

*Utilities Department*

**2024-1-B-CP-1 Text Amendment  
and Chapter 37 Amendment  
to Update the Level of Service Standards for  
Water and Wastewater**

**August 13, 2024**



# Presentation Outline

- **Background**
- **Historical Water Use**
- **Comparison of Level of Service Values**
- **Proposed Level of Service Standards**
- **Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment**
- **Chapter 37 Amendment**
- **Recommended Action**



# Background

- **Summary of Level of Service (LOS) Update Process**
  - **Transmittal Public Hearings – Text Amendment**
    - PZC/LPA – March 21, 2024 – Recommend Transmittal
    - BCC – May 7, 2024 – Recommend Transmittal
  - **State and Regional Agency – No Comments**
  - **Adoption Public Hearings – Text Amendment and Chapter 37 Amendment**
    - PZC/LPA – July 18, 2024 – Recommend Adoption
    - **BCC – August 13, 2024 – Requesting Adoption**



# Background

- **Average flows used to determine the Level of Service (LOS) standards for water and wastewater service**
- **Current LOS standards**
  - 275 gallons per day per Equivalent Residential Connection (ERC) for water service
  - 225 gallons per day per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) for wastewater service
- **Review of single-family potable water billing records**
  - Water conservation
  - Water saving fixtures/devices
  - Smaller lots
  - Increased percentage of new homes using reclaimed water instead of potable water for irrigation



# Background

## ▪ Level of Service (LOS)

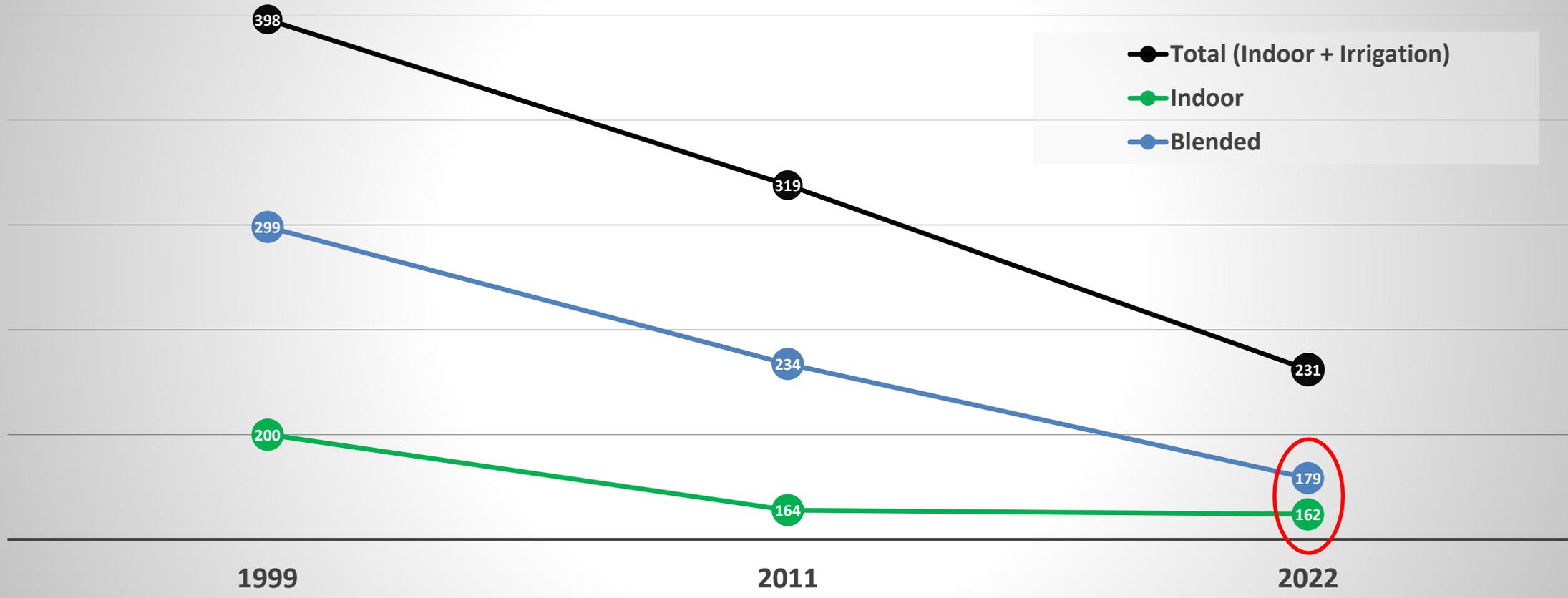
- The expected minimum quantity of service required for new development for proper growth management
  - The amount of water or wastewater used by a single-family home
- Helps determine the impact of new development in our community
  - The higher the LOS, the higher the impact to the environment
  - The lower the LOS, the lower the impact to our limited water resources
  - Our reduced LOS reflects efforts to conserve and optimize water resources
- Inaccurate LOS may lead to waste or lack of resources in the future
- Used to calculate new development water and wastewater capital charges
  - Utilities is conducting a capital charge study
  - BCC work session scheduled for Fall 2024



