

Receive an update in response to Board Referral No.  
2024.10 to allow point of use and point of entry  
water treatment devices for new construction on  
legal lots of record

Monterey County Health Department  
Environmental Health Bureau  
April 22, 2025

# Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Receive an update in response to Board Referral No. 2024.10 to allow point of use and point of entry water treatment devices for new construction on legal lots of record, including accessory dwelling units.
- b. Provide further direction to staff, as appropriate.

# BACKGROUND

- Monterey County regulates 987 systems with 2-14 connections
- Approx. 235 out of compliance – nitrate, arsenic
  - Hexavalent chromium recently readopted by California
  - May be 170+ systems out of compliance
- Poses health risk to public
- Current compliance options
  - Consolidation
  - New well
  - Centralized treatment
  - Not always feasible and can be cost prohibitive
  - POU/POE for existing homes

# BACKGROUND

- June 18, 2019 – Board adopted ordinance that allowed POU/POE to be used for:
  - Local and State small systems (2-14 connections)
    - Existing homes to meet drinking water standards
    - Development of vacant lots that did not meet drinking water standards
  - Individual Property Owner – may use POU/POE to meet drinking water standards for a building permit
  - Public Water systems (in conformance with state law)
- County received litigation challenging ordinance and ordinance was suspended (except for public water systems)

# BACKGROUND

- November 28, 2023– Board adopted ordinance that allowed POU/POE to be used for:
  - Local and State small systems (2-14 connections)
    - Existing homes to meet drinking water standards
    - Did not apply to undeveloped lots
- October 1, 2024 – EHB gave update on Board Referral No. 2024.10 to allow POU/POE treatment to be utilized for new construction on legal lots of record, include accessory dwelling units
  - Ordinance needs to be drafted
  - Need to collaborate with consultant for Environmental Review

# UPDATE

- Draft ordinance has been prepared
- Working with external consultant to develop scope of services and enter into contract for CEQA (Initial Study)
- Staff anticipate a draft amended ordinance and Initial Study will be available for public review by December 2025 depending on timeline and results of initial study

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Questions?