



**Executive Directive 14-01**  
**Water Conservation – City Departments**  
*February 10, 2014*

San Francisco is a leader in using water wisely. Our citizens have some of the lowest water use in California, and the City has taken steps to help residents and businesses become even more efficient in their water use. In 2009, the City and County of San Francisco passed two water conservation ordinances for residential and commercial properties to install high-efficiency plumbing fixtures. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) offers financial incentives and technical assistance to replace inefficient plumbing fixtures for retail water customers. Additionally, San Francisco is diversifying our water supply by developing groundwater and recycled water.

Snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada is the primary drinking water source for 2.6 million people in the Bay Area. In 2013, California experienced one of the driest years on record, setting the stage for reduced water storage levels and possible first year drought conditions. These conditions have persisted in 2014, which could be the driest water year in the state's history. Precipitation has been less than 10 percent of normal so far for the year. After two years of below-average rainfall in California, Governor Jerry Brown declared a statewide drought in January 2014.

Given the current conditions in California, the City and County of San Francisco is requesting its water customers to reduce overall water consumption by 10 percent. Reducing water usage is essential to stretching our water supplies during this time of drought.

City agencies have made great strides to use less water. Since the last period of voluntary rationing in 2007, water use by City departments has declined by 22%. While many departments have implemented water conservation measures, there is still room to improve and save more water. Therefore, with this Executive Directive, I am outlining actions City departments should pursue to further reduce their consumption of water.

**Further reduce consumption by 10 percent.** All departments are directed to take steps immediately to reduce their water consumption with a goal of achieving a 10 percent reduction. Department heads are requested to report innovative conservation strategies to the SFPUC (contacts below) for the purpose of sharing best practices with other Departments. This reporting will be voluntary.

**Develop a Water Conservation Plan.** By August 1, 2014 all departments shall develop a Water Conservation Plan that includes:

- A departmental contact for water conservation efforts.
- An inventory of all departmental plumbing fixtures and their flow rates, including toilets, urinals, faucets, and showerheads.
- Timeline for retrofitting inefficient plumbing fixtures with high-efficiency models.
- A list of best management practices that departments will implement to achieve water-efficient operations and maintenance of parks, medians and other irrigated landscapes.

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**Educate staff and visitors on water conservation practices.** Effective immediately, all departments shall educate employees and facility visitors about the efficient use of water at City facilities and the need to conserve.

**Explore the use of non-potable water for street cleaning.** City departments should explore the feasibility of replacing potable water with non-potable water sources for street cleaning.

**Develop alternative sources of water supply.** The SFPUC is directed to develop alternative sources of water supplies for both potable and non-potable uses. All departments shall cooperate with the SFPUC in developing these alternative water supplies. These alternatives shall include, but not be limited to: Cherry Lake; groundwater; recycled water; and foundation drainage.

The SFPUC can provide departments with assistance to comply with this Executive Directive. Please contact Steven Ritchie, Assistant General Manager, SFPUC (415-934-5736, [sritchle@sflower.org](mailto:sritchle@sflower.org)) or Paula Kehoe, Director of Water Resources, SFPUC (415-554-0792, [pkehoe@sflower.org](mailto:pkehoe@sflower.org)).

This Executive Directive shall be effective immediately, and remain in place until rescinded or amended by future Directive.



Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor, City & County of San Francisco