

9/8/2021

Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of SPUR, I am writing to express wholehearted support for the proposed ordinance to expand San Francisco reliance on alternate water sources for non-potable applications (File Number: 210536).

Climate change models project that periods of severe drought in Northern California will dramatically worsen before the end of the century.¹ Northern California experienced the worst drought in a millennium from 2012-16, and the current drought is on track to be more severe than the last. With climate change, San Francisco cannot afford to delay investing in alternative water supplies.

The proposed ordinance lowers the minimum square footage for new buildings required to construct onsite water reuse systems. Recycled water would be used for non-drinking purposes such as toilet flushing, urinal flushing, clothes washing, and outdoor irrigation.

Water reuse is a key strategy for the city to balance its need to address the housing shortage, continue to grow economically, and do so within the limits of its water supplies. And unlike the city's main source of water, the Hetch-Hetchy water system, recycled water isn't diverted from upstream rivers and streams that are already suffering from water shortages.

We applaud San Francisco's strong track record in advancing onsite non-potable water reuse and support the city's efforts to expand its reliance on alternative, drought-resilient water supplies.

Sincerely,



Laura Feinstein, Ph.D.
Sustainability and Resilience Policy Director

¹ Ackerly, David, Andrew Jones, and Bruce Riordan. *California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment: San Francisco Bay Area Region Report*. Accessed March 5, 2021. <https://barc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2020-12/20190116-sanfranciscobayarea.pdf>.