

## MOTION

With the State of California in the midst of a historic drought and water suppliers proposing to cut water deliveries to cities by 15%, any and every program the City of Los Angeles can undertake to help residents conserve water will have tremendous environmental and economic benefits for our City.

Graywater is untreated wastewater from showers, laundry machines, and bathtubs which has not come into contact with toilet waste. It does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks, photo lab sinks, dishwashers, or laundry water from soiled diapers. There are a variety of types of graywater systems, ranging from “clothes washer” systems (which do not require permits), to “simple” systems (which discharge up to 250 gallons per day and require permits), to “complex” systems (which discharge more than 250-gallons per day) and “treatment” systems (which are not currently allowed in Los Angeles).

Graywater reuse is legal in Los Angeles for subsurface irrigation systems at low-rise residential homes, provided that the system recycling the graywater follows the 2010 California Plumbing Code, Chapter 16A Part 1. Permits for graywater systems are issued by the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), though further approval may be needed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The average cost of a permit is \$507, which includes up to two inspections and plancheck (\$396 for plancheck and \$111 for permit).

LADWP has the responsibility to protect the public water system from contamination caused by the backflow of contaminants or pollutants through the water service connection. The protection of the City’s water supply is governed under LADWP Rule 16-D and enforced by LADWP or by LADBS, acting as its authorized representative.

Though the Department of Water and Power offers an exceptional amount of information and resources for residents considering graywater systems on its website, only 13 permits were issued by LADBS in the past year. The City would benefit from more homeowners installing graywater systems and should do everything possible to encourage broader use of the water-saving installation.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Attorney, with the cooperation and assistance of the Department of Building and Safety and the Department of Water and Power, prepare and present an ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to eliminate any fees associated with the installation of approved “simple” graywater systems (as defined by LADWP) by homeowners in Los Angeles.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Department of Water and Power conduct a review of both completed graywater system applications and applications that were started but not finished, and to report to the Council regarding what hurdles or other issues could be streamlined to further encourage people to recycle water at their homes with graywater systems.

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN

*Councilmember, 11th District*



PAUL KERKORIAN

*Councilmember, 2nd District*

SECONDED BY:




APR 15 2015

ORIGINAL