

**LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT  
WEBSITE PRIVACY STATEMENT  
May 2004**

**Introduction**

The Long Beach Water Department ("LBWD") recognizes that technology has changed the nature and accessibility of government business information and the prospective use of that information. While committed to applying technology to improve access to information, we are strongly committed to protecting your online privacy.

The purpose of this statement is to inform you about the types of information we gather when you visit our web site, how we may use that information, whether we disclose it to anyone, the security precautions we take to protect your privacy, and how to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

**Collection of Information**

We collect information that is used for analysis and statistical purposes that help us manage our web site. Also, we collect information to assist us in delivering service and information to you.

**(1) Information collected for statistical purposes**

We automatically collect electronically generated information about your visit to our site, such as the date, type of browser used, and technical Internet protocol data. We collect this information about each user session from our use logs, and refer to it for statistical purposes.

**(2) Information provided when using our interactive forms and functions**

This information may include such things as name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and other personal and business data, depending on the particular service you use. We collect only those data necessary to provide the service that you are requesting.

**Use of Information**

If you send an e-mail message to us with a question or comment that contains personally identifying information, or fill out a form that transmits this information, we will only use the personally identifiable information to respond to your request and analyze trends. We may redirect your message to another governmental agency or to another person who is in a better position to answer your question.

In order to provide you with the ability to receive directed e-mail information in which you have expressed an interest, it is necessary for LBWD to collect your e-mail address. This information is used only for e-mail distribution to the specific list or lists for which you have registered. By agreeing to use this service, you are granting permission to us

send periodic e-mails to you about topics for which you registered. LBWD will use your e-mail address only for this e-mail service.

### **Disclosure to Third Parties**

LBWD is subject to laws requiring disclosure of public records. Any information that we receive through use of our web site is subject to the same provisions as information we receive on paper. Unless required to do so to comply with these laws, we do not share personal identifying information with any third party without your permission. We disclose our statistical analyses or users' demographics to third parties only in aggregate form. This information is not reported or released to any third parties unless we are legally required to do so in connection with law enforcement investigations or other legal proceedings. Further, we do not reveal e-mail addresses to third parties for independent use unless you specifically authorize us to do so.

### **Sale of Data**

LBWD does not sell data for direct mail or advertising purposes.

### **Security**

Our web servers contain state-of-the-art industry security precautions that prevent personal information from being stolen or tampered with. If you submit a credit card number, that information is protected by secure server software (SSL), which encrypts all information before being securely sent across the Internet.

Also, we limit employee access to personally identifiable information to only those employees who need access to perform a specific job. All employees are kept up-to-date on our security and privacy practices.

### **Use of Cookies**

We do not use "persistent" cookies to collect permanent information (note: a cookie file contains unique information that a web site can use to track such things as passwords, lists of pages you've visited, the date when you last looked at a specific page, or to identify your session at a particular web site. A cookie is often used in commercial sites to identify the items selected for a specific shopping cart application.). We use "non-persistent" cookies in applications that keep track of a user and make it possible for you to complete a form or use a function, but this cookie disappears when you finish filling out an application, or searching a database.

## **Control of Personal Information**

At any time while accessing our web site, any user while online may decline participation in any activity that asks for information ( e.g., survey, e-mail, e-commerce). Your choice not to participate will in no way affect your ability to use any other feature on our site. We also offer you the permanent option to unsubscribe from any e-mail lists maintained for our listserv service. Users may at any time choose to remove themselves from any list.

## **Children**

No application on our web site specifically solicits information from minors or seeks to determine whether the visitor is a minor. Consequently, LBWD has no way to determine if visitors are minors. So, please be aware that the collection of personal information requested from or volunteered by children online or by e-mail will be treated in the same manner as information given by an adult. This information may become a public record and as such, may be subject to public access. We ask that parents guide their children when children are asked to provide personal information online.

## **Disclaimer**

This site provides links to other sites. This privacy policy applies only to the website of LBWD. When you link to any other web site, you are subject to the privacy policy of that site. Visitors linking to another site are encouraged to examine the privacy statement of that site.

While LBWD attempts to maintain current data throughout its website, we regret that this may not always be possible. Neither LBWD, nor any officer or employee of LBWD warrants the accuracy, reliability, or timeliness of any information published on this system, nor endorses any content, viewpoint, products, or services linked from this system and shall not be held liable for any losses caused by reliance on the accuracy, reliability, or timeliness of such information. Portions of such information may be incorrect or not current. Any person or entity that relies on any information obtained from this system does so at his or her own risk.