

# Mandatory Reclaimed Water Connections

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Do I need to do anything on my property now?**

No. The mandatory connection requirement only affects a new commercial development or redevelopment.

### **What does “commercial development or redevelopment” mean?**

These are locations where a site plan is required.

### **Does the Mandatory Connection Ordinance apply to building permits?**

The triggering criteria is whether or not a site plan is required. This ordinance does not change the review process or the need to obtain building permits and plumbing permits.

### **Does redevelopment mean remodel?**

Only if the extent of remodeling work triggers the need for a site plan.

### **When does mandatory connections take effect?**

Austin Water will begin implementing mandatory connections on May 1, 2015.

### **Will variances be allowed?**

Variances may be granted for financial hardship, or a threat to public health, or a threat to the health of the applicant.

### **How is the 250 feet measured?**

It is measured by lay length between an existing reclaimed water distribution line and the nearest property line.

### **Is toilet and urinal flushing considered a “significant non-potable water use?”**

It may be, depending on the number of fixtures and their demand. If the property owner/developer thinks otherwise, they are free to request a variance and submit additional information to justify their assertion.

### **Can service lines be connected to transmission lines?**

Because of the nature of the reclaimed water system there is not a distinction between transmission and distribution lines.

### **Where can I find the location of reclaimed water mains?**

Like drinking water and sanitary sewer system maps, maps for the reclaimed water system can be obtained from the Austin Water Utility.



**Will a reclaimed water connection necessitate high hazard backflow preventers on domestic meters?**

Yes. This ordinance does not nullify backflow and cross-connection prevention requirements and does not change the review process.

**Will the Special Services Division be required to sign off/inspect backflow preventers?**

Yes. This ordinance does not nullify backflow and cross-connection prevention requirements and does not change the review process, or the process to obtain a meter.

**Will Austin Water's Reclaimed Water Staff review and signoff on plans?**

No. This ordinance does not change the review process. The reclaimed group will review variance requests only.

**Since SERs are required when mains are more than 100 feet away and this ordinance requires connections if within 250 feet, will SERs be required for reclaimed that are more than 100 feet and not more than 250 feet?**

Yes.

**Does the mandatory connection ordinance apply in the ETJ?**

This ordinance can be found in Chapter 6 of the City's Code and applies to customers using or planning to use potable water supplied by the Austin Water Utility, including those in the ETJ.

**Is vesting allowed for plans already in the approval process?**

Yes. Site plans already submitted and in the review process prior to May 1, 2015 will be vested.

**What is the impact fee for reclaimed water?**

While there are fees for plan review, inspection, and the cost of the meter, there are no capital recovery fees for reclaimed water connections.

For more information contact:

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