



HOUSING & PLANNING

Affordability Impact Statement

Water Benchmarking Application

Sponsor department: Austin Water

Proposed Regulation

The proposed ordinance would amend City Code Chapter 25-9 (Water and Wastewater) to include a requirement that all new commercial, multi-family, and mixed-use site plan applications must include a water benchmarking application for Austin Water's approval.

The water benchmarking application is a web-based form that uses standard site plan information provided by an applicant to calculate a development project's anticipated water needs. Using these inputs, the application provides information to the applicant about water efficiency measures and alternative water supplies available to the project.

Developments with a gross floor area (GFA) of 250,000 square feet or greater will be required to meet with Austin Water prior to site plan release to discuss water efficiency measures, water use benchmarking data, and incentives and rebates available for alternative water use.

Impact on Development Cost

☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral

The proposed changes are anticipated to have a neutral impact on housing development costs. The results of the water benchmarking application could lead to a development voluntarily pursuing water efficiency measures or using alternative water supplies, which may result in additional costs and/or cost savings. However, none are mandated by this code change alone.

Impact on Affordable Housing

☐ Positive ☐ Negative ☒ Neutral

No direct impacts to Affordable Housing are anticipated as a result of these amendments.

City Policies Implemented

The proposed change was directed by City Council in Resolution No. 20210520-065 and implements key strategies from the Council-approved 2018 Water Forward: Integrated Water Resource Plan. The Water Forward plan seeks to ensure a diversified, sustainable, and resilient water future for our community. The proposed changes assist in meeting our community's near-term and long-term water supply needs.

Manager's Signature Matt Dugan

Date 9/24/2021