# Historical Water Use

### Single-Family Potable Water Use (gallons per day)

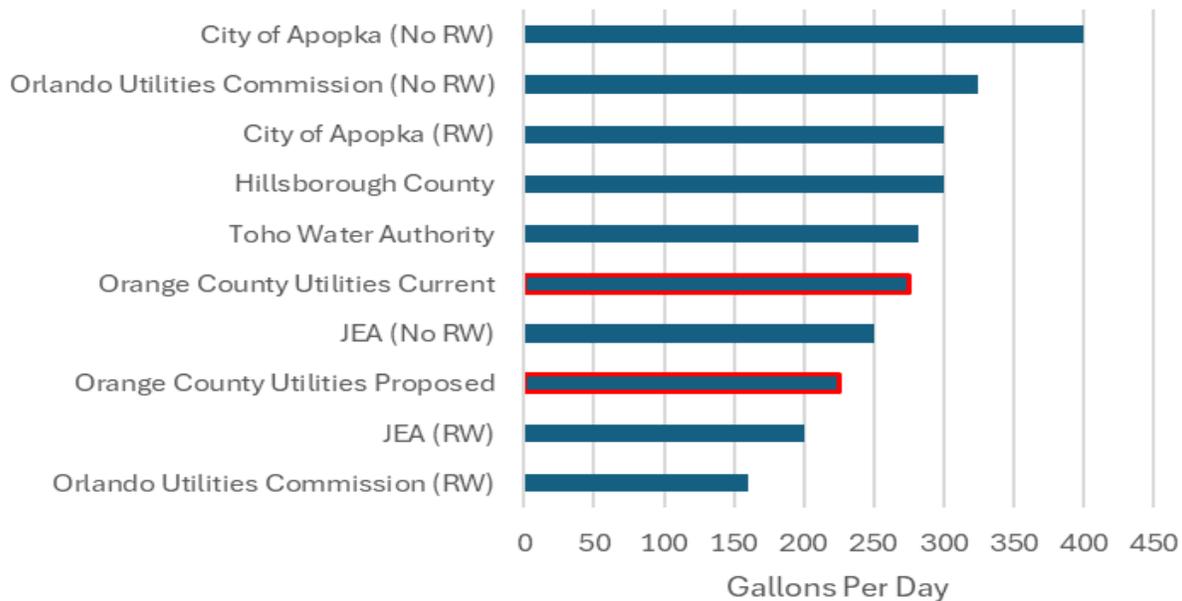
- Total (Indoor + Irrigation)
- Indoor
- Blended



