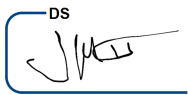




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Arndt and City Council

FROM: Jason Tarry, Water Commission Chairperson 

DATE: June 16, 2022

RE: Water Commission's Response to the Development of a City Graywater Ordinance

CC: Jason Graham, Director of Water Utilities
Kendall Minor, Utilities Executive Director

At the April 21 regular meeting, the City's Water Conservation Specialist presented on the development of a graywater ordinance. The development of this ordinance was identified as a City Council priority for 2021-2023. The motion voted on was for the Water Commission to recommend City Council approve a local graywater ordinance in accordance with the State's standards, as outlined in Regulation 86, and local water rights.

The Water Commission voted to not pass the motion (vote: 1 for and 6 against). The commissioners' justifications for voting against the motion were as follow:

- **The benefit does not support the cost.** The Water Commission supports the principle of implementing water conservation policies, but the cost, complexity and maintenance responsibilities for implementing graywater reuse systems for toilet flushing only (not irrigation use) exceeds the benefit (+46 year rate of return for single family homes). Similar programs in Denver and Douglas County only had a very small number of participants, and based on the data we were presented appeared to be not effective in reducing water consumption.
- **Council priorities bypass the BFO process.** The time and City resources required to address Council priorities should be evaluated. If time and City resources exceed a threshold established by department leadership, Council priorities should be redirected as BFO offers. The concern is that work required to address Council priorities is added to staff's workload without determining the resulting strain.

The Water Commission remains committed to creative ways to conserve water and hopes to consider more effective proposals. The Water Commission is also interested in maintaining a positive City work culture that reduces staff burnout and increases staff retention.