

In December 2020, the City of Austin adopted the [Onsite Water Reuse Systems Ordinance](#) (OWRS Ordinance), adding Chapter 15-13 to the City of Austin Code, to regulate the collection, treatment, and use of alternative water sources for non-potable uses in multi-family and commercial buildings.

WE BEGAN THE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR THIS PROJECT BEFORE THE OWRS ORDINANCE WENT INTO EFFECT. DOES IT APPLY TO US?

If a building permit has not already been applied for to construct the project, the regulations of the new OWRS Ordinance apply. Projects that have an active site plan review or approval only will need to meet the new regulations.

SHOULD I SEND A PLAN SET ALONG WITH SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS (SUCH AS THE WATER-BALANCE CALCULATOR) DIRECTLY TO THE OWRS REVIEWER, OR TO MY COMMERCIAL PLAN REVIEWER?

You can send the application and materials to AW_OnsiteReuse@austintexas.gov email. We will issue an approval letter after our review that you can provide to any other reviewer who requests it.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION FEE FOR THE OWRS PLAN REVIEW?

Projects with Indoor Use and/or Outdoor Spray Type Uses requiring an operating permit have a review fee of \$655 in May 2021 (fees change October 1st of every year and are listed [here](#)). Projects with Non-Spray Type Irrigation Uses Only do not require an operating permit and have no review fee.

WOULD IRRIGATION LINES IN THE ROW BE CONSIDERED "WATER REUSE SYSTEMS WITH INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW)" AND THUS REQUIRE AN ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT?

Generally, for the irrigation system to be in the ROW a License Agreement is all you need. An Encroachment Agreement is a more permanent instrument and would be needed if you were sharing reuse water between buildings (district-scale system) and had to have piping cross a public road, for example. [Office of Real Estate Services](#) can confirm what is necessary for your particular situation.

WHY IS A LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION PLAN REQUIRED FOR PROJECTS WITH NON-SPRAY TYPE IRRIGATION USES?

The landscape irrigation plan is typically one of the last plans to be developed for a project. OWRS applications are typically reviewed prior to the landscape irrigation plans being developed. Austin Water will need to verify via the landscape irrigation plan that spray irrigation is not utilized prior to a project being completed, but will issue approval contingent on the landscape irrigation plan being provided before project completion.

ARE IRRIGATION BUBBLERS FOR TREES AND SHRUBS CONSIDERED SPRAY IRRIGATION?

No. Bubblers are considered surface application irrigation.

THERE ARE MULTIPLE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR OWRS (BUCKS FOR BUSINESS, OWRS PILOT INCENTIVE PROGRAM, RAINWATER HARVESTING REBATE). CAN MY PROJECT RECEIVE FUNDING THROUGH MULTIPLE PROGRAMS?

No, a given development project can only receive funding through a single incentive program.