1 ORDINANCE NO. 2 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6-4 TO THE CITY CODE RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION, REGULATION OF 3 4 COOLING TOWERS, PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES, AND THE ADDING 5 OF NEW OFFENSES THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENT OF 6 ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES; OR CIVIL AND CRIMINAL 7 PENALTIES; AND AMENDING SECTION 15-9-241 RELATING TO 8 EVAPORATIVE LOSS CREDIT ON WASTEWATER CHARGES FOR 9 **COOLING TOWERS.** 10 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN: 11 PART 1. FINDINGS. 12 The City Council finds that: 13 1. Given the potential for severe and frequent drought conditions in Central 14 Texas, it is essential that new water use policies to conserve water continue 15 to be developed. 16 17 2. Water conservation efforts, including policies for responsible water 18 conservation and regulations for cooling towers, help maximize limited 19 resources as population grows while ensuring supply for critical public 20 health and safety needs including adequate supplies necessary for emergency fire fighting, fire suppression, and natural disaster or other emergency 21 22 management or disaster response. 23 24 3. As water is essential to public health and sanitation and the City's water 25 supply is the sole or primary water supply for over a million people, water conservation and drought condition measures that help assure the 26 27 maintenance of a sufficient City water supply for the City's customers are 28 necessary to protect public health and for the purposes of sanitation. 29 **PART 2.** City Code Section 6-4-2 (*Definitions*) is repealed and replaced with a

31 **§ 6-4-2 - DEFINITIONS.**

new Section 6-4-2 to read as follows:

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32 Unless a different definition is expressly provided, in this chapter:

33 (1) ACTION OF THE UTILITY means an action taken by Austin Water 34 pursuant to this chapter. 35 AQUATIC LIFE means a vertebrate organism dependent upon an (2) 36 aquatic environment to sustain its life. 37 (3) AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEM means any irrigation system 38 connected to and being operated by a programmable controller, 39 including a permanently or temporarily installed irrigation system. AUSTIN WATER, AW, AWU, and the Utility mean the Austin 40 (4) 41 Water Utility. 42 AUXILIARY WATER means a water supply from a source other than (5) 43 Austin Water's potable water supply. 44 AUSTIN WATER AUTHORIZED IRRIGATION INSPECTOR (6) 45 means an Irrigation Inspector licensed by the Texas Commission on 46 Environmental Quality who has also both passed a director-approved 47 class in landscape irrigation and has been awarded Austin Water Authorized Irrigation Inspector status in accordance with rules 48 adopted pursuant to this chapter. 49 50 **(7)** BLEED-OFF (BLOWDOWN) means the circulating water in a 51 cooling tower which is discharged to help keep the dissolved solids concentrating in the water below a maximum allowable limit. 52 53 BLOWDOWN METER or discharge meter means a meter that tracks (8) the amount of water discharged from a cooling tower system. 54 COMMERCIAL FACILITY means a site with five or more dwelling 55 (9) units, or a municipal, business, or industrial building and the 56 57 associated landscaping, but does not include the fairways, greens, or tees of a golf course. 58 59 COMMERCIAL NURSERY means a facility where plant nursery (10)60 stock, trees, seedlings, turf, shrubs, flowers, herbs, crops or other plant 61 materials are cultivated, grown, stored, or maintained prior to retail 62 consumer, installer, or reseller purchase, use, consumption, or 63 installation of the materials at any location other than the commercial 64 nursery. 65 (11)COMMON AREA means an area held, designed, or designated for the 66 common use of the owners or occupants of a townhouse project, 67 planned unit development, apartment, condominium, mobile home park, or subdivision. 68

69 CONCENTRATION means re-circulated water in a cooling tower (12)that has elevated levels of total dissolved solids as compared to the 70 71 original make-up water. 72 CONDUCTIVITY CONTROLLER means a device used to measure (13)the conductivity of total dissolved solids in the water of a cooling 73 74 system and control the discharge of water in order to maintain 75 efficiency. 76 COOLING TOWER means an open water recirculation system that (14)77 uses fans or natural draft to draw or force air to contact and cool water 78 through the evaporative process that removes heat from water-cooled 79 air conditioning systems and from industrial processes. 80 (15) COSMETIC POWER WASHING means treatment or cleaning of a 81 surface with specialized equipment that uses a spray of or directed 82 water for the cosmetic cleaning of buildings, vehicles or other mobile 83 equipment, or outdoor surfaces. It does not include industrial cleaning, cleaning associated with manufacturing activities, hazardous or toxic 84 85 waste cleaning, or cleaning necessary to remove graffiti. CYCLES OF CONCENTRATION means the ratio of the dissolved 86 (16)87 solids in recirculating water to the dissolved solids in the make-up 88 water 89 DESIGNATED OUTDOOR WATER USE DAY means the day (17) during which a person is permitted to irrigate outdoors as prescribed 90 in City Code Section 6-4-13(E) (Water Conservation Guidelines). 91 92 DIRECTOR means the Director of Austin Water. (18)93 (19)DRIFT ELIMINATOR means a device that captures large water 94 droplets caught in the cooling tower air stream to prevent the water 95 droplets and mist from escaping the cooling tower. 96 (20)DRIP IRRIGATION means a method of irrigation which is typically 97 installed below ground and consists of porous piping that allows the 98 application of water at a slow and constant rate. 99 DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN means a strategy or (21)100 combination of strategies for temporary supply management and 101 demand management responses to temporary and potentially recurring 102 water supply shortages and other water supply emergencies required 103 by Texas Administrative Code Title 30, Chapter 288, Subchapter B.

