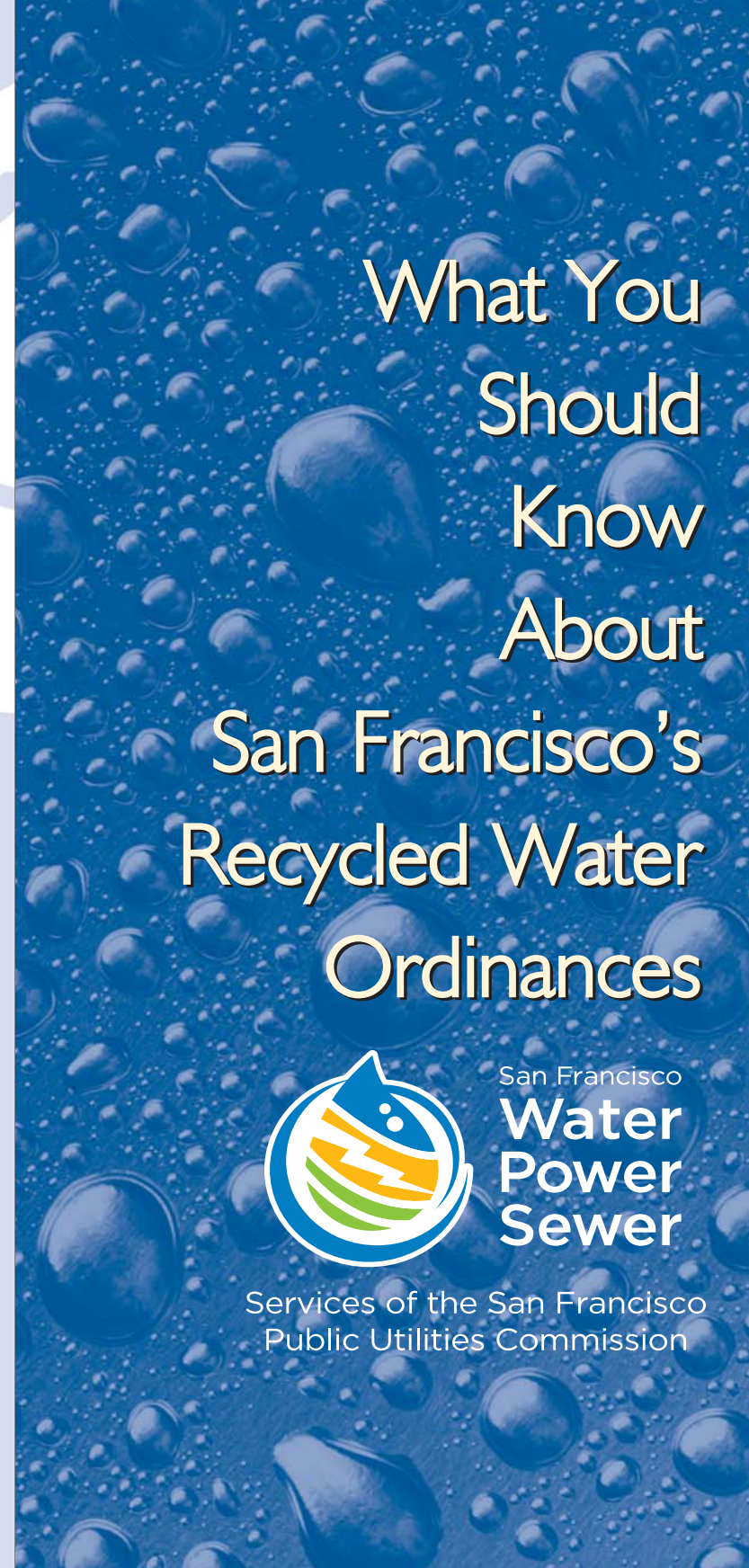
