

City of Brentwood Public Works/Operations – Water Operations Division

WATER MAIN FLUSHING FACT SHEET

JUNE 2012

City of Brentwood's Valve Program Keeps Pipes Clean, Water Quality High

From time to time, you may notice the City of Brentwood's Water Operations Division crews opening water valves or fire hydrants and running water in your neighborhood. This systematic maintenance program extends the life of pipes and valves, and keeps water quality high.

Why is The City of Brentwood Water Operations Division Opening the Valves?

Water leaving the treatment plant and the wells is clean and safe, but may pick up tastes, colors, or odors as it travels through distribution system pipes on its way to customers. Opening the valves improves water quality at the customer tap and uncovers potential problems. Opening valves and hydrants is the only way to clean the pipelines, the brief--but high--flow of water scours the pipes.

Doesn't This Waste Water?

No, by opening and closing valves and using the pressure of the water to clean pipes, the City of Brentwood is undertaking preventative maintenance that keeps the quality of the water in pipelines high, and helps prevent a major leak or valve failure in the future. Unplanned events like a main break or valve failure can mean a lot of lost water, so the little bit of water lost when opening the valves reduces the risk of larger amounts being lost during an unplanned, uncontrolled event.

Will My Water Service Be Affected?

Most customers will not be affected by this activity; however, some might temporarily experience a slight discoloration or sediment in their water after pipelines in their area have been cleaned. To clear this sediment, run all outdoor spigots until the water runs clear, and then run interior faucets until they run clear. This typically takes about three to four minutes. Service interruptions normally do not occur during pipeline cleaning activities.

How Long Does The City of Brentwood Keep The Valves Open?

The valves are open for about three to four minutes, though the amount of time can be longer depending on the length and size of the pipe.

For questions or assistance, contact the City of Brentwood Public Works/Operations Division at (925) 516-6000.



Hydrant Flushing

