LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Health Code - Alternate Water Sources for Non-Potable Applications]

Ordinance amending the Health Code to establish permitting requirements for two or more parcels that share the use of alternate water sources for non-potable applications; setting permit fees; and making environmental findings.

Existing Law

Currently, Health Code Article 12C ("Article 12C") requires alternative source water systems obtain a permit from the Department of Public Health ("Department"), and be constructed and operated in accordance with rules and regulations established by the Department that define appropriate water quality standards, monitoring criteria and other requirements for such systems. The Department of Building Inspection reviews plans and issues plumbing permits for on-site alternative source water systems.

Article 12C authorizes the installation and operation of the alternate water source systems at sites containing multi-family and non-residential buildings. A project applicant must submit an engineering report to the Department that describes the design of the proposed alternative source water system and clearly indicates the means for compliance with the Department's rules and regulations. The Department reviews the engineering report and issues a permit to operate the system if the system complies with the applicable rules and regulations. The Department of Building Inspection provides final inspection and sign-off to ensure that appropriate bypass and cross-connection control elements are part of construction. Article 12C authorizes water use audits, permit transfers upon sale of the property, suspension or revocation of permits, and the imposition of penalties for violations pursuant to Administrative Code chapter 100.

Article 12C provides for the payment of fees to cover the Department's costs for administering the program.

Amendments to Current Law

Article 12 C would be expanded to cover two or more parcels that share alternate water sources, and an additional hourly fee would be imposed by the Department to cover the staff time necessary for reviewing more complex plans and making additional site inspections.

Background Information

These amendments will facilitate larger scale use of alternative water sources and more comprehensive project planning.