

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)

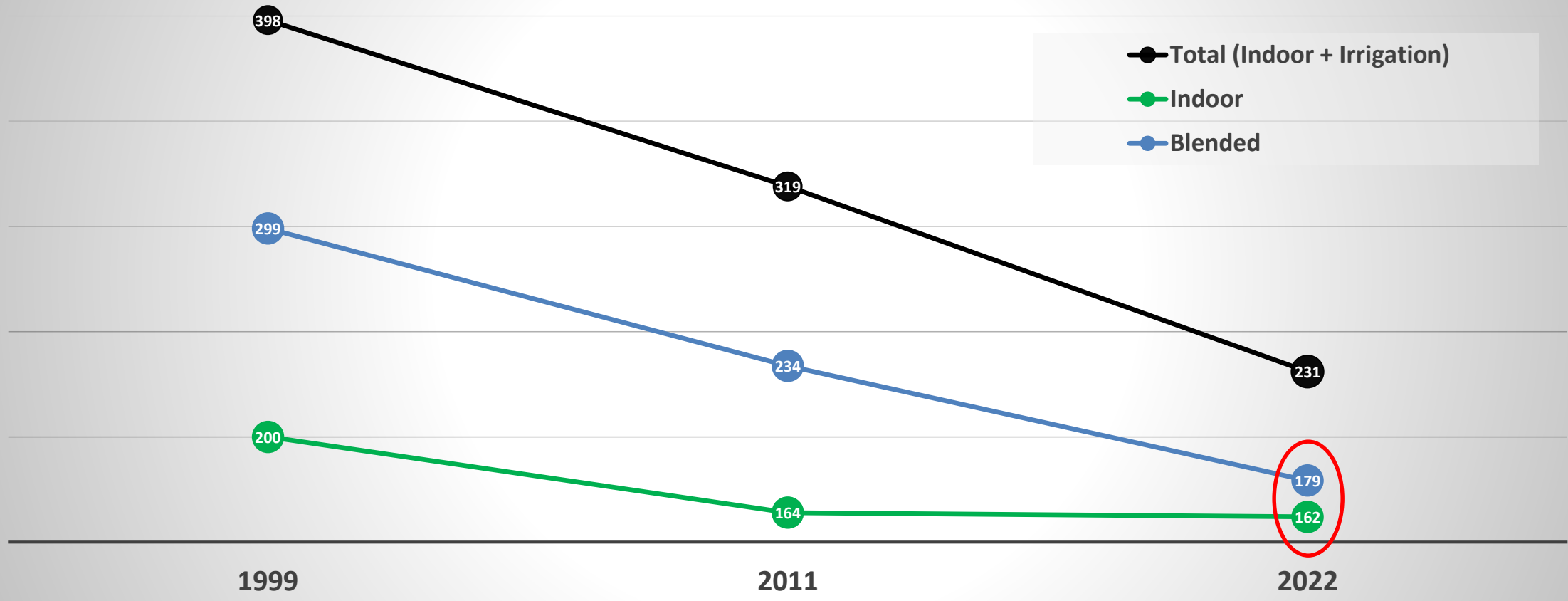
- The expected minimum quantity of service required for new development for proper growth management
 - The amount of water or wastewater used by a single-family home
- Helps determine the impact of new development in our community
 - The higher the LOS, the higher the impact to the environment
 - The 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)

