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24
25 **WHEREAS**, Austin Water has determined that the proposed “GoPurple
26 Program,” which includes pilot incentives for cost-sharing to connect to the City’s
27 reclaimed water system and rebates for onsite water reuse systems, is necessary for
28 implementing the mandatory water reuse regulations in the Land Development
29 Code for new multi-family, mixed use, and commercial developments that are
30 250,000 square feet or greater; and

31 **WHEREAS**, onsite water reuse systems help develop local water supplies
32 using technologies that are new and innovative to the water industry; and

33 **WHEREAS**, market penetration of onsite water reuse system technology for
34 multi-family, mixed use, and commercial buildings is low; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Austin Water will use cost and other project data collected
36 from the “GoPurple Program” to inform future updates to the Water Forward plan;
37 and

38 **WHEREAS**, on April 22, 2021, in order to expedite the review and
39 approval of incentives for systems, staff recommended and City Council approved
40 for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 a total of \$1 million for a pilot incentive program, with
41 not more than \$500,000 available per individual project, without the need for
42 additional City Council approval; and

43 **WHEREAS**, on September 30, 2021, City Council reauthorized for Fiscal
44 Year 2021-2022 a total of \$1 million for a pilot incentive program, with not more
45 than \$500,000 available per individual project, without the need for additional City
46 Council approval; and

47 **WHEREAS**, on September 29, 2022, City Council reauthorized for Fiscal
48 Year 2022-2023 a total of \$1 million for a pilot incentive program, with not more
49 than \$500,000 available per individual project, without the need for additional City
50 Council approval; and

51 **WHEREAS**, in order to continue expediting the review and approval of
52 incentives for onsite reuse systems and to incentivize reclaimed system
53 connections, staff recommends that City Council approve for Fiscal Year 2023-
54 2024 a total of \$5,600,000 for a pilot incentive “GoPurple Program,” with not
55 more than \$500,000 available per individual project, without the need for
56 additional City Council approval; and,

57 **WHEREAS**, Austin Water will report to applicable boards and
58 commissions the incentives and details of approved projects; **NOW**,
59 **THEREFORE**,

60 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

61 The City Council makes the following findings that support the use of the
62 pilot financial incentive “GoPurple Program” in the development of onsite water
63 reuse systems and reclaimed water system connections:

- 64 1. Given the potential for more severe and frequent drought conditions in
65 Central Texas as a result of the impacts of climate change, it is
66 essential that new policies to conserve water continue to be developed
67 to support the sustainable growth of the City.

2. Water conservation efforts, including incentives for onsite water reuse systems and reclaimed water connections, help maximize limited resources as the City's population grows while ensuring supply for critical public health and safety needs, including adequate supplies necessary for emergency firefighting, fire suppression, natural disaster, and other emergency management responses.
3. The reuse of alternative on-site water avoids or reduces the costs of new water supply and related infrastructure for the treatment, storage, and distribution of potable water that is charged to Austin Water customers.
4. The "GoPurple Program" for large, new commercial, mixed use and multi-family developments will provide information on the cost, installation, operation, maintenance, and regulatory guidance for alternative onsite water reuse systems needed for the successful implementation of the mandatory installation requirements.
5. The City: (1) through use of a pilot financial incentive program to support the development of onsite water reuse systems and reclaimed water system connections accomplishes an important public purpose; (2) through its oversight of the development and use of alternative onsite water reuse systems supported by the City's "GoPurple Program" retains public control over the funds to ensure that the public purpose is accomplished and that the public's investment is protected; and (3) through its oversight of the pilot incentive "GoPurple Program" ensures that the City receives a return benefit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council approves a pilot incentive program not to exceed \$5,600,000, with a reimbursement limit of \$500,000 per project, to implement the use of onsite water reuse systems and reclaimed water connections in multi-family, mixed use, and commercial development projects.

ADOPTED: _____, 2024 **ATTEST:** _____

Myrna Rios
City Clerk