

Motion

The State of California is facing one of the most severe droughts on record. Governor Brown in January declared a drought State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for water shortages. Severe drought conditions continue to present urgent challenges throughout the state, and there is a distinct possibility that these conditions will continue into 2016 and beyond. On April 1st Governor Brown Issued Executive Order B29-15, requiring a statewide 25% reduction in potable urban water usage. The executive order also prohibits irrigation with potable water outside of newly constructed homes and buildings that is not delivered by drip or microspray systems.

The City of Los Angeles has been a leader in water conservation efforts and uses the same amount of water as it did 40 years ago, despite its massive population growth. The Department of Water and Power offers many incentives and rebates to promote the use of more water saving appliances and landscaping. Despite past successes and water reductions, the City is faced with a constant need to conserve. Mayor Garcetti released the Sustainable City Plan requiring a per-capita water usage reduction of 20% by 2017 and 25% by 2035.

Conservation is an important part of securing future water demands, but additional sustainable resources are necessary to achieve these goals. Greywater is water available for reuse from showers, sinks, laundry machines, and bathtubs (but not toilets). In many parts of the world and in other parts of the country, sophisticated filtration systems are integrated into homes to allow greywater to be recycled and safely used for landscaping irrigation on site and other uses.

Greywater systems create the benefits of a sustainable water source resulting in decreased water costs to the user and save both potable water and energy for the City. A complete home system collecting the discharge from all available greywater sources would be expected to generate approximately 40 gallons per day per person, saving water and hundreds of dollars per year on water and sewer service charges.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst to work with the Department of Building and Safety, the Bureau of Sanitation, the Department of Water and Power and any other relevant City departments, to report back in 30 days with recommendations for revisions to the Green Building Codes requiring the use of greywater systems in all applicable circumstances.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst to work with the Department of Building and Safety, the Bureau of Sanitation, the Department of Water and Power and any other relevant City departments, to establish standards for greywater treatment systems, allowing for expanded uses of greywater such as surface irrigation and toilet flushing. These standards should at that time also be incorporated in the Green Building Codes as a requirement for new construction.

PRESENTED BY:



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SECONDED BY:



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