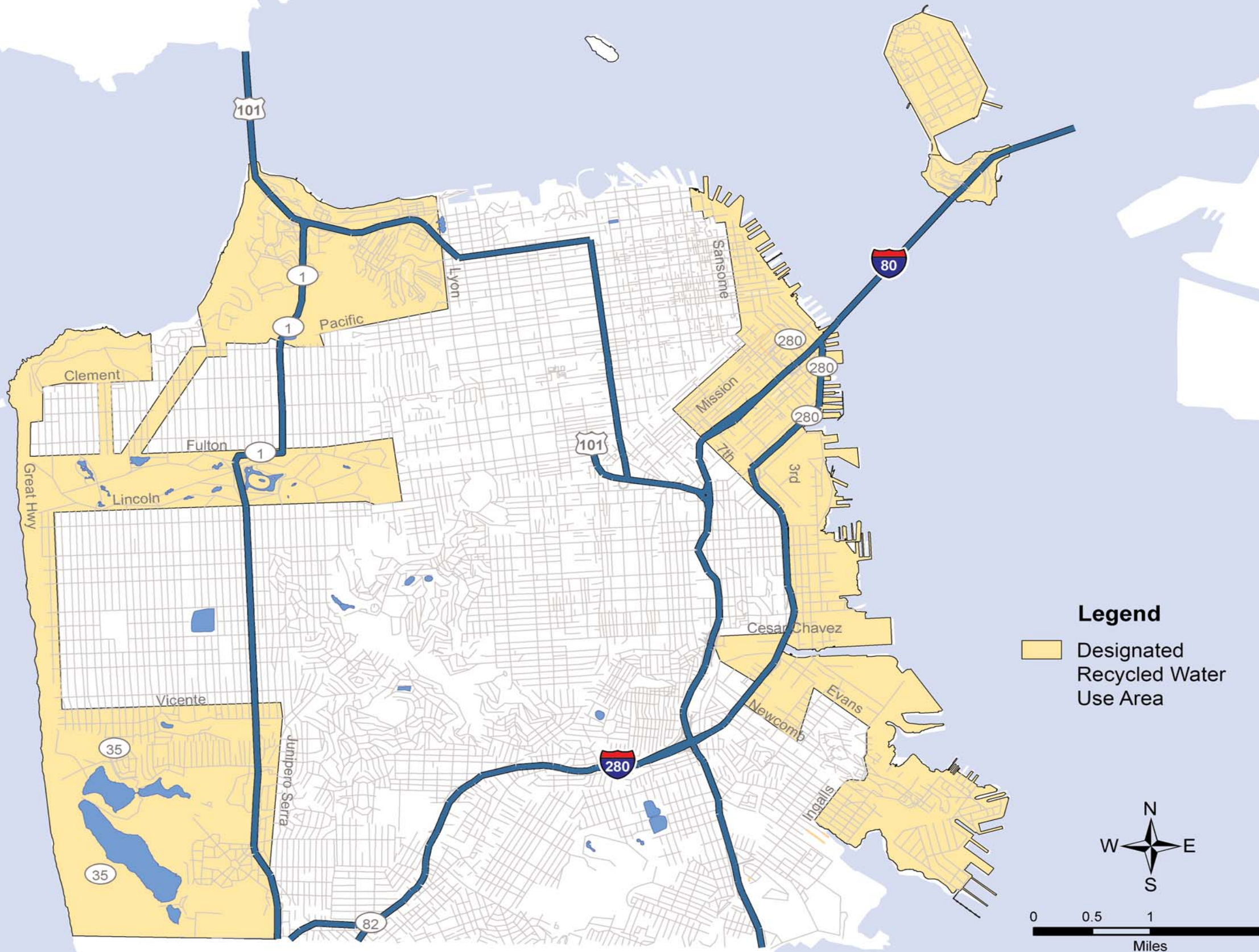


