City of Austin
Planning Development Review Department

To: All Internal and External Stakeholders

From: Leon Barba, P.E., PDRD, Building Official

Date: April 26, 2012

File: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 2012.004

TITLE: **Permitting of Auxiliary Water Systems**

CODE EDITION: 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) Ordinance Number 20100624-146 effective October 1st, 2010.

SECTIONS: 103.1.1 (Permits Required), 218.1 (Definition of Plumbing System) and Chapter 16 Part III (Reclaimed Water and other Auxiliary Water Systems)

PURPOSE: The City of Austin adopted the 2009 UPC in June of 2010. The Ordinance to the Plumbing Code amended the language to include the definition, permitting and installation requirements for auxiliary water systems. An auxiliary water system is *"any pressurized water supply on or available to the premises other than the Austin Water Utility's approved public potable water supply. These auxiliary waters may include water from another water purveyor's public water supply or any natural source(s), including without limitation, rain, a well, lake, spring, river, stream, harbor, and so forth; or ground water, surface water, ponded water for detention, retention or re-irrigation, or used waters, reclaimed water, recycled water, air conditioning condensate, or industrial fluids but does not include forced sewer mains or any pumped sewage that is piped to City of Austin sewer or on-site sewage facility system."*

Questions: Is a permit required to install an auxiliary water system in the City of Austin?

Answer: **Yes.** At a minimum, a plumbing permit is required to install an auxiliary water system with the exception listed in this document.

Building and electrical permits may be required depending on the scope of the project. The presence of an auxiliary water source on any site or lot in the City of Austin in conjunction with water service from a public drinking water supply requires prescriptive installation requirements and cross-

connection safeguards to be put into place to protect both the internal user and the public drinking water system. Any water tank that exceeds 5000 gallons in capacity or exceeds a 2 to 1 ratio of height to diameter requires a building permit.

Permit exception: A permit is not required for a residential rainwater storage tank with a garden hose distribution system when there is less than 10 feet in height from the overflow of the tank to the lowest point of possible distribution.

If you have any questions regarding the installation of an auxiliary water system please call 512-974-2027 (Building Inspections) and 512-972-1060 (Austin Water Utility, Water Protection).

Leon Barba

Leon Barba P.E, Building Official
City of Austin Planning and Development Review Department

D.McNabb