

EQUIPMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPLICATION
Fall 2015

Name of Person Submitting Request:	Achala D. Chatterjee
Program or Service Area:	Water Supply Technology
Division:	Applied Technology, Transportation & Culinary Arts
Date of Last Program Efficacy:	Spring 2014, mini review, fall 2011 full efficacy
What rating was given?	Continuation, Continuation
Equipment Requested	Two backflow station and water trough
Amount Requested:	\$13,000
Strategic Initiatives Addressed: (See Appendix A: http://tinyurl.com/15oqoxm)	1.9, 2.6, 2.6.6, 2.8

NOTE: To facilitate ranking by the committee, submit separate requests for each item; however, multiple items can be submitted as one request if it is required that the equipment is packaged together.

Replacement Additional

1. Provide a rationale for your request.

The Backflow and Cross-connection Control courses are taught in a lab built in 2006 in Room T101. The lab currently houses 6 stations with common valves and controls. These courses have enrollment limits of 25 students each. Thus 4 to 5 students share one station. Ideally 2-3 students should share a station so that each student has enough hands on time to manipulate the valves and learn how to troubleshoot malfunctioning valves. 2 additional stations will allow 3 students to share a station. This will increase the hands on time that each student needs to improve competency. These two new stations will house newer valves which will also offer students more variety of valves to practice on. Depending on the jurisdiction where the student wishes to work as a backflow professional, he/she would need either a county (LA, Riverside, San Bernardino, or Orange) or American Water Works Association (AWWA) certification. All the certification tests include both a written test and a hands-on proctored test. Thus time spent working with the valves is really important for a student to succeed in the hands-on part of the test. Student who obtain industry (County and/or AWWA) certification in Backflow and Cross Connection Control can start their own business or work for a private plumbing company or for a city, a county or a municipal agency. If the backflow lab houses eight stations, then the San Bernardino County and the AWWA are willing to send a proctor to the campus to conduct hands-on portion of the test. Our students would be less intimidated by the certification process if it is held on their home turf in familiar laboratory setting. This would results in more students being certified at the end of the course. Having Backflow Certification Test on campus would also bring in foot traffic from the industry. These professionals need continuing education every three years to renew the licenses. Thus it would provide familiarity and free recruitment for the program on a regular basis. The department goal is to have every student who enrolls in the Backflow and Cross-Connection Control course to pass at least one county/AWWA certificate upon successful completion of the courses.

2. Indicate how the content of the latest Program Efficacy Report and current EMP data support this request. How is the request tied to program planning? (*Reference the page number(s) where the information can be found on Program Efficacy.*)

EMP data shows that the enrollment in the program has fallen in the last year from 933 to 758, a drop of 19% in one year. Sections were cut in 11-12 to address the cut in college budget, but since then new sections have been added. The enrollment management in the program needs to be re-evaluated and re-assessed. Multiple sections with single digit enrollment have led to low WSCH/FTEF numbers. Thus increasing number of students in the program is very important. Increasing enrollment in each section is very important to bring up the WSCH/FTEF number. If San Bernardino County and/or AWWA sends a proctor to SBVC campus to conduct the hands on lab exam at the end of every semester, SBVC campus we will see more foot traffic from industry professionals. This would serve as an on-going advertisement for our program. We need an adequately sized laboratory with more stations to meet the needs of our students and also to serve as a teaching area for industry professional in the inland empire.

3. Indicate if there is additional information you wish the committee to consider (*for example, regulatory information, compliance, updated efficiency, student success data, planning, etc.*).

The SBVC Water Program is one of the only two program which provides education in the fields of Water/Wastewater in the inland empire. The Water/Wastewater industry is highly regulated. Students have to obtain job specific state certificates in order to work in the industry. Thus the courses and program that is offered by the college must be tied closely to the industry certification. Having a laboratory that is adequately sized to meet the needs of a course and which helps our students successfully obtain industry certification is very important for continued relevance of the program in the inland empire and the growth of the water program at Valley College.

4. Evaluation of initial cost, as well as related costs (including any ongoing maintenance or updates) and identification of any alternative or ongoing funding sources (*for example Department, Budget, Perkins, Grants, etc.*).

Approximate cost of water trough is \$5,500 – The trough catches the water released when backflow valves are opened. It is needed so that the floor does not get wet and so that there is not slip hazard. Approximate cost of copper pipes, fittings and two backflow stations is \$7500 – These valves will be installed in series with the existing stations. Total cost is \$ 13,000. Department has no budget funded by general funds. Perkins grant, NSF grant, MWD grant etc. have funded different items in the department but they are not reliable source of funding as the purpose and scope of each grant can vary significantly.

5. What are the consequences of not funding this equipment?

The water program prepares students for the workforce and for career development and provides training for incumbent (displaced) workers. It provides skills for students who like to work outdoors and with their hands. The program trains workers who want to obtain rewarding, high-paying, stable jobs after one or two years of coursework at SBVC (Efficacy Report, p. 12). If the college does not provide budgetary support for the WST program, then it will be hampered in its efforts to support students and provide a well-trained workforce for the Inland Empire (and beyond). Instead of focusing on the classroom and curricular development to meet ever-changing regulatory and industry needs, the faculty are forever trying to make do with below par laboratory or busy working on grants.