

MOTION

Water is a precious and scarce commodity. The City of Los Angeles is experiencing severe drought conditions and is challenged with developing available sources of water to create a sustainable and reliable water supply while balancing environmental, economic, and societal goals. Exploring opportunities and implementing feasible solutions to use every available water source contributes towards sustaining the City's water supply as part of One Water LA.

Water efficiency requirements have been established for all new construction and remodeling building developments in the City. Installation of high efficiency plumbing fixtures in new residential and commercial buildings has proven to be effective in assisting customers to conserve water to meet the City's sustainability initiatives.

In addition to water efficiency requirements, a new potential requirement that can prove beneficial to increase available water resources is to conserve the temporary and permanent discharge of water generated from dewatering operations at new construction and existing building sites. The water generated from many dewatering operations is currently being discharged directly into the storm drain system which discharges into the Pacific Ocean.

A preferable strategy would be to redirect dewatering operational discharges, where feasible, towards onsite non-potable water uses, thereby immediately reducing the City's overall water demand while lowering the customer's water bill. Common onsite uses include irrigation, cooling towers and other industrial applications. It may be necessary to install pretreatment systems before the discharged water can be utilized onsite, for which incentives may be considered to help offset property owner cost.

As a secondary option, dewatering operation discharges could be routed to the sewer collection system to be treated at a water reclamation plant, thus increasing available resources of water for offsetting potable demand as well as beneficial reuse. In addition, a connection into the sewer system may eliminate the need for installing and operating pretreatment equipment required to meet water quality discharge standards of the storm drain system and reduce MS4 permit compliance costs and possible fees.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the Bureau of Sanitation, in collaboration with the Department of Building and Safety and the Department of Water and Power, be directed to evaluate and report on the feasibility of requiring and, where appropriate, incentivizing existing properties, new developments and redevelopments to direct groundwater generated from dewatering activities towards onsite reuse, or alternatively discharge such water into the sewer collection system instead of the storm drain system to assist in capturing, conserving and reusing water for a more sustainable City.

PRESENTED BY



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District



JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

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SECONDED BY



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