



Affordability Impact Statement

Housing and Planning Department

Onsite Water Reuse Systems Regulatory Framework

Proposed Regulation

Austin Water is seeking to establish regulations for the voluntary use of alternative water sources that are treated for reuse for non-potable applications, otherwise known as Onsite Water Reuse Systems (OWRS). This ordinance would establish regulations in Chapter 15 of City Code (Utility Regulations) for the design, treatment, permitting, and ongoing maintenance of OWRS. These regulations do not mandate OWRS for any developments but apply only when a development voluntarily elects to capture, treat, and reuse water from alternative sources onsite.

Land Use/Zoning Impacts on Housing Costs

☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral

These regulations do not have any direct effects on land use or zoning.

Impact on Development Cost

☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral

These regulations will only affect developments that voluntarily implement OWRS. The number of residential developments impacted is anticipated to be negligible.

Impact on Affordable Housing

☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral

These regulations will not directly affect Affordable Housing.

Imagine Austin Housing and Neighborhood Policies Implemented

HN P8: Encourage green practices in housing construction and rehabilitation that support durable, healthy, and energy-efficient homes.

Strategic Housing Blueprint Strategies Implemented

None.

Other Policy Considerations

These regulations are intended to ensure the health and safety of individuals who would be impacted by OWRS as well as establish rules for administration of such systems. These regulations advance Austin Water's Water Forward Plan, adopted by City Council in 2018, which recommended increasing capture, treatment, and reuse of onsite alternative water supplies in new development.

The draft revisions to the Land Development Code included an OWRS mandate for developments larger than 250,000 square feet within three years from adoption of an on-site regulatory framework, anticipated by 2024. Austin Water will use the interim time to better understand, quantify, and analyze the hard and soft costs and long-term savings associated with OWRS. Due to its inclusion in the broader LDC Revision, no AIS is anticipated for the OWRS mandate policy specifically.

Proposed Alternative Policy Language

None.

Date Prepared

November 18, 2020

Manager's Signature Matt Dugan