City and County of San Francisco

# Designated Recycled Water Use Areas



## What You Should Know About San Francisco's Recycled Water Ordinances



Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission





San Franciscans enjoy some of the nation's highest quality drinking water. The Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System - operated by San Francisco Public Utilities Commission - delivers pristine, Sierra snowmelt from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir, as well as water from protected local reservoirs, directly to our taps. To supplement our primary water supplies, we are developing recycled water and groundwater in addition to increasing water conservation efforts.

This brochure provides information on recycled water in general, and the City and County of San Francisco's (CCSF) Reclaimed Water Ordinances 390-91, 391-91, and 393-94 found in Article 22, San Francisco Public Works Code. These Ordinances govern the situations in which recycled water systems must be incorporated into new construction or remodel projects.

### What is Recycled Water?

Recycled water, sometimes referred to as reclaimed water, is wastewater that has been purified through multiple stages of treatment including disinfection and filtration to meet stringent health standards. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) carefully regulate the treatment and use of recycled water. Approved uses include irrigation of parks and playgrounds, school yards, golf courses, freeway landscaping, residential common areas, nurseries, and food crops. Additional approved uses include toilet and urinal flushing, lake recharge, creation or augmentation of recreational water bodies for fishing and boating, industrial processing, industrial and commercial cooling or air conditioning, commercial laundries, decorative fountains, concrete mixing, soil compaction, and dust control.

Recycled water use is common in the United States and throughout the world. Recycled water for irrigation, and other commercial, industrial, residential, and environmental uses can be found throughout California.

### Why is San Francisco Using Recycled Water?

Water is too precious a resource to use just once. Recycled water offers a new water source for non-drinking purposes in San Francisco. Recycled water will replace potable water currently being used for applications that do not require drinking water quality, such as — park and golf course irrigation — thus conserving valuable drinking water.



### What the Ordinances Require?

The CCSF enacted the Reclaimed Water Use Ordinances effective November 7, 1991, and amended them in 1994, requiring property owners to install recycled water systems for use within the designated recycled water use areas under the following circumstances:

- New, remodeled or converted buildings and all subdivisions with a total cumulative area of **40,000** square feet or more
- New and existing irrigated areas of **10,000** square feet or more

The text of the Ordinances can be found online at [www.sfwater.org](http://www.sfwater.org). Click on Construction, then For Developers and Designers.

### Designated Recycled Water Use Areas in San Francisco

The designated recycled water use areas include:

**Westside** – Lake Merced, Great Highway, Golden Gate Park, 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Lincoln Park, Richmond Tunnel, and the Presidio.

**Eastside** – The Embarcadero, Mission Bay, and Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, Treasure Island, and Yerba Buena Island (see map on reverse side for designated areas).

### Who Must Comply?

All property owners whose properties fall under the development project descriptions listed in the section above.

### Recycled Water Use Registration and Issue of Certificate

Prior to receiving recycled water service, property owners will be issued a 120-day temporary certificate of intention to use recycled water by our agency. All recycled water system installation and inspection requirements must be met. Property owners must designate a representative who is responsible for attending Site Supervisor Certification Training before the temporary certificate expires. Once a site supervisor has attended, and successfully completed the training, we will issue the property owner a permanent recycled water certificate.

### What Do the Ordinances Require Recycled Water Be Used For?

A goal of the ordinances is to use recycled water to the maximum extent possible. Buildings and facilities within the designated recycled water use area are required to use recycled water for all applicable State of California approved uses.

Approved uses include:

- Landscape Irrigation
- Toilet and Urinal Flushing
- Cooling or Air Conditioning Involving a Cooling Tower
- Decorative Fountains
- Industrial Process Water
- Industrial Boiler Feed
- Commercial Laundries
- Commercial Car Washing

### Exemptions from the Ordinances

The agency's General Manager may issue exemptions for the following situations:

- Potable or nonpotable water from a subsurface water supply underlying a development project, subdivision, or irrigation system may be used if authorized by the General Manager.
- Recycled water use is not appropriate for the application. The person requesting the exemption will have the burden of demonstrating that recycled water use is not appropriate for the intended purposes, and cannot be made usable by user pretreatment processes or other project modifications.

### What Are the Penalties for not Complying with the Ordinances?

Violating any provision of the Ordinances will result in a \$500 fine. Each day each violation is committed, or permitted to continue, will constitute a separate offense.

Intentionally or negligently violating any provision of the Ordinances will result in a \$1,000 fine for each day each violation occurs.

Potable water use in violation of the provision of the Ordinances may result in the termination of potable water service.

### Another Important Ordinance

The CCSF enacted Ordinance 175-91, effective April 10, 1991, restricting the use of potable water for soil compaction and dust control activities undertaken in conjunction with any construction or demolition project occurring within the boundaries of the CCSF, unless permission is obtained from San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

The penalties for non-compliance with this Ordinance are the same as in the previous section.

### Where Can I Find the Plumbing Codes Related to Recycled Water?

The plumbing codes pertaining to recycled water systems can be found online at [www.sfdbi.org](http://www.sfdbi.org).

### Who Can I Contact if I Have Questions or Need Information?

**Recycled Water Ordinances and Technical Assistance**  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Water Resources Division  
(415) 554-3271

**Recycled Water Plumbing Codes**  
Department of Building Inspection  
Plumbing Inspection Services  
(415) 558-6057

**New Service Line Permits**  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Customer Services  
(415) 551-3000