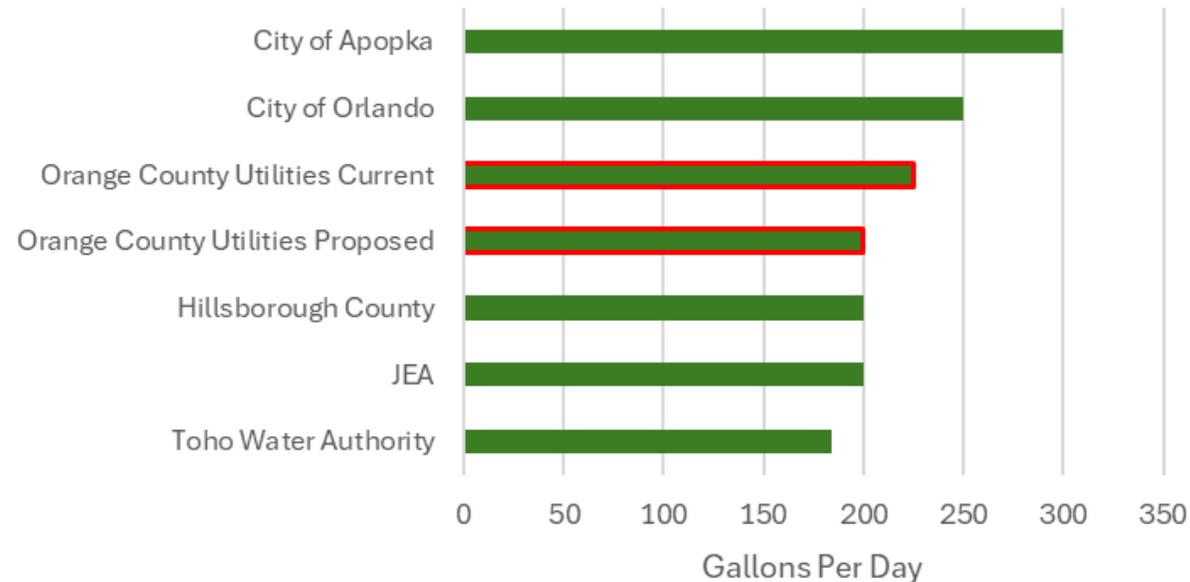


# Comparison of Level of Service Values

### Level of Service - Water



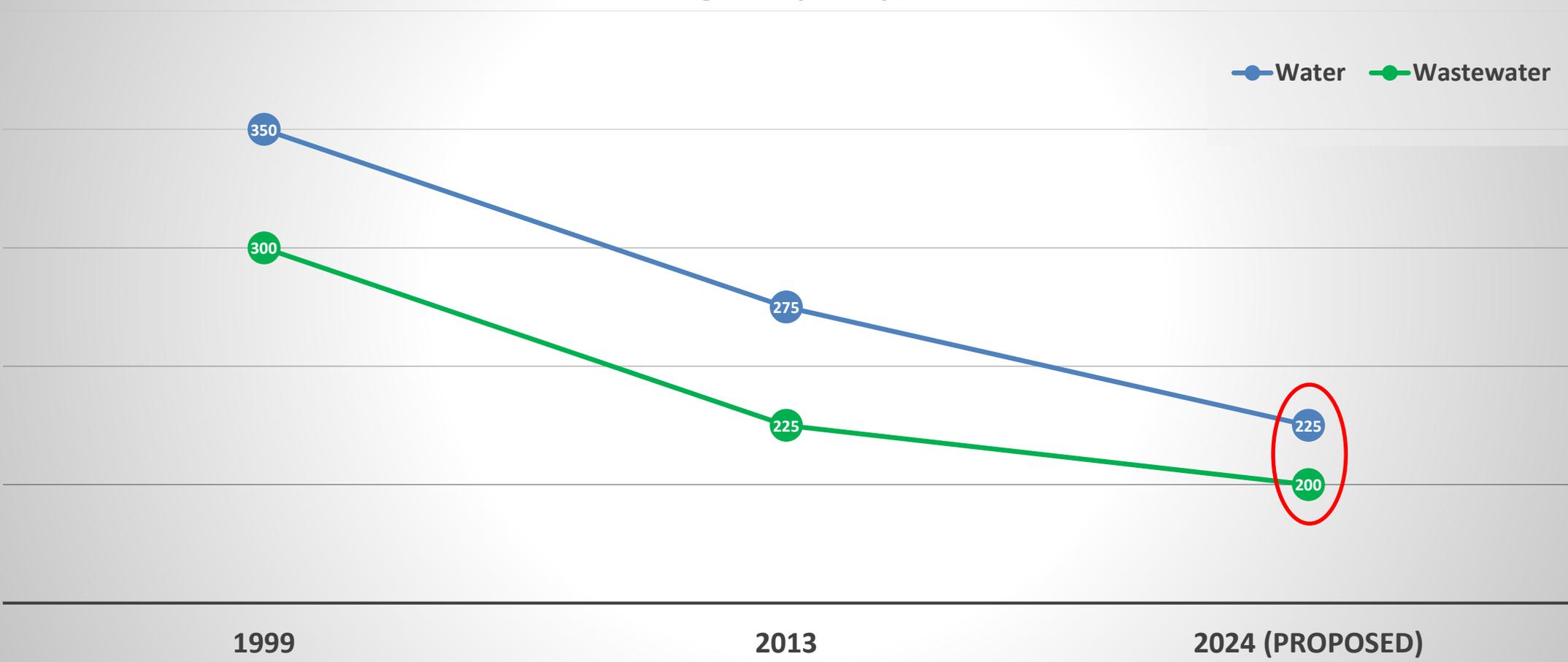
### Level of Service - Wastewater





# Proposed Level of Service Standards

### Level of Service (gallons per day)





# Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment

## Update to Potable Water, Wastewater and Reclaimed Water Element (WAT)

### –WAT1.2.5

Utility Name	Level of Service (LOS)
Orange County Utilities	<del>275</del> <u>225</u> gallons per day (gpd)/equivalent residential connection (ERC)

### –WAT1.2.6

Utility Name	Level of Service (LOS)
Orange County Utilities	<del>225</del> <u>200</u> gpd/equivalent residential unit (ERU)



# Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment

## ▪ Update to Capital Improvement Element (CIE)

- CIE1.3.4 - When central water service from Orange County Utilities is required for development, the level of service standard shall be ~~275~~ 225 gallons per day (average daily flow) per equivalent residential connection. Flow demands for commercial, industrial or other special developments differing from the flow values established by the serving utility shall be established from existing records or by estimated projections, using the best available data. These levels of service shall also be applied for planning purposes.