104 105 106	(22)	FOUNDATION WATERING means an application of water to the soils directly abutting the foundation of a building, structure, or improvement on land.
107 108 109	(23)	GOVERNMENT PROPERTY means property owned or operated by a federal, state, or local governmental unit, entity, agency, or subdivision for a public purpose.
110 111	(24)	HOSE-END SPRINKLER means an above-ground water distribution device that may be attached to a garden hose.
112 113	(25)	MAKE-UP means the amount of water required to replace normal losses caused by bleed-off (blowdown), drift, and evaporation.
114 115	(26)	MAKE-UP METER or intake meter means a meter that measures the amount of water entering a cooling tower system.
116 117 118	(27)	MANUAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM means an irrigation system designed to require the manual operation of valves or the attachment of a quick-coupling device.
119 120	(28)	MULTI-FAMILY PROPERTY means property containing five or more dwelling units.
121	(29)	NEW LANDSCAPE means vegetation:
122 123		(a) installed at the time of the construction of a residential or commercial facility;
124 125		(b) installed as part of a governmental entity's capital improvement project;
126		(c) installed to stabilize an area disturbed by construction; or
127 128		(d) that alters more than 500 contiguous square feet of an existing landscape.
129 130 131 132	(30)	ONSITE ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE means a water source including recycled manufacturing process water, air conditioner condensate, rainwater, stormwater, graywater, black water, cooling tower blow down, and foundation drain water.
133 134 135	(31)	ORNAMENTAL FOUNTAIN means an artificially created structure from which a jet, stream, or flow of water emanates and the water is not used for the preservation of aquatic life.
136 137	(32)	OVERFLOW ALARM means a system that includes a level switch and an electronic signaling device that sends an audible signal or

138 provides an alert via the energy management control system to 139 the tower operator in case of sump overflow. 140 PERMANENTLY INSTALLED IRRIGATION SYSTEM means a (33)141 custom- made, site-specific system of delivering water generally for landscape irrigation via a system of pipes or other conduits installed 142 143 below ground. 144 PERSON means any natural person or legal entity such as an (34)145 individual, business, partnership, association, firm, corporation, 146 governmental, or other natural, business, or legal entity that receives, 147 requests, manages, uses, maintains, or is responsible for water utility service at a service address, whether or not the person or entity is a 148 149 customer or account holder of Austin Water. 150 PREMISE means the outdoor area of property not enclosed by fencing (35)151 or walls or containing living areas, and not including areas for storing 152 vehicles or other motorized equipment. 153 RECLAIMED WATER means reclaimed municipal wastewater that (36)154 is under the direct control of the City treatment plants, satellite 155 facilities, or a treatment plant with which the City contracts, and that has been treated to a quality that meets or exceeds the minimum 156 157 standards of the 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 210. 158 (37) RESIDENTIAL FACILITY means a site with four or fewer dwelling 159 units. 160 (38) SOAKER HOSE means a perforated or permeable garden-type hose 161 or pipe that is laid above ground that provides irrigation at a slow and 162 constant rate. 163 TEMPORARILY INSTALLED IRRIGATION SYSTEM means a (39)universally applicable above ground irrigation system that uses a 164 165 flexible hose or hardened pipe to deliver water to a moveable water distribution device. 166 167 (40) TON means an evaporative cooling ton of 15,000 British Thermal Units (BTUs) per hour. 168 169 (41) VEHICLE WASH FACILITY means a permanently-located business 170 that washes vehicles or other mobile equipment with water or waterbased products, including but not limited to self-service car washes, 171 172 full service car washes, roll-over/in-bay style car washes, and 173 facilities managing vehicle fleets or vehicle inventory.

- 174 (42) XERISCAPE means a landscape which employs certain principles of
 175 design and installation which conserve water and energy and where
 176 the plant material, at mature growth, will provide at least 50% of the
 177 new landscape's areal coverage. The plant material must consist of
 178 plants identified on a plant list provided by Austin Water that are very
 179 low water usage and low water usage plants.
- **PART 3.** City Code Section 6-4-3 (Applicability of Regulations; Affirmative
- 181 Defenses) is amended to read as follows:
- **§ 6-4-3 APPLICABILITY OF REGULATIONS; AFFIRMATIVE**
- **DEFENSES.**

- (A) This chapter applies to a person who uses, directs, manages, or allows the use of potable water supplied by Austin Water [Utility]. The chapter does not apply to a person [who] when the person only uses, directs, manages, or allows the use of auxiliary water or reclaimed water. [unless the auxiliary water or reclaimed water is mixed with potable water supplied by Austin Water Utility].
 - (B) It is an affirmative defense to a violation of this chapter that the use of water that gave rise to the violation was consistent with the agreed upon terms and conditions of a water service contract with a wholesale water customer and that the use did not constitute water waste.
 - (C) It is an affirmative defense to a violation of this chapter that the use of water that gave rise to the violation properly utilized solely auxiliary water, and did not endanger public health, safety, or property.
 - (D[C])It is an affirmative defense to a violation of this chapter that the use of water that gave rise to the violation properly utilized solely reclaimed water, did not endanger public health, safety, or property, and did not constitute water waste in accordance with 6-4-12 (*Water Waste Prohibited*).
 - (E[D])It is an affirmative defense to a violation of this chapter that the act or omission that gave rise to the violation occurred solely because a documented emergency that prevented strict compliance, and that the act or omission did not disrupt the availability of adequate water for other public emergency response or fire fighting or fire suppression purposes.
- PART 4. City Code Section 6-4-7 (*Administrative Rules*) is repealed and replaced with a new Section 6-4-7 to read as follows:
- 209 § 6-4-7 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

