



City and County of San Francisco
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

London N. Breed, Mayor
Grant Colfax, MD, Director of Health

Patrick Fosdahl, MS, REHS
Director of Environmental Health

Date: September 27, 2022

Re: Proposed revision to Rules and Regulations for the Alternate Water Source System Permit
Program: Article 12C of the San Francisco Health Code

Summary

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on a revision to the 2020 Rules and Regulations governing our program for issuing permits for onsite collection, treatment and reuse of alternate water sources in San Francisco. The revision adds a footnote to [Section 3 on Page 8](#) to clarify that clothes washing is only an allowed use when cross connections are prevented. The proposed footnote is:

Clothes washing shall use non-potable water if required by Article 12C of the San Francisco Health Code, except where the plumbing of the clothes washers could cause non-potable water to backflow into potable water systems.

This change is necessary to ensure that cross connections are not created when utilizing non-potable water for clothes washing. Specifically, non-potable water is not allowed for clothes washing where clothes washers have separate hot and cold water inlets that would require potable hot water and non-potable cold water to enter the clothes washer. Where non-potable hot water is unavailable, these types of clothes washers should only use potable hot and potable cold water.

This footnote addition still allows non-potable water use where clothes washers have an Electric Tankless heater that heats the non-potable water at the point of use, or where a boiler system provides non-potable hot water to the clothes washer.

Dates

Submit either electronic or written comments on this change by **October 11, 2022**.

Addresses

Submit electronic comments by email to: june.weintraub@sfdph.org

Submit written comments to: June M. Weintraub, ScD, REHS, Manager of Water and Noise Programs, San Francisco Department of Public Health, 49 South Van Ness Ave, Suite 600, San Francisco CA 94103.

Additional Information on SFHC 12C

In September 2012, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted Article 12C establishing the Alternate Water Source Program. The Alternate Water Source Program includes a permitting process and operational requirements for any new commercial, multi-family, and mixed-use developments in San Francisco that collect, treat, and reuse water for toilet flushing, irrigation and other non-potable uses. Since 2012, the ordinance has been amended, most recently in 2021. Rules and Regulations for Article 12C were most recently revised in July, 2020. Information on the 12C permitting program, including Rules and Regulations currently in effect, may be found at sfdph.org/dph/EH/Water/nonPotable.asp.