liquid bleach as well as dry HTH (high test hypochlorite)

# Do you have a fixed-network AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) system on your water meters?

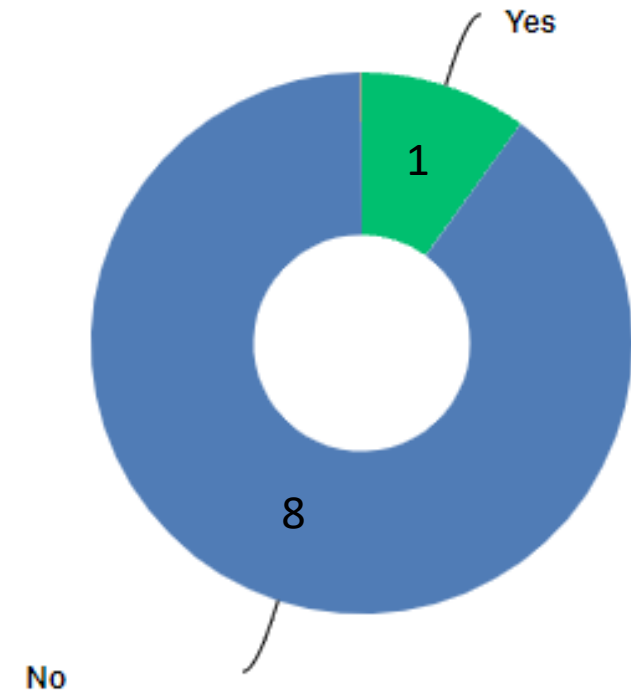


## System Types

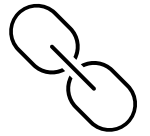
- Sensus fixed network (2)
- Sensus meter and Sensus head end units, deployment is underway/not yet complete. Many other vendors with other aspects of the system
- Mueller – being installed



Do you allow the installation of large domestic water meter and vault (3-inch and larger) inside commercial buildings that are adjacent to a street right-of-way with an easement and/or right-of-entry agreement if there is no room in the right-of-way?



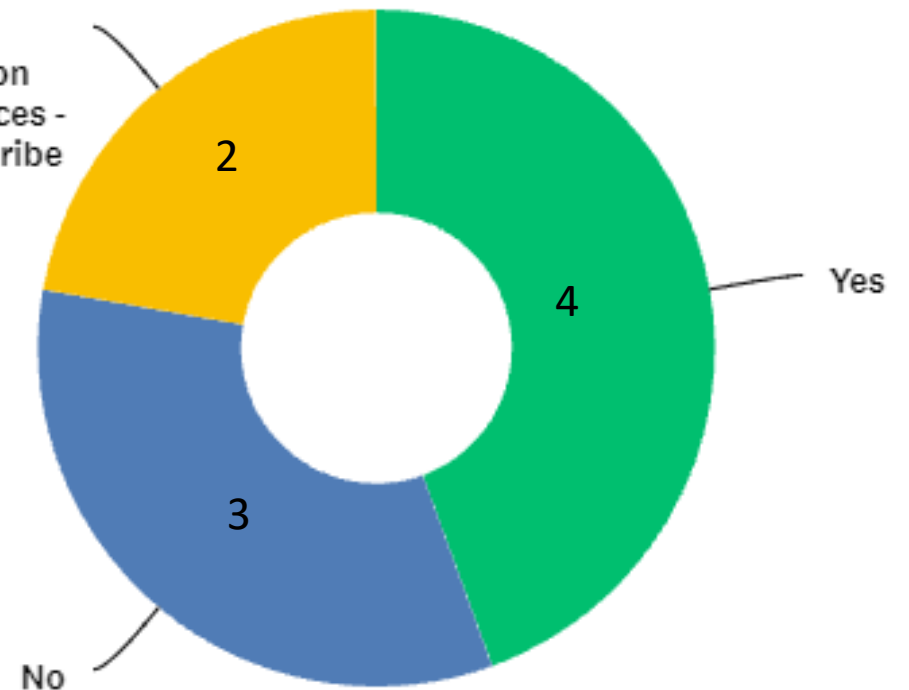
# Do you allow use of FIELD LOK gaskets for joint restraint?



## Comments

- We use several different forms of anchoring and thrust control, field lok gaskets standard on hydrant laterals and in situations with soil or space concerns
- Site specific

Sometimes depending on circumstances - please describe



# Discussion

Reactions?

Thoughts?

Any next steps or follow up?