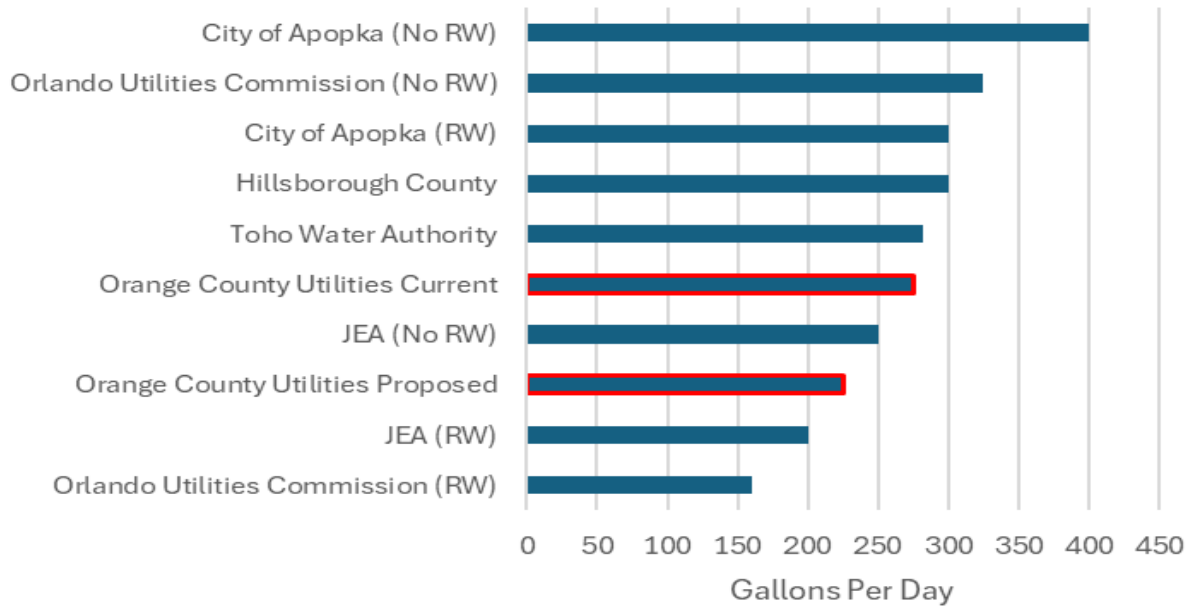
- Total (Indoor + Irrigation)
- Indoor
- Blended



