



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

April 4, 2018

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
Chair, Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA, 95814

Re: SUPPORT SB 966 (Wiener) – Water Quality Criteria for Onsite Treated Non-potable Water Systems

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

On behalf of SPUR, we are pleased to support SB 966 (Wiener) and respectfully request your support for this bill when it is considered in your committee.

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. They can save significant amounts of water – between 20-75% of potable water in mixed-use and commercial buildings – and contribute significantly to meeting the state’s conservation goals, especially for urban water use.

While these systems have many benefits including reducing potable water use for non-potable purposes, there are institutional and regulatory barriers to widespread adoption, including limited statewide standards for onsite water reuse. SB 966 directs the State Water Resources Control Board to establish regulations for risk-based water quality standards for onsite non-potable water systems in multi-family residential, commercial, and mixed-use buildings. We support SB 966 because the risk-based water quality standards will be consistent with the most advanced and protective public health standards, and the bill provides guidance on how local jurisdictions can establish oversight and management programs for onsite non-potable water systems. The practices set forth in the framework are optional and would be adopted at the discretion of local communities.

SPUR participated in developing and shaping San Francisco’s successful nonpotable water program and its implementing ordinances that made water reuse possible within buildings and at the district scale. This precedent can be replicated in other cities around the state much more quickly and easily once state water quality standards have been established. For these reasons, we ask for your support for SB 966 when heard in your committee. Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Laura Tam
Sustainable Development Policy Director

cc: Consultant, Senate Committee on Environmental Quality; Paula Kehoe, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; Senator Scott Wiener; Assembly Member Cristina Garcia; Assembly Member Blanca Rubio