

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

February 3 , 2026

# 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. 450 out of compliance – nitrate, arsenic, hexavalent chromium, and/or 1-2-3 Trichloropropane  
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
- Staff has met with and provided information to Rincon Consultants and they are working on the draft CEQA document
- Staff anticipate a draft amended ordinance and Initial Study will be available for public review by end of March 2026

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