

2018 Local Water Update

HETCH HETCHY + LOCAL WATER

Better together.



Groundwater • Recycled Water • Conservation • Non-Potable

Programs to conserve water and develop new supplies in the Bay Area.

Local Water:

- + Makes our water system more reliable and resilient in the face of risks including climate change, environmental regulations and ongoing maintenance needs that can affect our regional water supply.
- + Gives us greater flexibility to meet the diverse needs of our customers.

Groundwater

Groundwater, also known as well water – is a renewable source of naturally filtered water that is found hundreds of feet beneath the ground surface.

In San Francisco we are currently blending less than 1million gallons per day(mgd) of sustainable groundwater into San Francisco’s drinking water supply. At full build-out several years from now, this supplemental supply will add an average of 4mgd of groundwater to serve the City’s water demands.

Outside of San Francisco, through a regional partnership with the California Water Service Company (serving South San Francisco and Colma) and the cities of Daly City and Colma, our Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project will balance groundwater and Regional System Water to increase dry year supplies.

These projects extract groundwater from the 45 square mile Westside Basin, a series of aquifers extending from Golden Gate Park in San Francisco southward through San Bruno. The basin is a vital local resource for San Francisco and neighboring communities in San Mateo County. Our Groundwater Program includes an ongoing stewardship and management program.

Our drinking water will continue to be safe and meet or exceed all State and Federal drinking water standards. Groundwater from the shared Westside Basin aquifers has been extensively tested and monitored, and has been supplying drinking water the Daly City, San Bruno and South San Francisco for over 100 years. The San Francisco Department of Public Health has stated “we believe the evidence is clear that the plan to blend groundwater with surface water supplies will not create any adverse health consequences. Additionally, the amount of groundwater blended with surface water supplies will not result in any distinguishable difference in taste or smell from the current tap water.

Recycled Water

Recycled water is water that has undergone multiple levels of treatment to meet stringent quality and safety standards set by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Recycled water is water that has undergone multiple levels of treatment to meet stringent quality and safety standards set by the State Water Resources Control Board.

On the west side of San Francisco, we are aiming to save up to 2 million gallons per day of drinking water that is currently used for irrigation. The Westside Enhanced Water Recycling Project includes the construction of a new recycled water treatment facility within our existing Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant, along with storage reservoirs, pump stations and pipelines to deliver recycled water. The recycled water produced by this project will be used to irrigate Golden Gate Park, Lincoln Park, the Presidio Golf Course and other landscaped areas in the Presidio.

Current Use of Recycled Water

In partnership with Daly City, we deliver recycled water to irrigate Harding Park and Jack Fleming Golf Courses. Since October 2012, recycled water produced by the North San Mateo County Sanitation District, a subsidiary of Daly City, has been used to irrigate 163 acres of public golf course greens.

In 2014, in partnership with the North Coast County Water District we completed a project to use recycled water to irrigate the east side of the Sharp Park Golf Course in Pacifica and other nearby landscaped areas.

For more information about our localwater supply program visit sfwater.org/localwater



Non-Potable Water

The Non-potable Water Program Catalyzes Onsite Water Treatment in San Francisco

When the SFPUC was designing our new headquarters building in downtown San Francisco, we wanted it to be a reflection of the organization's mission to provide high quality, efficient, and reliable water, power, and sewer services in a manner that is inclusive of environmental and community interests, and sustains the resources entrusted to our care. To do this we installed an onsite Living Machine, to reclaim and treat all of the building's wastewater for toilets and urinals, resulting in 60 percent less water use compared to similarly sized buildings.

To overcome permit barriers, the SFPUC worked with the Department of Public Health (SFDPH), Department of Building Inspection (SFDBI), and San Francisco Public Works to develop San Francisco's non-potable water program to streamline permitting processes for onsite non-potable water systems. The four agencies provide oversight and management for the use of treated non-potable water to ensure systems are protective of public health.

Under the leadership of the SFPUC, San Francisco adopted the Onsite Water Reuse for Commercial, Multi-Family, and Mixed-Use Development Ordinance in September 2012. The Non-potable Water Ordinance (ordinance), allowed for the collection, treatment, and use of alternate water sources for non-potable uses in buildings. Since 2012, the Water Ordinance has been amended to allow for district-scale projects, where two or more parcels can share alternate water sources. In 2015, it became a mandatory requirement for new development projects over 250,000 square feet of gross floor area to install and operate an onsite non-potable water system. To date, approximately 80 projects are currently in the process of permitting and installing onsite non-potable water systems in San Francisco.

Conservation

For many decades, our conservation program has helped thousands of residents and businesses save water, making San Francisco's per capita usage some of the lowest in California.

We offer a number of services and programs to help homes, apartments, and businesses use water wisely, for both tenants and property owners.

Water Wise Evaluations

During a free Water-Wise Evaluation, a trained technician will visit your property to help identify leaks, inefficient fixtures, and provide recommendations to improve water efficiency.

Free Plumbing Devices

Select free plumbing devices for single family and under 10-unit multi-family homes are also available during a water-wise evaluation:

- High-efficiency shower-heads
- Faucet aerators for kitchens and bathrooms
- Garden hose shut-off nozzles
- Standard toilet leak repair kits

Landscapes

We can help customers maintain beautiful and water-efficient landscapes

- Free landscape water-efficiency evaluations
- Free gardening classes
- Water-wise guidebooks and plant lists
- Financial incentives for rainwater and graywater systems

Tools You Can Use

- View our Leak Guide at www.sfwater.org/homeleaks
- MyAccount allows you to monitor your water usage and pay your bill online. Register at myaccount.sfwater.org

The SFPUC is committed to planning proactively for our community's water future. In addition to promoting conservation and developing local water supplies, we work closely with other Bay Area agencies to explore regional water supply opportunities such as transfers and desalination. We are also exploring the feasibility of purified water. With scientific and regulatory advances in this field, and through highly advanced treatment and monitoring, recycled water is being treated to drinking water standards in California and in other parts of the country. As we look to the future, the SFPUC is investing in research and feasibility studies to understand purified water and what role it could play in helping our communities better adapt to the future.