Public Comment

This is to address one of the questions from Council about in-fill lots and well systems residential fire sprinkler systems. Residential sprinkler systems are designed to have a water supply with a minimum duration of 10 minutes. The average residential sprinkler system is designed to flow two sprinklers for 10 minutes minimum, thus needing an approximate 300 gallon water supply. A utility company can provide this service for an average cost of $3,500. But in areas without water, what options are available.

The most common solution is a pump and tank system, as shown in the above and below photos. This system is comprised of a tank, typically plastic, and a small pump suited to meet the sprinkler system design needs. The tanks have a float-fill system keeping the systems adequately filled once connected to the domestic system. These systems can be purchased as a package or separately to meet the consumer needs.

In comparing the costs of a pump and tank system versus those found in a home water utility system, pump and tank systems have an average cost of $3,400. Based on our research the cost difference of residential sprinkler system served by a water utility versus a pump and tank is an average of $100 cheaper for the pump and tank and in some cases systems could be much cheaper than the fees of the utility department.

Additional benefits of the pump and tank systems are designed for space efficiency with small footprints. Some tanks are designed to fit thru doorways as small as 29” or can be installed in confined spaces as bolt-together tanks. Many of the pump and tank systems have options for use in areas without power, such as connection to solar power supplies or pneumatic design utilizing a pressurized nitrogen cylinder instead of a pump.