- CIE1.3.5 - When central wastewater service from Orange County Utilities is required for development, the level of service standard shall be ~~225~~ 200 gallons per day (average daily flow) per equivalent residential unit. Interim wastewater systems (permanent package treatment plants are no longer allowed in Orange County) shall have the same level of service standard. Wastewater flow demands for commercial, industrial or other special developments differing from the flow values established by the serving utility shall be established from existing records or by estimated projections, using the best available data. These levels of service shall also be applied for planning purposes.



# Chapter 37 Amendment

- **Amendment to Section 37-5(4)b.3.**
  - One (1) equivalent residential connection (ERC), for the purposes of this section, shall have an assigned value of 1.000. One (1) ERC is hereby established and determined to be equal to a flow of ~~two hundred seventy five (275)~~ two hundred twenty-five (225) GPD, on an average annual basis. Nonresidential parcels shall have a maximum of one (1) meter per detached building and a minimum of one (1) ERC per meter.



# Chapter 37 Amendment

- **Amendment to Section 37-5(5)b.3.**
  - One (1) ERU, for the purposes of this section, shall have an assigned value of 1.000. One (1) ERU is hereby established and determined to be equal to a flow of ~~two hundred twenty five (225)~~ two hundred (200) GPD, on an average annual basis. Nonresidential parcels shall be assessed a minimum of one (1) ERU per billing meter.

