

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Public Works Code - Repeal of Reclaimed Water Use Ordinance]

Ordinance amending the Public Works Code to repeal the Reclaimed Water Use Ordinance; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Article 22 of the Public Works Code, titled the Reclaimed Water Use Ordinance, requires property owners within certain designated areas on the west side and east side of San Francisco to install separate plumbing systems for the transmission and use of recycled water in (1) new, remodeled, or converted buildings of 40,000 square feet or more, (2) new developments subject to subdivision map requirements, and (3) new and existing irrigated areas of 10,000 square feet or more. These plumbing systems would be connected to, and dependent upon, larger external distribution systems to be built by the City to produce and deliver recycled water to individual property owners.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would repeal Article 22 of the Public Works Code (consisting of Sections 1200-1210) in its entirety. Accordingly, upon the effective date of this ordinance, Article 22 would not apply to development projects that are in any stage of planning, permit approval, or construction.

Background Information

The City enacted the Reclaimed Water Use Ordinance ("RWO") in 1991 to support the City's then-existing water supply planning approach. That approach included the City's possible construction of centralized non-potable recycled water facilities and distribution systems on both the west side and east side of San Francisco that would produce and deliver recycled water to property owners that installed recycled water plumbing systems.

Since the RWO's enactment, recycled water planning and use in San Francisco has evolved significantly. In 2012, the City enacted Article 12C of the Health Code, commonly known as the Non-Potable Water Ordinance ("NPO"). The NPO, as amended, requires the installation of on-site, non-potable water systems to treat and re-use available alternate water sources in all large development projects of 250,000 square feet or more in the City. Unlike the systems required under the RWO, these systems produce their own water on-site and do

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not need to be connected to larger external distribution systems in the City. In light of the NPO, maintaining the requirements set forth in the RWO is no longer necessary for implementing the City's water supply strategies.

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