

Question/Comment:

You are REQUIRING the very low efficiency, and inherently problematic to be unilaterally left in the hands of a homeowner, "laundry to landscape" scheme?!! Are you nuts? Who the heck ever recommended such a thing? The same people who so very studiously refuse to even consider the various ways in which we can apply the decentralized concept to the "organized" wastewater system? So now they are saying in essence, we're too lazy to figure out how to optimize distributed reuse within our system, so why don't you folks try to do some of that, in a very water inefficient and rather problematic manner, for us? Is Austin Water really that *? Thank you.

Question/Comment:

50% of lot irrigated is too much. what types of grass are allowed and what types are banned? Based upon growth and drought, why would it be allowed at all?

Response:

The technical codes do not specify what types of grass are allowed.

DSD's Environmental Inspections team will inspect for the 95% revegetation requirement on all active sites. There is no requirement for specific species of grass unless it refers to a revegetation requirement on a commercial site.

Typical turf grass for residential properties is not currently regulated nor is it required to meet the pervious coverage requirement for compliance. Drought tolerant native plants and grasses can be used to meet this requirement.

Question/Comment:

While I absolutely understand the need for these adjustments, they just add more costs to an already high construction environment. Austin Water has rebates for water recycling, but laundry to landscape nor rainwater collection for landscaping are options... if you adjusted the rebates from replacing existing landscaping to more rainwater/laundry collection options, you might find more success in fostering a more water conscious community. People want their landscaping, and instead of having the water from even just laundry go straight to the sewer, it can be put into the existing landscaping. This saves everyone time and money. Additionally hundreds of gallons of water are being lost due to decades old cast iron pipes. There have been plenty of local new stories on this... but adding more rebates there would help fix water leakage all over the city.

Question/Comment:

Requiring homes with a clothes washer on the exterior wall to have landscape-ready piping seems like a bad idea. Presumably this would be piped to catchment barrels where mosquitoes would breed. We're going to pump soapy water onto our lawns? It's also another penetration that would be prone to winter freezing.

*edited for language