



New Retrofit Legislation Will Save Millions of Gallons of Water for San Francisco



This summer the SFPUC celebrates the passage of two new ordinances – sponsored by Mayor Newsom and Supervisor Sophie Maxwell – to update water efficiency laws for San Francisco properties. The new ordinances could save San Francisco up to 4 million gallons of water a day by 2017.

Effective July 1, the new ordinances establish guidelines to retrofit all residential and commercial properties with water-efficient plumbing fixtures upon resale. Commercial buildings may also be retrofitted over time when undergoing certain tenant improvements, but all commercial buildings must make the required changes by 2017.



“Faced with drought and climate change, we all understand the importance of reducing our water use,” said Ed Harrington, SFPUC General Manager. “The SFPUC is proud to have partnered with environmental, homeowner and commercial groups to pass this groundbreaking legislation.”

San Francisco properties will continue to be eligible for SFPUC cash rebates for the replacement of toilets, urinals and clothes washing machines. A recent study estimated that up to 40% of the City’s properties do not have toilets that meet the federal standard of 1.6 gallons per flush or less. Aerators and showerheads are also provided by the SFPUC free of charge. For more information please visit <http://conserve.sfwater.org>.



Ask the SFPUC

Q. Can you tell me how to obtain a free faucet aerator? I read they help reduce water use.



A. Installing aerators on kitchen and bathroom sinks can reduce indoor water use by about 4%. For your free aerator, schedule a free Water-Wise Evaluation for your home by calling 415-551-4730. You can also pick aerators up at the SFPUC Customer Service office from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, at 1155 Market Street (you will need to show proof of San Francisco residency or bring a copy of your water bill for verification).

SFPUC to Build State’s Largest Solar Photovoltaic Project

In May, Mayor Newsom signed legislation authorizing the construction of a 5-megawatt solar project atop the Sunset Reservoir. When completed next year, the Sunset Reservoir’s 25,000 solar panels will be California’s largest solar photovoltaic project, and will more than triple San Francisco’s total solar energy generation.



“The SFPUC is helping San Francisco take another major step towards achieving our commitments to reduce greenhouse gases and grow our green economy,” said Mayor Newsom.

In addition to Mayor Newsom, the legislation was co-sponsored by Supervisors Carmen Chu, Michela Alioto-Pier, Bevan Dufty and Eric Mar. You can see photos of the May 15 bill signing at facebook.com/sfwater.

Hit the Trails This Summer!

San Francisco’s watersheds – the protected lands around our pristine water sources – contain some of Northern California’s most beautiful trails, waterfalls and islands of rare and endangered species. Summer is the best time to visit and experience them yourself!



Hike Hetch Hetchy’s miles of trails.

Make a reservation to hike, bike or ride your horse on the Peninsula’s beautiful **Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail** at <http://trail.sfwater.org>.

Portions of the **Sunol Ohlone Regional Wilderness Park** are leased from the SFPUC in the Alameda Watershed in the East Bay (near the Town of Sunol). Learn more at ebparks.org.

Also, experience miles of trails, wildflowers, stunning waterfalls and back-country camping in the beautiful **Hetch Hetchy watershed in Yosemite National Park**. You can enjoy this pristine Sierra wilderness even as you enjoy our Hetch Hetchy tap water at home. Take a virtual tour of Hetch Hetchy at sfwater.org.

SFPUC in Your Neighborhood

Pistahan Festival and Parade

August 8-9, 11:00am – 5:00pm
Yerba Buena Gardens,
701 Mission Street

Oceanside Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours – Free

August 8 & September 12, 10am
Please sign up at least two weeks in advance: 415-695-7341, sfwater.org/tour

Save the Date: Big Blue Bucket – The Sequel

September 26, 2009



Discussing water conservation at the Asian Heritage Street Celebration in May.

Infrastructure Update: Your Water and Sewer Rates at Work



Water and wastewater rate increases effective July 1 to fund water and sewer upgrades. See insert for details.

SFPUC Breaks Ground on California's Largest Ultraviolet Water Treatment Plant

Mayor Gavin Newsom joined San Joaquin County officials, California Public Health officials, regional labor leaders and the SFPUC to break ground on what will be California's largest ultraviolet (UV) water disinfection facility when completed in 2011. Located at Tesla Portal south of Tracy, the Tesla Water Treatment Plant is part of the Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) and will use state-of-the-art UV disinfection to further protect the water supply for 2.5 million Bay Area residents. Visit sfwater.org/sanjoaquin.



Digging the footprint for the new Tesla Water Treatment Plant.

Bay Division Pipeline Project Gets Underway in Santa Clara

Hetch Hetchy water travels through large underground pipes in the East Bay, South Bay and Peninsula on its way to your tap. Beginning this summer in Santa Clara, Shimmick Construction will install valves and crossover piping at three locations along these pipes so that they can be shut down in the event of an earthquake or other emergency. Valves will also be installed in Atherton and Palo Alto beginning in 2011. For more information, visit sfwater.org/crossovers.



Bay Division Pipeline #4 construction.

Did You Know?

Bay Division Pipeline #4 is the Hetch Hetchy water system's widest pipeline – a whopping 96 inches, or 8 feet, in diameter!

North University Mound and Noe Valley Transmission Main Projects Progressing

The installation of new water mains, sewer repairs and repaving on Webster Street between Filbert and Lombard streets were completed in early May, after more than four months of work. This leg of the Water System Improvement Program's (WSIP) North University Mound project establishes a backup water supply, reduces water service interruptions and prevents sewer backups and overflows.

Several miles to the south, crews for the Noe Valley Transmission Main Improvements Project are currently upgrading aging water mains on Sanchez Street between Market and 19th streets, and on 19th Street between Sanchez and Noe streets.

For additional information and updates on either of these projects visit sfwater.org/district8 and sfwater.org/district2.



Before: Webster and Union streets during water and sewer main construction.



After: Streets repaved and neighborhood restored.

Explore the Sewer Universe at SFsewers.blogspot.com

Boldly blog where no one has blogged before at sfsewers.blogspot.com. We're providing updates and seeking your comments on everything from grease recycling to rainwater harvesting to biosolids composting – and we're launching a new "do-it-yourself" rain barrel video, too! Log on today and get involved in changing the ways we think about wastewater, stormwater and the environment.



facebook.com/sfwater
twitter.com/sfwater

Enter the "I Love San Francisco Water" Video Contest and Win!



Create a video showing your love for San Francisco's precious, great-tasting Hetch Hetchy tap water and qualify to win special prizes!

All eligible video entries will receive a free "I ♥ SF WATER" t-shirt and winners will be announced this fall. Submit your videos to YouTube.com/group/ILoveSFWater. For complete rules and registration visit sfwater.org. Deadline for entries is August 28, 2009 at 5 p.m.

Currents is brought to you by:

SFPUC COMMISSION:

Ann Moller Caen, President
F.X. Crowley, Vice President
Francesca Vietor
Juliet Ellis

Ed Harrington, General Manager

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission meets at 1:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in Room 400 of San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place. All commission meetings are open to the public.

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
1155 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
sfwater.org

Contact:

SFPUC Customer Services
(415) 551-3000

TDD Hearing/Speech Impaired
(415) 551-3052

Emergency Water/Wastewater Services
(415) 554-3444

Citywide Customer Service
311