

*“We are a welcoming, active and business-friendly rural foothill community built on California’s rich gold rush history.”*



**City Manager’s Report**  
**December 12, 2023, City Council Meeting**  
**Prepared By: Pierre Rivas, Development Services Director**  
**Item#: 10.1**

**Subject:** Consider the second reading of an Ordinance amending Title 7 of the Placerville Municipal Code *Health and Sanitation* adding Chapter 17 *Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance* to the City Code.

**Recommendation:**

1. Waive the second reading of an Ordinance amending Title 7 of the Placerville Municipal Code *Health and Sanitation* adding Chapter 17 *Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance*; and
2. Adopt the Ordinance.

This Ordinance will become effective 30 days from adoption.

**Purpose:** To adopt an ordinance to regulate private sewer laterals to protect the health and safety of the public by reducing or eliminating the discharge of sewage into the environment; and to reduce or eliminate sources of inflow and infiltration (I&I) into the City’s sewer system in compliance with the City’s sanitary sewer system state permit.

**Placerville Strategic Plan:** Maintain and improve our infrastructure and facilities to provide a safe community-No. 4: Update and Maintain City Owned Infrastructure, 4a: Identify and repair and/or replace existing infrastructure (water, sewer, wastewater, etc.) as needed to continue and improve the level of service for essential City owned utilities to the community.

**Background / Discussion:**

This draft ordinance was first brought to the City Council on January 9, 2018. Since that time, the ordinance has undergone some modifications following public input, consultation with other jurisdictions, and review of the California Plumbing Code. Most of the edits were not substantive, providing for better clarity of terms used, procedures, and identification of responsible staff.

The draft ordinance was brought back to the City Council on August 9, 2022. Following Council discussion, the City Council directed staff to notify all affected property owners and hold a public workshop. A workshop was held in Town Hall on May 24, 2023.

Following the workshop, the ordinance was brought forward to the Council on October 24, 2023, for a first reading. The Council decided to table the item and appoint a Council Subcommittee to work with staff on addressing concerns and finalizing the ordinance. Council members Neau and Yarbrough were selected to hold meetings with staff and bring back a revised draft ordinance to the Council. Two meetings were held on October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 7, 2023. The revised Ordinance was brought forward to the Council on November 14, 2023. At that meeting, concerns were raised regarding the individual responsibilities of the individual property owners sharing a common sewer lateral. The Council permitted a recess to allow staff to suggest

modifications for Council consideration. Following Council deliberation, the Council introduced and waived the first reading of the proposed Ordinance amending Title 7 of the Placerville Municipal Code *Health and Sanitation* adding Chapter 17 *Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance* to the City Code.

Changes made to the previous draft ordinance that was before the City Council on November 14, 2023, are shown as underlined and ~~strike out~~.

Note: Please refer to Attachment B – Staff’s Report to the City Council dated November 14, 2023, for a detailed description of the background to this Ordinance.

**General Plan Consistency:** The proposed amendments are in general conformance with the City of Placerville General Plan, including the Public Facilities and Services Element, Goal B, Policies 4 and 5; the Natural, Cultural, and Scenic Resources Element, Goal A; and the Health and Safety Element, Goal F.

**Environmental Review—CEQA:** This ordinance is exempt from environmental review pursuant Section 15308 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines under the Class 8 exemption consisting of actions taken by regulatory agencies to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for the protection of the environment; and Section 5304 (Minor Alterations to Land).

**Options:**

1. Adopt the proposed ordinance as recommended by staff.
2. Amend the proposed ordinance as directed by Council.
3. Table discussion of the ordinance and provide direction to staff to revise the ordinance for consideration by Council.

**Cost:** The additional cost for administration, permit review and processing, and inspections would be minimal since these costs would be borne by the applicant through payment of development permit fees.

**Budget Impact:** None



M. Cleve Morris, City Manager



Pierre Rivas, Development Services Director



Melissa McConnell, Interim City Engineer



Greg Horsfall, Building Official

Attachments:

- A. Draft Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance
- B. Staff’s Report to the City Council dated November 14, 2023