210 (A) The director may adopt administrative rules as necessary for the 211 implementation of this chapter. 212 (B) Before the director may adopt or amend a nonemergency rule, the director 213 shall present the proposed rule to the Water and Wastewater Commission and the Resource Management Commission. In cases of emergency rule 214 215 adoption, the director shall present the rule to the Water and Wastewater 216 Commission and the Resource Management Commission as soon as practicable following emergency rule adoption. 217 218 (C) The rules shall be available for inspection on Austin Water's website or at the Austin Water administrative offices during normal business hours. 219 220 **PART 5.** City Code Section 6-4-10 (Facilities Regulated) is repealed and replaced 221 with a new Section 6-4-10 to read as follows: 222 § 6-4-10 - FACILITIES REGULATED. 223 (A) The owner or water account holder of a commercial, or multi-family 224 residential situated on property equal to or greater than 1.0 acre in size 225 shall obtain an evaluation of any permanently installed automatic irrigation system conducted at a frequency prescribed by rules adopted pursuant to 226 this chapter. The irrigation evaluation shall, at a minimum: 227 228 (1) be conducted by an Austin Water Authorized Irrigation Inspector; identified in rules adopted pursuant to this chapter and records 229 230 maintained by Austin Water; 231 (2) be documented on forms provided by Austin Water; and 232 (3) verify that the irrigation system operating on the property complies with all applicable requirements of this chapter, rules adopted 233 234 pursuant to this chapter, and other applicable technical codes. 235 (B) The owner or water account holders of vehicle washing facilities shall 236 provide an evaluation of all vehicle washing equipment conducted at a 237 frequency prescribed by rules adopted pursuant to this chapter. The vehicle 238 washing facility evaluation shall, at a minimum: 239 (1) be conducted by a Texas-licensed plumber of the vehicle washing 240 facility's choice; (2) be documented on forms provided by Austin Water; and 241 242 (3) establish that the equipment is operating in compliance with equipment standards prescribed by rules adopted pursuant to this chapter. 243 244 (C) The owner or water account holder of a cooling tower must: Page 7 of 28

245 (1) register the tower with Austin Water using a form provided by Austin 246 Water: 247 (2) register a new or replacement tower prior to operation; and 248 (3) submit a fully completed annual inspection of the tower to Austin 249 Water by March 1 of each year using a form provided by Austin 250 Water and verifying that the cooling tower is properly permitted and 251 complies with all applicable requirements of this chapter, rules adopted pursuant to this chapter, and applicable technical codes. The 252 inspection must: 253 254 (a) be performed by an independent third-party Texas-licensed 255 mechanical or chemical engineer, or a person holding a Texas 256 Department of Licensing and Regulations Air Conditioning and Registration License (Class A) with a combined endorsement for 257 process cooling and refrigeration; and 258 259 (b) be performed not more than 90 days before the March 1 due date. (D) A facility with 100 tons or greater of combined cooling capacity using an 260 evaporative cooling tower must: 261 262 (1) have the make-up and blowdown meters and overflow alarm connected to the building's central energy management system or 263 264 utility monitoring dashboard; and 265 (2) offset a minimum of 10% of the make-up water with reclaimed or 266 onsite alternative water sources. 267 (E) Restaurants, bars, and other commercial food or beverage establishments may not provide drinking water to customers unless a specific request is 268 made by the customer for drinking water. 269 270 (F) The owner or operator of a hotel, motel, short term rental or other 271 establishment that offers or provides lodging or rental accommodations for 272 compensation shall offer a towel and linen reuse water conservation option 273 to its lodgers, renters, or customers and maintain in each applicable guest 274 room, suite, or property informational signage to communicate information 275 relating to this requirement and to offer the opportunity for guest 276 participation. 277 **PART 6.** City Code Section 6-4-11 (*General Regulations*) is amended to add new 278 Subsections (G) and (H) to read: 279 (G) The owner or water account holder of a cooling tower must:

(1) operate the cooling tower in a manner to achieve a minimum of five cycles of concentration if the cooling tower utilizes potable water as its primary source of make-up water;			
283 (2) equip the cooling tower with:			
284 a. overflow sensors and alarms connected to the building energy management system or utility monitoring dashb			
b. make-up water and blowdown meters to manage water consumption;			
c. conductivity controllers;			
d. drift eliminator with a drift rate of not more than 0.0059 circulated water flow rate for crossflow towers and 0.00 counter flow towers;			
292 (H) The owner or water account holder of a cooling tower shall use a b 293 treat the cooling system recirculation water to minimize the growth 294 Legionella and other microorganisms.			
295 PART 7. Subsection (B) of City Code Section 6-4-12 (Water Waste Proh	<i>ibited</i>) is		
296 amended to read as follows:			
297 (B) A person may not:			
298 (1) fail to repair a controllable leak, including [but not limited to] 299 broken sprinkler head, a broken pipe or a leaking valve; or	a		
300 (2) operate an irrigation system with:			
301 (a) a broken head; or			
302 (b) a head that is out of adjustment and the arc of the spray over a street, parking area, or other impervious surface;			
304 (c) a head that is misting because of high water pressure; or			
305 (3) allow water flow during irrigation that:			
306 (a) runs, flows, or streams in a way that extends into a street, pa 307 area, or other impervious surface for a distance of 50 feet or 308 or			
309 (b) allows water to pond to a depth greater than 0.25 inch in a st parking area, or on other impervious surfaces.	reet,		

312 313	(a) in a manner that allows an overflow from the cooling tower basin to occur; or						
314	(b) without a functioning drift eliminator.						
315	PART 8. Subsections (D) and (E) of City Code Section 6-4-13 (Water						
316	Conservation Guidelines) are amended to read as follows:						
317	§ 6-4-13 - WATER CONSERVATION GUIDELINES.						
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319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335	 (D) Water use regulations of the Water Conservation Stage (Section 6-4-15) remain in effect until such time as the city manager orders termination of the stage in accordance with section 6-4-13(C), (Water [Use] Conservation Guidelines). Unless a drought or emergency stage is expressly declared by order of the City Manager, water use regulations of the Water Conservation Stage (section 6-4-15) automatically resume by default immediately upon any ordered termination of any drought or emergency stage. (E) Any outdoor water use subject to the provisions of this Chapter shall occur only on a day designated for the applicable water use activity, property/facility type, and street number address classification indicated in the following table. A person may not conduct, authorize, or permit outdoor water use except in accordance with the designation schedule set out in the following table. In the following table, "EVEN" or "ODD" correspond to the street number of the physical property address where the outdoor water use occurs. The table below shall be referred to as "the Outdoor Water Use Schedule". 						
	Conservation Stage and Drought Response Stage 1 Watering Schedule						
	Property Type	Watering Day					
	Residential Property - Hose-end EVEN Sunday and T						
	Public Schools Monday						
	Commercial/Multi family - Automatic & Manual EVEN Tuesday						

