



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

March 29, 2017

Senator Scott Wiener
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT SB 740 - Onsite Non-Potable Water System Guidelines

Dear Senator Wiener:

On behalf of SPUR, thank you for introducing SB 740 and for your commitment to expanding water reuse in California. SPUR has been a longtime supporter of water reuse in the Bay Area, and called on local governments to expand their commitments to reuse and recycling in our policy reports, *Future-Proof Water* (2013) and *Future-Proof Water for Silicon Valley* (2016).

Drought and climate variations are requiring communities to look for new ways to develop and manage local water supplies. Onsite non-potable water systems can collect and treat graywater, rainwater, stormwater, and other alternate water sources for uses such as toilet flushing and irrigation. While these systems have many benefits including reducing potable water use for non-potable purposes, there are institutional and regulatory barriers to widespread adoption.

Currently, there are limited statewide standards for onsite water reuse to ensure the protection of public health. Local communities often lack guidance or do not have time to develop their own framework to manage these systems. SB 740 will direct the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a comprehensive risk-based framework to assist local communities in developing oversight and management programs for onsite non-potable water systems in multi-family residential, commercial, and mixed-use buildings. The framework would establish treatment system performance standards that are protective of public health and establish guidance for monitoring, permitting and reporting of onsite non-potable water systems in communities across California. The practices set forth in the framework are optional and would be adopted at the discretion of local communities.

The future of water reuse depends on having safe, reliable statewide standards that cities can adopt. SB 740 will create these standards, and spur the Water Board to action at a time when Californians are readier than ever to accept reuse and recycled water in their buildings and communities. For these reasons, SPUR supports SB 740 and your efforts to promote water reuse in California.

Sincerely,

Laura Tam
Sustainable Development Policy Director

cc: Paula Kehoe, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (Pkehoe@sfwater.org)