



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 24-4149, **Agenda Item #:** 101.

2/29/2024

Posting Language

Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance amending Exhibit A to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 City Fee and Fine Ordinance (Ordinance No. 20230816-007) to add a dedicated GoPurple component of \$0.15 cents per thousand gallons to Austin Water's water utility and wastewater utility community benefit charge to support reuse strategies in the Water Forward plan (Suggested date: March 7, 2024, at Austin City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas).

Lead Department

Austin Water.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

August 16, 2023 - Council approved an Ordinance No. 20230816-007 authorizing fees, fines, and other charges to be set or charged by the City for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on September 30, 2024.

August 16, 2023 - Council approved an Ordinance No. 20230816-008 adopting the Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The proposed GoPurple community benefit charge will fund part of Austin Water's reclaimed water system expansion as well as incentive programs to expand the use of reclaimed water within new development projects. Austin Water's customers who are enrolled in the Customer Assistance Program (CAP) do not pay this Community Benefit Charge so their water and wastewater bills will not be impacted by this proposed increase. The impact will be a \$1.47 monthly increase for the average residential customer who is not enrolled in the CAP program.

Austin Water continues to expand its centralized reclaimed water infrastructure (known as "purple pipe") throughout Austin. This system delivers non-drinking water for irrigation, cooling towers, toilet/urinal flushing, and virtually any use not requiring higher-quality drinking water. Expanding the use of reclaimed water builds Austin's resilience against drought and climate change by diversifying our water supply. Reclaimed water is a renewable resource that is less expensive to treat, and users are charged lower rates. All customers benefit from the expansion of the reclaimed water system, which is a key strategy in Austin's Water Forward 100-year water supply plan.