Wednesday

Residential – Automatic & Manual ODD

Residential - Automatic & Manual EVEN	Thursday				
Commercial/Multi Family - Automatic & Manual ODD	Friday				
Residential Property - Hose-end ODD	Wednesday and Saturday				
Drought Response Stage 2 and Stage 3 Watering Schedule					
Property Type	Watering Day				
Residential Property - Hose-end EVEN	Sunday				
Public Schools	Monday				
Commercial/Multi family - Automatic & Manual EVEN	Tuesday				
Residential - Automatic & Manual ODD	Wednesday				
Residential - Automatic & Manual EVEN	Thursday				
Commercial/Multi Family - Automatic & Manual ODD	Friday				
Residential Property - Hose-end ODD	Saturday				

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PART 9. Subsections (B) and (C) of City Code Section 6-4-14 (*Exemptions*) are amended to read as follows:

- (B) The following activities shall be exempt from the application of Section 6-4-15 (*Water Conservation Stage*), Section 6-4-16 (*Drought Response Stage One Regulations*), Section 6-4-17 (*Drought Response Stage Two Regulations*), and Section 6-4-18 (*Drought Response Stage Three Regulations*):
 - (1) Outdoor irrigation:
 - (a) using a hand-held hose or refillable watering vessel;
 - (b) using drip irrigation;
 - (c) of trees using an automatic bubbler system or soaker hose placed within the drip-line of the tree canopy;

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349 of vegetable gardens using a soaker hose; (d) 350 (e) of athletic fields used for organized sports practice, competition, or exhibition events when the irrigation is 351 352 necessary to protect the health and safety of the players, staff, or officials present for the athletic event; 353 354 (f) immediately following a commercial lawn treatment application 355 by an applicator who possesses required licensure as applicable for use of such substances including but not limited to fertilizer, 356 357 pesticides, and herbicides, provided receipts documenting such 358 application and the applicator's credentials are provided upon 359 request to a designee of the director; or 360 of plant material at a commercial nursery. (g) 361 **(2)** Water use: 362 (a) necessary for repair or installation of a permanently or temporarily installed landscape irrigation system when the 363 person performing the irrigation work is present in the area of 364 irrigation; or 365 366 necessary for the repair, testing, or installation of an ornamental (b) 367 fountain when the person performing the testing, repair or 368 installation is present. 369 (C) The following activities shall be exempt from the application of Section 6-4-15 (Water Conservation Stage), Section 6-4-16 (Drought Response Stage 370 371 One Regulations) requirements: 372 (1) Water use necessary to comply with federal, state, or local land 373 development permits requiring the establishment of new landscaping 374 between the hours of midnight and 10:00 a.m and 7:00 p.m and 375 midnight; and 376 (2) Irrigation of areas documented on a City approved and released site 377 plan as golf course fairways, greens, or tees. 378 PART 10. Subsection (D) of City Code Section 6-4-16 (Drought Response Stage 379 One Regulations) is amended to read as follows: 380 (D) A person may not irrigate outdoors at a residential facility or a commercial 381 facility with a hose-end or manual sprinkler system between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., even if the irrigation occurs on the designated 382 383 outdoor water use day for the location.

- 384 **PART 11.** Subsection (D) of City Code Section 6-4-17 (*Drought Response Stage* Two Regulations) is amended to read as follows: 385 386 (D) A person may not irrigate outdoors at a residential facility or a commercial facility with a hose-end or manual sprinkler system between the hours of 387 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. even if the irrigation occurs on the designated 388 outdoor water use day for the location. 389 PART 12. Subsection (D) of City Code Section 6-4-18 (Drought Response Stage 390 Three Regulations) is amended to read as follows: 391 392 (D) A person may not irrigate outdoors at a residential facility or a commercial 393 facility with a hose-end or manual sprinkler system except between the 394 hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. or between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 395 10:00 p.m. even if the irrigation occurs on the designated outdoor water 396 use day for the location. **PART 13.** Subsection (B) of City Code Section 6-4-19 (*Drought Response Stage* 397 398 Four Regulations) is amended to read as follows: 399 (B) A person may not use or allow the use of water to test or repair a 400 permanently or temporarily installed irrigation system or drip irrigation 401 system. PART 14. Subsection (A) of City Code Section 6-4-30 (Variance) is amended to 402 403 read as follows: 404 (A) The director may grant a variance from a requirement of this chapter if the 405 director determines that special circumstances exist and that: 406 (1) strict compliance with the provisions at issue adversely affects the 407 health, safety, welfare or sanitation of the public, the applicant, or the 408 environment; or 409 (2) strict compliance with the provisions at issue substantially threatens 410 the applicant's primary source of income, the applicant is employing 411 all reasonable water conservation measures, and approval of the 412 variance will not result in water waste in accordance with Section 6-4-413 12 (Water Waste Prohibited). 414 **PART 15.** A new Subsection (B) and an amendment to Subsection (C) are added
- 416 deleted to read as follows:417 § 6-4-42 PENALTY.

to City Code Section 6-4-42 (*Penalty*), and existing Subsections (C) and (D) are

418 (A) A person commits an offense if the person directs, performs, authorizes, 419 requests, allows, assists, facilitates, or permits an act prohibited by this 420 chapter or fails to perform an act required by this chapter. Each instance of 421 a violation of this chapter is a separate offense. 422 (B) A person commits an offense if the person: (1) makes or transmits to the director a false registration, log, inspection, 423 424 report or other document required by this chapter; 425 (2) tampers with a conductivity controller, intake or discharge meter, 426 readout device, read data transmittal equipment, or attached plumbing 427 or electrical connections in a manner that causes inaccurate or false 428 readings or reports of the water use or system operation to meet any 429 inspection, evaluation or assessment required by this chapter; 430 (C[B])An offense under this chapter may be enforced as an administrative 431 violation as authorized by Texas Local Government Code Chapter 54 and 432 all penalties related to administrative liability for such violations at the 433 service location automatically added to the water service account pursuant to the approved fee schedule published by the director, or approved 434 435 pursuant to Section 6-4-44 (Non-Administrative Enforcement), unless the 436 account holder opts out of the automatic administrative fee additions to the 437 account on a form provided by the director not later than January 1 of each 438 year or within 30 days of establishing an account with Austin Water 439 [Utility], whichever is sooner. 440 (C) A person alleged to be in violation of a requirement of this chapter shall 441 receive notice in writing that shall, at a minimum, contain: (1) the name of the responsible person; 442 443 (2) the address of the alleged violation; 444 (3) a description of the alleged violation; 445 (4) notice of the administrative penalty assessment to the next monthly 446 utility statement; and 447 (5) information on the appeal process. 448 (D) Notice shall be delivered via United States Postal Service first class mail or 449 the customer's email address if the customer consents to service of such 450 administrative assessment notices by email. Notice is presumed valid and 451 received when forwarded to the postal or email address on file with Austin 452 Water Utility for the water service account holder.

