# MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

**Request to Include Topic on the City Council Workshop Agenda**

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| **From:** | Laurelei McVey, Public Works | **Meeting Date:** | August 9, 2022 |
| **Presenter:** | Warren Stewart, Public Works | **Estimated Time:** | 15 minutes |
| **Topic:** | Ordinance Change Discussion: Water Recycling System Requirements for New Commercial Car Washes | | |

**Recommended Council Action:**

No official action required. Seeking direction for potential future ordinance change.

**Background:**

Public Works would like to modify the City of Meridian Ordinance section 9-2-2-10 related to commercial car wash water recycling units. The proposal would add the requirement that new commercial car washes install and maintain a water recycling unit. This ordinance change would not impact existing car wash facilities.

Commercial car wash recycling units clean and reuse water in the car wash. This accomplishes several important objectives:

- Reduces the amount of potable water demand saving our valuable groundwater
- Reduces the amount of car wash water being discharged to the sewer system and wastewater facility saving valuable system capacity

Commercial car washes, even with recycling units installed, are the most significant water users in the City, some regularly using over 1 million gallons of water each month.

In the last several years, all new commercial car washes have voluntarily installed these recycling units because they save the car wash facility on their water assessment fees (hookup fees) and their ongoing monthly water and sewer utility rates. Public Works has discussed this proposed ordinance modification with local car wash owners who understand the ongoing monetary value of these systems.

The conservation impacts on our water and wastewater systems is important. Allowing us to delay upgrades to our water and wastewater systems by more efficient uses, benefits all rate payers. Conserving our drinking water where possible, is invaluable.

Questions related to this proposal should be directed to:

Warren Stewart, Public Works, wstewart@meridiancity.org, 208-888-5500

**Attachment:**

Sample ordinance changes (MCC) 9-2-2-10