

MANDATORY CONNECTIONS

To efficiently use our water resources and to increase use of this alternative water source, particularly in this record setting drought, the City Council adopted City Code § 6-4-11(E) and § 6-4-30(H) in August 2012. These code provisions require new commercial developments or redevelopments within 250 feet of a reclaimed water main to connect for irrigation, cooling, and other significant non-potable water uses. See the system map for location of existing and proposed mains.



Austin Water delayed implementation of the mandatory connection code provisions until the Local Plumbing Code, Cross-Connection Ordinance, Reclaimed Water Ordinance, and Utility Criteria Manual could be modified to eliminate expensive and unnecessary connection requirements. Modifications include the removal of the requirement for 1) a double check valve on most reclaimed service lines, 2) RPZ-style backflow preventers on hose bibs on the property, and 3) abandonment of existing (white) piping in the conversion of existing irrigation systems. The City Council adopted these modifications in November 2014 and Austin Water began implementing the mandatory connection requirement on May 1, 2015.

The code provisions allow exceptions for municipal uses associated with law enforcement, public health, and public safety. The code provisions also allow the granting of variances for significant financial hardship, or health risk to the applicant or the public. See the guidance for more information on how exceptions and variances will be implemented. An exception or variance can be requested by completing the attached application form. Answers to commonly asked questions can be found on the FAQ sheet.