- **PART 16.** Subsections (A) and (B) of City Code Section 6-4-43 (Administrative
- *Process*) are amended, and new Subsections (C), (D), and (E) are added to read as
- 455 follows:

456 § 6-4-43 - ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS.

- (A) A person appealing an enforcement action of Austin Water [Utility] may request an administrative review conducted by the director. A request for an administrative review must be made in writing to Austin Water [Utility] on or before the 20th day following the date of the notice of violation. The review shall take place on or before the 10th day following a request for appeal. The person shall be notified of Austin Water [Utility]'s determination including the results of the review and instructions on how to request an administrative hearing.
- (B) A person appealing an administrative review decision may request a hearing conducted by a hearing officer appointed by the city manager.
 - (1) The person must request the administrative hearing in writing to the director on or before the 10th day following notice of the administrative review determination.
 - (2) Not later than the 10th day following a request for an administrative hearing, Austin Water [Utility] shall provide the person with information as to the time and place of the hearing. If the person fails to appear at the hearing, the person will be considered to admit liability and will be charged accordingly.
 - (3) A person who is found by a hearing officer to be liable for a violation of this chapter may appeal the liability finding by filing a petition in municipal court no later than the 31st day after the date of the hearing officer's determination. An appeal does not stay enforcement and collection of the judgment unless the person, before filing the appeal, posts a bond with Austin Water [Utility] in an amount equal to the amount of the liability assessment plus the appeal fee.
 - (4) If upon hearing the appeal from the hearing officer's liability finding the municipal court affirms or substantially affirms the liability finding, the utility will retain the appeal fee and apply the bond to the liability assessment previously determined. If the municipal court reverses the hearing officer's liability finding, the appeal fee and administrative assessment bond will be refunded to the account holder.

- 489 (C) A person alleged to be in violation of a requirement of Chapter 6-4, Water Conservation, who fails to meet any administrative enforcement review, hearing, or appeal deadline or filing, request, appearance, or other requirement of City Code Section 6-4-43 (*Administrative Process*) is considered to admit liability for the violation administratively charged by the Austin Water and to waive the person's right for further review, hearing, or appeal in the administrative enforcement process.
- 496 (D) A person alleged to be in violation of a requirement of this chapter shall receive notice in writing that shall, at a minimum, contain:
 - (1) the name of the responsible person;
 - (2) the address of the alleged violation;
 - (3) a description of the alleged violation;
 - (4) notice of the administrative penalty assessment to the next monthly utility statement; and
 - (5) information on the appeal process.
- 504 (E) Notice shall be delivered via United States Postal Service first class mail or 505 the customer's email address if the customer consents to service of such 506 administrative assessment notices by email. Notice is presumed valid and 507 received when forwarded to the postal or email address on file with Austin 508 Water for the water service account holder.
- 509 PART 17. The title to Article 2, Division 1 of City Code Chapter 6-4 (Water
- 510 Conservation) is amended to read as follows:
- ARTICLE 2. WATER USE MANAGEMENT[-]; REGULATED
- 512 ACTIVITIES.

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- 513 [Division 1. Regulated Activities.]
- 514 **PART 18.** City Code Chapter 6-4 (*Water Conservation*) is amended to reclassify a
- 515 portion of the existing chapter as a new Article 3 by inserting a new title for Article
- 3 and Division 1 prior to existing Section 6-4-13 (Water Conservation Guidelines),
- 517 to read as follows:
- 518 **ARTICLE 3. DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN.**
- 519 **Division 1. General Provisions.**

- 520 **PART 19.** City Code Chapter 6-4 (*Water Conservation*) is amended to reclassify a
- portion of the existing chapter as a Division 2 by inserting a new title Division 2
- 522 prior to existing Section 6-4-15 (Water Conservation Stage) to read as follows:
- 523 <u>Division 2. Conservation Stages.</u>
- 524 **PART 20.** City Code Chapter 6-4 (*Water Conservation*) is amended to reclassify a
- 525 portion of the existing chapter as a new Article 3, Division 3 (Additional
- 526 Restrictions) by amending the existing title to Article 2, Division 2 prior to existing
- 527 Section 6-4-20 (Director's Authority to Impose Additional Restrictions) to read as
- 528 follows:
- 529 Division [2]3. Additional Restrictions.
- 530 **PART 21.** City Code Chapter 6-4 (*Water Conservation*) is amended to reclassify a
- portion of the existing chapter as a new Article 4 by inserting a new title for Article
- 4 and deleting a title for Article 3, Division 3 prior to existing Section 6-4-30
- 533 (*Variance*), to read as follows:
- 534 ARTICLE 4: VARIANCES AND ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE.
- 535 [Division 3. Variances; Alternative Compliance.]
- 536 PART 22. City Code Chapter 6-4 (Water Conservation) is amended to reclassify a
- portion of the chapter as a new Article 5 (*Enforcement*) by amending existing
- Article 3 to renumber as Article 5 to read as follows:
- 539 ARTICLE <u>5[3]</u>: ENFORCEMENT.
- 540 **PART 23.** City Code Chapter 6-4 (*Water Conservation*) is amended to reclassify a
- portion of the existing chapter as a new Article 6 by inserting a title for the new
- Article 6 prior to existing Section 6-4-45 (Severability) to read as follows:
- 543 **ARTICLE 6: SEVERABILITY.**
- PART 24. City Code Section 15-9-241 (*Definitions*) is repealed and replaced with
- a new Section 15-9-241 to read as follows:
- § 15-9-241 EVAPORATIVE LOSS ADJUSTMENT FOR EVAPORATIVE
- 547 **COOLING TOWERS.**
- 548 (A) In this section, "director" means the director of Austin Water.
- 549 (B) A retail customer of Austin Water who takes water from the City's public 550 water system for operation of one or more evaporative cooling towers may

