



MEMORANDUM

TO: Greg Meszaros, Director
Austin Water Utility Department

FROM: Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation

DATE: November 7, 2011

SUBJECT: Reclaimed Water Line to Hancock Golf Course

As you know, the Water Utility Department recently completed a reclaimed water line extension to Hancock Golf Course. The Golf Course currently irrigates with potable water. The Golf Course property has not converted to the reclaimed water line due to the plumbing code related to use of reclaimed water. In order to utilize the reclaimed water line, the code requires the City replace all pipe, irrigation heads and associated parts with purple or tagged parts identifying the system as a reclaimed water system. The cost for the conversion is estimated to be \$350,000.

The prohibitive cost associated with irrigating the golf course with potable water and the stage 2 water restrictions have placed a significant strain on the course conditions and operating budget for the Golf Enterprise Division. The Golf Course has failed to operate with a positive balance in several years. The City is currently evaluating the future of the property through a Community Engagement process. We hope to determine the best use of the property as identified by the surrounding neighborhoods and golfers. Regardless of the Community Engagement outcome, the need for affordable park irrigation will remain.

The Water Utility Department has expressed the possibility that a variance or waiver may be available considering the permanent use as a park and the current need to utilize reclaimed water, in lieu of potable water. I am requesting your Department evaluate the option of a waiver, or variance to the plumbing code restriction for the Hancock Golf Course. The Parks and Recreation Department recognizes some improvements will be required. The Department will need to ensure proper signage indicating the use of reclaimed water is in place and above ground irrigation parts will be properly identified as required by code. The waiver or variance will only apply to the pipe currently installed for irrigation. Any and all irrigation expansion improvements will be made using purple pipe or equivalent as required by the established code.

Thank you for your consideration.

CC: Kimberly McNeeley, PARD Assistant Director
Kevin Gomillion, Division Manager