



Memorandum

Date: 10/14/2025
Meeting of: City Council Study Session

File No. SS 25-062
Type: Study Session

TO: Members of the City Council
FROM: Mayor Angela Birney
CONTACT(S):

City Council	Council Vice President Jessica Forsythe	N/A
City Council	Councilmember Steve Fields	N/A
City Council	Councilmember Angie Nuevacamina	N/A

TITLE:

An Ordinance of the City of Redmond, Washington, Revising Section 21.17.010(D) of the Redmond Zoning Code to Prohibit the Drilling of New Private Wells within the City and Require Connection to the City Water System.

OVERVIEW STATEMENT:

Beneath the Downtown, Avondale Rd., and Southeast Redmond areas lie sand and gravel that was deposited long ago by glaciers and rivers. Within the tiny spaces of this geologic material flows groundwater that supplies 40% of Redmond's drinking water. A neighboring city has seen commercial production of bottled water threaten its groundwater supply.

In an effort to protect Redmond's drinking water supply and ensure the protection of the 40% of our water for generations to come in the face of climate change, we submit the following ordinance revising section 21.17.010(D) of the Redmond Zoning Code to prohibit the drilling of new private wells within the city and require connection to the city water system.

☒ **Additional Background Information/Description of Proposal Attached**

REQUESTED ACTION:

☐ **Receive Information** ☒ **Provide Direction** ☐ **Approve**

REQUEST RATIONALE:

- **Relevant Plans/Policies:**
Respect, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Environmental Sustainability, Infrastructure, and Public Safety.
- **Required:**
N/A
- **Council Request:**
06/25/2024 Study Session - Council Policy Proposal 0001
- **Other Key Facts:**
The state attempted to take action on this exact topic with SB 6278 (2019-20) which was passed by the Senate.

The bill made it to the House and passed through committee, but no action was taken in Executive Session. The fiscal note found no fiscal impacts.

OUTCOMES:

To protect our ground water resources from the impacts of climate change, and to build resiliency and take proactive steps to maintain our aquifer for future generations.

COMMUNITY/STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT:

- **Timeline (previous or planned):**
N/A
- **Outreach Methods and Results:**
N/A
- **Feedback Summary:**
N/A

BUDGET IMPACT:

Total Cost:
N/A

Approved in current biennial budget: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Budget Offer Number:
N/A

Budget Priority:
N/A

Other budget impacts or additional costs: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

If yes, explain:
N/A

Funding source(s):
N/A

Budget/Funding Constraints:
N/A

☐ Additional budget details attached

COUNCIL REVIEW:

Previous Contact(s)

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
6/25/2024	Study Session	Provide Direction
10/1/2024	Committee of the Whole - Planning and Public Works	Provide Direction

Proposed Upcoming Contact(s)

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
10/14/2025	Study Session	Provide Direction
10/21/2025	Business Meeting	Approve

Time Constraints:

N/A

ANTICIPATED RESULT IF NOT APPROVED:

If not approved, new ground water wells could be drilled which could burden our ground water resources for future generations.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Ordinance Revising RZC 21.17.010(D)

Attachment B: Redmond City Council Policy Proposal 0001