

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

RESOLUTION NO. 15-0221

WHEREAS, Irrigated landscapes contribute significantly to the quality of life of the people of San Francisco by providing areas for active and passive recreation and as an enhancement to the environment by cleaning air and water, preventing erosion, and adding to the natural beauty of our commercial, industrial, and residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has been a leader in water conservation policy in California and currently has one of the lowest per capita uses of water in the state; and

WHEREAS, Our potable water supply is a vital public resource that faces ever increasing demands; and landscape design, installation, maintenance, and management can and should be water efficient; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed Assembly Bill 1881, the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act, which enacted Article 10.8 of the California Government Code requiring that local agencies adopt a water efficient landscape program that meets water conservation criteria and standards adopted by the California Department of Water Resources; and

WHEREAS, The adoption of the Water Efficient Irrigation Ordinance by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco on November 23, 2010, and the adoption of the Rules for Water Efficient Irrigation by this Commission on May 25, 2010 improve the effectiveness of the City's landscape water efficiency program and ensure compliance with the requirements of the State's Water Conservation in Landscaping Act; and

WHEREAS, On April 1, 2015 Governor Brown issued Drought Executive Order B-29-15 directing the California Department of Water Resource to update the state Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance to increase water efficiency standards for new and existing landscapes to reduce potable water use for landscape irrigation; and

WHEREAS, On July 15, 2015 the California Water Commission approved the state's revisions to the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and local agencies have until December 2015 to adopt amendments to their local ordinances and regulations; and

WHEREAS, Adoption of the amended Ordinance and Rules and Regulations Governing Water Service to Customers will continue to promote the values and benefits of landscapes while recognizing the need to invest water and other resources as efficiently as possible; and

WHEREAS, The SFPUC caused a notice of public hearing on the proposed amendments to Section F, Water Efficient Irrigation, of the Rules and Regulations Governing Water Service to Customers and the proposed amendments were publicly noticed in accordance with the Charter; and

WHEREAS, On May 20, 2010 the San Francisco Planning Department Environmental Review Officer determined the Water Efficient Irrigation Ordinance and the Rules for Water Efficient Irrigation were categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15308, Class 8, Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment. Said determination is on file with the Secretary of the Commission and is incorporated herein by reference; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Commission, pursuant to its Charter authority to adopt rules and regulations, hereby amends Section F of the Rules and Regulations Governing Water Service to Customers, as provided in the copy of draft amendments to Section F on file with the Secretary of the Commission, effective January 1, 2016; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Public Utilities Commission urges the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to pass, and urges Mayor Edwin M. Lee to sign, the amended Water Efficient Irrigation Ordinance.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its meeting of October 27, 2015.



Secretary, Public Utilities Commission