receive an adjustment in the calculation of the monthly wastewater billing for the amount of evaporated water not returned to the City's wastewater system (Evaporative Loss Adjustment) provided that all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) Written application required. For each customer utility account for which the customer desires to receive the evaporative loss adjustment, the customer must make written application to the director and receive written approval from the director in accordance with this article. The customer application for approval to receive the evaporative loss adjustment shall be made on a form provided by the director for this purpose.
- (2) Application and processing fee. The application shall be accompanied by the customer's payment to Austin Water of a non-refundable processing fee for handling, analysis and processing of the application and appurtenant materials for the premises housing the subject cooling tower installation. Payment of a fee under this section does not excuse the payment of fees required by other city codes and ordinances for permits, inspections, or other approvals necessary for lawful installation of facilities required by this chapter. The fee is set by separate ordinance.
- (3) Submeter installation by customer required. An applicant desiring to receive the evaporative loss adjustment must install, at the customer's sole expense, for each cooling tower or set of cooling towers, submetering equipment of a size, type, design, number, location and configuration approved by the director to measure accurately both the amount of water that is taken into the cooling tower or set of towers (commonly referred to as a "makeup meter," referred to in this section as the "intake meter") and to measure the amount of water that is discharged from the cooling tower(s) into the City's wastewater system (commonly referred to as a "blowdown meter," here referred to as the "discharge meter").
- (4) Authority to require electronic readout, radio or computer controlled data transmittal equipment. In addition to intake and discharge submeters conforming to this section, a customer desiring approval to receive the evaporative loss adjustment shall install, at the customer's sole expense, the readout equipment or data transmittal equipment of a size, type, design, number, location and configuration as the director may determine to be necessary for the safe, accurate and efficient

589 590		reading of the intake and discharge meters required to be installed by the customer.
591 592 593 594 595 596	(5)	Special conditions. The director may prescribe special conditions for approval of the evaporative loss adjustment that the director determines are necessary because of particular circumstances relating to the nature of the cooling tower installation or other operations conducted on the subject premises including special conditions concerning:
597 598		 a) the number, size, design, location, configuration or security of intake and discharge meters,
599		b) installation of readout and data transmittal equipment,
600 601		c) reconfiguration of plumbing servicing the subject premises or cooling tower installation,
602		d) access to submetering, readout and data transmittal facilities,
603 604		e) conditions for proper recording and reporting of water consumption and discharge to the sewer system,
605		f) submeter read date(s),
606		g) elimination or metering of bypass plumbing,
607		h) securing or sealing of bypass plumbing,
608		i) meter reading and billing protocols,
609		j) meter maintenance protocols,
610		k) safety of applicant personnel, city personnel and third persons,
611 612		 installation of backflow prevention devices or other measures for protection of the potable water supply, and
613 614 615 616 617		m) other special conditions that the director determines are necessary for the safe, proper and efficient installation, operation and maintenance of the submetered installation and the proper documentation, reporting, calculation and administration of wastewater billings for the subject premises.
618 619 620 621 622		The evaporative loss adjustment shall be granted only in accordance with the general conditions stated in this article and the special conditions prescribed by the director. The director may reject an application or revoke approval for receipt of the evaporative loss adjustment for failure to comply with the special conditions

623 624 625		prescribed and the adjustment shall not be granted for any portion of the billing cycle in which the customer has failed to comply with any of the special conditions.			
	(()		•		
626 627	(6)	Information required. The customer application for approval of the evaporative loss adjustment shall:			
628 629		(a)	describe the processes or operations conducted on the subject premises;		
630 631		(b)	describe the subject cooling tower installation, its location and the location of primary city water meters;		
632 633 634		(c)	describe the size, type, design, number and location of backflow prevention devices existing or proposed to be installed on the subject premises;		
635 636 637		(d)	describe the size, type, design, number, location and configuration of intake and discharge meters and appurtenances proposed to be installed;		
638 639		(e)	describe the readout and data transmittal equipment and appurtenances proposed to be installed by the applicant;		
640 641 642 643		(f)	demonstrate the feasibility of submetering the cooling tower installation in accordance with all requirements of this section, other applicable city codes and ordinances and sound engineering, utility and billing practices;		
644 645 646		(g)	be accompanied by electronic copies, compatible with City of Austin Development Services requirements, of the following plumbing diagrams:		
647			(i) water diagram plan view of the proposed installation;		
648			(ii) water diagram elevation view of the proposed		
649			installation;		
650			(iii) drainage diagram plan view of the proposed installation;		
651			and		
652 653			(iv) drainage diagram elevation view of the proposed installation;		
654 655 656		(h)	where the director determines the same to be necessary, the applicant shall prepare and submit for review and approval by the director plans and specifications for installation of readout		

or data transmittal equipment required by the director to be installed; and

- (i) provide other and further information as the director shall determine to be necessary for proper review and consideration of the application.
- **(7)** Review by director; grounds for rejection; proceedings upon rejection. The director shall review and may reject an application that the director determines is false, inaccurate, incomplete, fails to demonstrate the feasibility of submetering the cooling tower installation in accordance with this article, other applicable City codes and ordinances and sound engineering, utility and billing practices, or otherwise fails to conform to this article. If the director rejects the application, the director shall notify the applicant in writing of the rejection of the application and the reasons for rejection. If the application is rejected, the applicant may, at its option, submit a revised application conforming to this article for review and approval without payment of another application and processing fee provided that the revised application is received by the director within 90 days of the initial rejection by the director. The director may extend the time for resubmittal of the application upon written request by the applicant demonstrating that good cause exists for the extension.
- (8) Access for site review. If the director determines that a site review of the cooling tower installation is necessary for proper consideration of the application, the applicant shall provide the director access to the subject cooling tower installation.
- (9) Documentary requirements for reapplications or renewals under this article, applications by customers whose previous agreement is terminated, or applications in process prior to effective date of this article. Where a customer had requested approval for receipt of the evaporative loss adjustment prior to the effective date of this article but no written agreement was executed, or where an application is submitted by a customer who has received notice of the termination of a prior written agreement for receipt of the evaporative loss adjustment, or in the case of reapplications or renewal applications under this article, the director may modify or waive the documentary submittal requirements set forth above in a manner the director shall determine to be just and equitable so long as:

694 (a) the director determines that information describing the cooling 695 tower installation, submeter facilities and appurtenances 696 sufficient for processing the application has been obtained from 697 the applicant; 698 the director has conducted a site inspection of the submeter (b) 699 facilities previously installed; 700 the applicant has paid all applicable fees for processing the (c) 701 application; and 702 the applicant complies with all other requirements of this article (d) for receipt of the evaporative loss adjustment. 703 704 Compliance with plumbing, electrical, cross-connection, mechanical, (10)705 conservation, and other ordinances. The applicant shall obtain all 706 permits, inspections, and approvals and otherwise comply with the 707 terms of the city's Plumbing Code, Electrical Code, Chapter 15-1 708 (Cross Connection Regulations), Industrial Waste Ordinance, 709 Mechanical Code, and other ordinances applicable to the installation of the intake and discharge meters, readout and data transmittal 710 equipment, the discharge from the cooling tower installation, or water 711 efficiency standards and equipment. 712 713 Unmetered bypass piping to be sealed. Any piping constituting or (11)714 capable of being utilized as an unmetered bypass of the discharge 715 meter installed (the unmetered bypass piping or unmetered bypass) must be sealed in a manner specified by the director and the seal so 716 717 affixed thereon shall not be broken except following written or 718 telephonic notice to the director indicating the intent of the customer 719 to utilize the unmetered bypass piping and providing an estimate of 720 the time for completion of meter maintenance or other activity 721 requiring utilization of the unmetered bypass piping. 722 Calibration and testing of intake and discharge meters and (12)723 appurtenances required prior to final approval of evaporative loss 724 adjustment. Prior to final approval by the director, the customer shall 725 retain a qualified independent meter calibration and testing firm 726 approval by the director to calibrate and test the intake and discharge 727 meters, and readout or data transmittal equipment if the installation of 728 same is required by the director, to ensure the proper calibration and 729 performance in accordance with American Water Works Association 730 standards for meter accuracy. The written results evidencing proper 731

calibration and performance of the equipment shall be forwarded to

the director as a condition for final approval to receive the evaporative loss adjustment.

- (13) Written notification by director of completion of requirements and final approval for receipt of evaporative loss adjustment. The director shall notify the applicant in writing of the completion of all requirements for final approval for application of the evaporative loss adjustment to wastewater billings for the subject cooling tower installation.
- (14) Approval for five year term; reapplication to receive evaporative loss adjustment. Approval to receive the evaporative loss adjustment shall be valid for a period of five years following which the applicant must reapply under the then existing conditions for application and approval of the evaporative loss adjustment. If the customer fails to reapply for approval to receive the evaporative loss adjustment on or before the expiration of the prior approval, wastewater billings to the premises will be based on the standard wastewater billing method for that premises metered water consumption, until the customer reapplies and is again granted approval to receive the evaporative loss adjustment.
- (15) Adjustment effective first complete billing period following final approval of submeter installation. Application of the evaporative loss adjustment to customer billings shall commence with the first complete billing cycle following inspection, testing and final approval of the submetered installation and the director's issuance of a letter to the customer acknowledging that all requirements for approval of the evaporative loss adjustment have been completed and accepted.
- (16) Annual calibration and testing of submeter installation required. In order to continue receipt of the evaporative loss adjustment for each calendar year in the five year period following final approval by the director, the customer must have the intake and discharge meters calibrated and tested for accuracy at least annually and forward written evidence of the completion of same to the director on or before the expiration of one calendar year from the date of the previous calibration and testing.
- (17) Operation and maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. The applicant shall, at all times, operate and maintain the intake and discharge meters, readout and data transmittal equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications for

same and in accordance with American Water Works Association standards for meter accuracy. A submeter not meeting the above standards for accuracy must be repaired or replaced and recalibrated to conform to the American Water Works Association standards for accuracy. In the event that a submeter stops registering or otherwise becomes inaccurate, the evaporative loss adjustment shall be adjusted back to the beginning of the inaccuracy. If the beginning date of the inaccuracy cannot be determined, the adjustment period will be one-half the time from the last submeter test date.

- (18) Submetered installation subject to inspection and testing by the city. The intake and discharge meters, readout and read data transmittal equipment installed by the customer shall be subject to inspection and testing by the director at any time. The customer shall ensure access for the purpose of the inspection and testing without delay at all times.
- (19) Monthly customer submeter reading and transmittal of submeter reading data to director. In order to receive the evaporative loss adjustment for each monthly billing cycle, the customer approved to receive the evaporative loss adjustment must read correctly the intake and discharge meters on the same day that the city meter readers read the city water meters for the subject premises (the city meter read date) and before the close of business on the city meter read date, the customer shall transmit the submeter reading data to the director by the method designated by the director, which may include telephone, telefax, email, radio, or computer controlled data transmittal equipment. The director shall notify the customer in writing of the approved city meter read date on which the intake and discharge meters must be read and reported to the director.
- (20) No evaporative loss adjustment in which customer fails to transmit submeter read data on city meter read date, unless exception authorized. The evaporative loss adjustment shall not be granted for any monthly billing cycle in which the customer has failed to read the intake and discharge meters and transmit the submeter readings to the director before the close of business on the city meter read date, unless the customer has been granted an exception by the director under other ordinance or City Code provisions. In addition, in the event of the failure by the customer to report or transmit the required submeter readings on the city meter read date, the customer's wastewater bill for the monthly billing cycle in question shall be

808 determined on the basis of the standard wastewater billing method for 809 the premises. 810 Calculation of wastewater bill for premises for which the evaporative (21) loss adjustment has been approved. The following rules shall apply to 811 812 the calculation of the wastewater bill for premises for which the 813 evaporative loss adjustment has been approved: 814 The amount of evaporative loss shall be determined for each (a) 815 monthly billing cycle by the readings of the intake and 816 discharge meter(s) reported to the director in accordance with 817 this article unless the director determines that the meter readings are false, inaccurate or otherwise unreliable in which 818 819 case the evaporative loss adjustment shall not be granted for the 820 subject billing period. 821 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit or require 822 the retroactive application of this article or the adjustment or 823 recalculation of the wastewater bill of a customer for any 824 monthly billing cycle or portion occurring prior to final 825 approval by the director of the customer's application for receipt of the evaporative loss adjustment. 826 827 The amount of evaporative loss determined by readings of the (c) 828 intake and discharge meters shall not be subtracted from the 829 winter average water consumption in the calculation of the 830 wastewater bill for the customer premises for which the 831 evaporative loss adjustment has been approved. 832 Subject to any special billing conditions or protocol approved (d) 833 by the director, and subject to this article, for customers having 834 a City water meter used to service the building (including the 835 cooling towers) and an irrigation system, the wastewater bill for 836 the premises for which the evaporative loss adjustment has been approved shall be calculated as follows: 837 838 (i) For each year following approval of the customer 839 application for receipt of the evaporative loss adjustment, 840 a revised wastewater average for the customer premises 841 housing the approved cooling tower installation (Revised 842 Wastewater Average) shall be established. The Revised 843 Wastewater Average shall be the daily average of the differences between the readings of the City water meter 844 845 and the readings of the customer's intake meter for the

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846		months during the standard wastewater averaging period,
847		multiplied by 30.4, the average number of days in a
848		month.
849	(ii)	Once the revised wastewater average for the customer
850	, ,	premises is established in the above manner, the
851		wastewater volume for the ensuing months will be the
852		revised wastewater average so established or the actual
853		water consumption determined by the readings of the
854		City water meter(s) for each billing cycle, whichever is
855		less, plus the volume of cooling tower blowdown
856		determined by the discharge meter reading(s) for each
857		monthly billing cycle.
858	(iii)	The volume of wastewater derived in accordance with
859	()	(ii) above shall then be multiplied by the wastewater rate
860		for the applicable customer class and the monthly
861		charges established by the city council shall be added to
862		the total to derive the wastewater bill for the customer
863		premises.
864	(iv)	A revised wastewater average for the customer premises
865	()	shall be established as set forth above in the winter
866		months for each year of the five year term that the
867		approval for the evaporative loss adjustment is in effect.
868	(v)	For any year in which a revised wastewater average for
869		the customer premises cannot be derived as set forth
870		above due to the timing of the application or approval of
871		the evaporative loss adjustment, the wastewater volume
872		will be based on the actual water consumption for
873		customer premises determined by the reading of the city
874		water meter for each monthly billing cycle less the
875		volume of cooling tower makeup water determined by
876		the intake meter in the monthly billing cycle plus the
877		volume of cooling tower blowdown water discharged to
878		the city's wastewater system determined by the discharge
879		meter reading for the monthly billing cycle.
880	(e) Subject	ct to any special conditions or billing protocol approved by
881	` '	rector, wastewater billings for those utility customers
882		g one or more city water meters to service the building
		P 26 629

883 (including the cooling towers) and one or more separate city water meters used solely to service an irrigation system will not 884 885 be based on the standard wastewater average method or the 886 revised wastewater average calculation described in Subparagraph (d) but will be calculated as follows: 887 888 (i) for each billing period following approval of the 889 customer application for receipt of the evaporative loss 890 adjustment, the difference between the intake meter 891 reading and the discharge meter reading shall be 892 subtracted from the actual water consumption for the 893 building (including the cooling towers) determined by the 894 readings of the city meters servicing the building (and cooling towers) for each monthly billing cycle; and 895 896 the volume of wastewater derived in accordance with (ii) 897 Subdivision (i) shall be multiplied by the wastewater rate 898 for the applicable customer class and the monthly 899 charges established by the city council shall be added to 900 the total to derive the wastewater bill for the building utility account. 901 902 (f) Subject to any special billing conditions or protocol approved by the 903 director, for customer premises that have one or more separate city 904 water meters that service both an irrigation system as well as one or 905 more cooling towers (but not the building proper), or for customer 906 premises having one or more separate city water meters used solely to 907 service the cooling tower(s) (but not the building proper), the 908 wastewater bill for the utility account(s) servicing the cooling tower(s) 909 shall be calculated by multiplying the wastewater volume determined 910 by the discharge meter reading for each monthly billing period by the 911 rate for the applicable customer class and the customer account charge established by the city council shall be added to the total to derive the 912 913 wastewater bill for the utility account. 914 (22)Flow metered installations not eligible. Customer premises whose 915 total wastewater discharge to the City's wastewater system (meaning the discharge from all buildings, cooling towers and other installations 916 on the site) is monitored by one or more wastewater flow meters 917 918 whose installation has been separately approved by the director are 919 not eligible to receive the evaporative loss adjustment.

920	(23)	Contracts authorized for	non-standard si	tuations. For users of
921	\	evaporative cooling towe	rs whose partic	ular circumstances do not
922		meet the literal requireme	ents of this artic	le but in which the director
923		<u> </u>	_	vaporative loss adjustment is
924				mplemented and administered
925		in accordance with gener	• 1	C , C
926				nter into written agreements
927			•	th terms and conditions for
928			-	ive loss adjustment to non-
929 930			_	shall reflect the substantive possible and the existence of
930		-	-	mer from the obligation to
932			-) nor limit the applicability of
933		the sanctions set forth in	, 00	
934		Adjustment).	section is 3.2	is (revocation by
935		<i>y</i>		
936	PART 24.	This ordinance takes effect	t on	
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941		, 2020	8	Steve Adler
942				Mayor
944				Mayor
945	APPROVE	ED:	ATTEST:	
946		Anne L. Morgan	_	Jannette S. Goodall
947		City Attorney		City Clerk
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