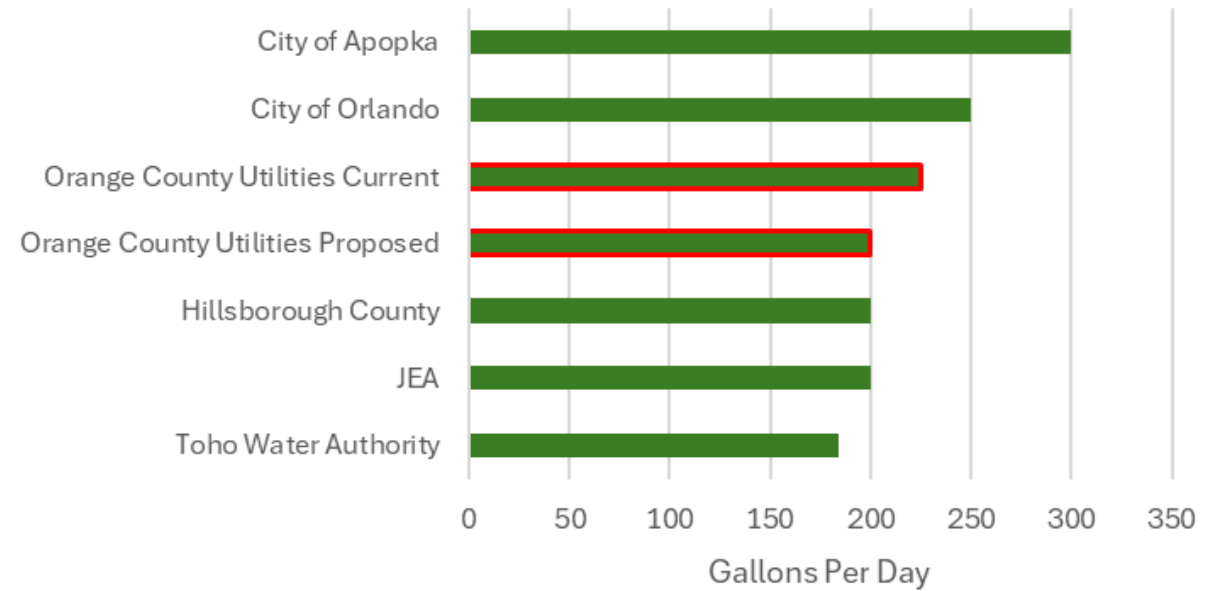


Comparison of Level of Service Values

Level of Service - Water



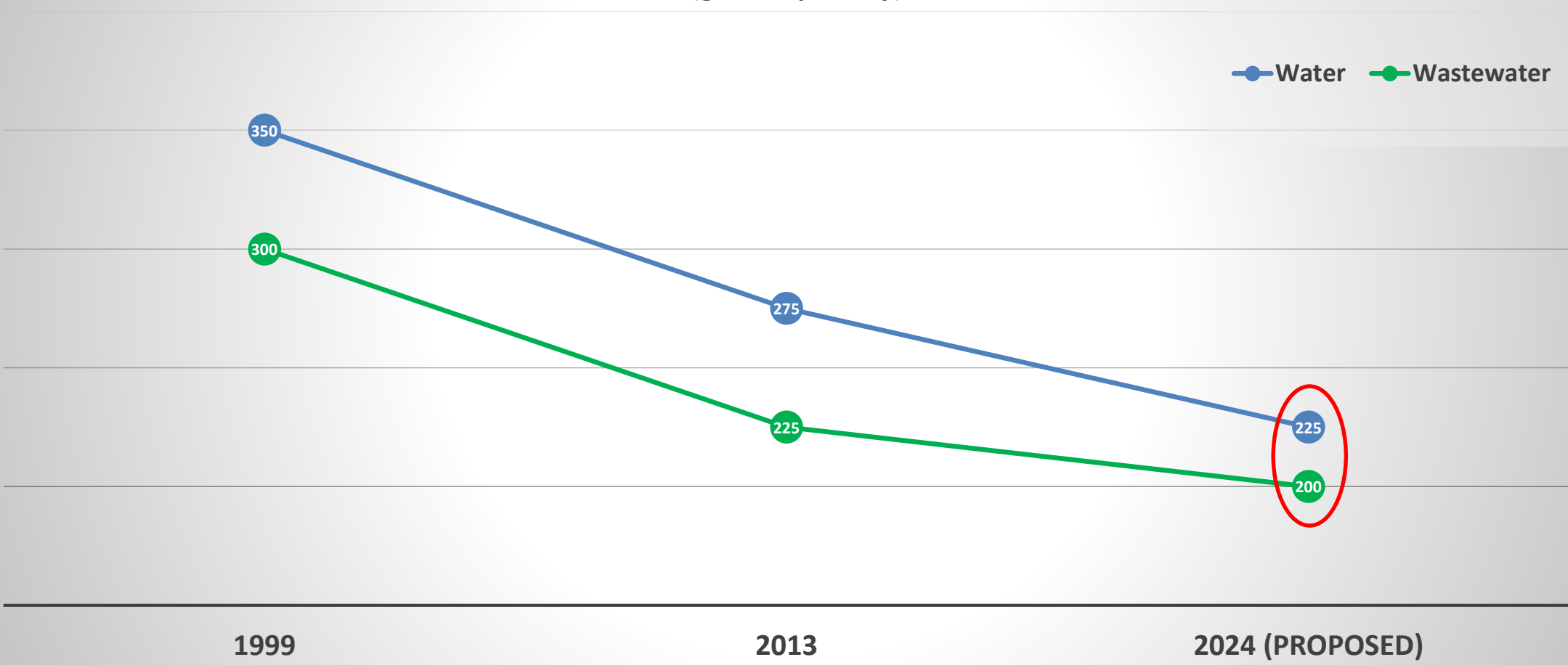
Level of Service - Wastewater





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	275 <u>225</u> gallons per day (gpd)/equivalent residential connection (ERC)

–WAT1.2.6

Utility Name	Level of Service (LOS)
Orange County Utilities	225 <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.



Recommended Action

Text Amendment Ordinance: **ADOPT**

Chapter 37 Amendment Ordinance: **ADOPT**

Action Requested:

- Make a finding of consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and ADOPT an Ordinance for Text Amendment 2024-1-B-CP-1 to Potable Water, Wastewater and Reclaimed Water Element (WAT) Policies WAT1.2.5 and WAT1.2.6, and Capital Improvement Element (CIE) Policies CIE1.3.4 and CIE1.3.5 to revise Level of Service (LOS) standards.
- Make a finding of consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and ADOPT An Ordinance Amending Orange County Code Chapter 37, Article I, Entitled “Orange County Water, Wastewater and Reclaimed Water Service Rules”; Amending Section 37-5 to Update the Level of Service Standards for Water and Wastewater; and Providing an Effective Date.
- Authorize staff to correct any non-substantial grammatical or scrivener’s errors.