

RESOLUTION NO. 20120126-047

WHEREAS, water conservation is a long-standing priority for the City of Austin, and Stage 2 Watering Restrictions are currently in effect; and

WHEREAS, with properly designed graywater systems, household water from bathroom sinks, showers, bathtubs, and clothes washers can be safely reused for such purposes as foundation watering and irrigation for gardens, landscaping, and compost; and

WHEREAS, an average household can save between 40 and 90 gallons per day by using a graywater system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Plumbing Code includes provisions that create significant hurdles for the permitting of graywater systems; and

WHEREAS, to date the City of Austin has permitted only one single-family residential graywater system through its current permitting and approval process; and

WHEREAS, several interested citizens, including the owner of the previously permitted single-family graywater system, have organized a Graywater Working Group to help identify and address impediments to the creation of additional graywater systems in Austin; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to work with the Graywater Working Group and other stakeholders to identify impediments to single-family residential graywater system implementation in the City of Austin and make recommendations on alleviating them, including:

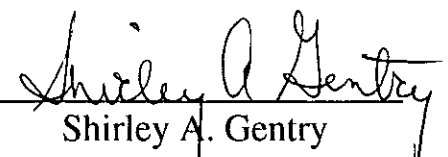
1. the exploration of the feasibility of code amendments and make recommendations, inclusive of both retrofitting and new construction;
2. a permitting and approval process for graywater systems;
3. a technical guidance document, with recommendations for the Environmental Criteria Manual; and
4. a program for staff support of graywater systems, potentially housed in the Austin Green Building Program, including recommendations on trainings, resources, and incentives and/or rebates for participation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

1. Recommendations for code amendments and the permitting and approval process should be presented to Council by June 30, 2012.
2. Recommendations on the technical guidance document and the staff support program should be presented to Council by March 31, 2013.

ADOPTED: January 26, 2012

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk