

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT (REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)  
STD. 399 FORM**

Department Name: Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Descriptive Title: Amend 2022 CPC & 2024 UPC for inclusion in the 2025 California Plumbing Code (CPC) for Recycled Water

Date: January 05, 2024

**Purpose of Proposed Regulations**

The currently proposed amendments by DWR are intended to clarify certain sections without intended regulatory effect and to add new provisions to point code users to requirements of or approvals by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). The amendments are based on the 2022 CPC and the 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC). The overall purpose is to add clarification, flexibility, and improved safety in the use of recycled water.

Assembly Bill 371 (2006) (Water Code Section 13557) authorized DWR to provide design standards to safely plumb buildings with both potable and recycled water systems in the California Plumbing Code (CPC). As authorized, beginning in 2009, DWR has adopted amendments in the CPC and has updated the CPC as necessary. Assembly Bill No. 2282 (2014) authorized the California Building Standards Commission (BSC) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to adopt criteria to mandate dual plumbing of certain newly constructed buildings to allow for use of recycled water and to adopt standards for installation of recycled water systems. The provisions in AB 2282 granting authority to BSC and HCD to adopt standards for installation of recycled water systems overlap DWR authority in Water Code Section 13557. In addition, there are provisions in the CPC adopted by BSC and HCD that apply to all nonpotable water sources, including recycled water. Because of this, DWR has been coordinating with the two agencies to harmonize amendments of the three agencies to the CPC. There are also regulations adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) in Title 22 and other policy documents that have relevance to the CPC. DWR coordinates with the State Water Board to ensure consistency and to aid CPC users by cross-referencing to State Water Board requirements.

The CPC standards prescribe how plumbing is installed and tested in buildings and on their premises. The standards are enforced by local building departments, environmental or health departments, and potable and recycled water purveyors. The CPC is implemented by users of recycled water, local potable and recycled water utilities, and local building officials that inspect construction of plumbing. The DWR standards in the CPC do not impose a requirement to install recycled water plumbing.

**Content of Changes**

The proposed amendments consist of language to clarify the source of regulatory information for recycled water application and uses, to provide water pressure standards for recycled water fixtures that are consistent with standards for potable water

fixtures, and to correctly number and cross-reference sections for code users to accommodate the addition of the new water pressure section.

Three of the proposed Chapter 15 amendments would update Sections 1505.1, 1505.4 Exception (4) and 1505.14.2 with more specific language to reference the recently adopted State Water Resources Control Board's Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook pursuant to Assembly Bill No. 1180 (2019). The handbook, which replaces Title 17 provisions, includes standards regarding the use of a changeover device to supply potable water to a dual-plumbed system during an interruption in recycled water service, as well as the certification criteria for cross-connection control specialists and testers. Another proposed amendment incorporates Section 1505.5 from 2024 UPC standards into 2025 CPC, which specifies appropriate water pressure for recycled water systems and is consistent with current potable water pressure standards.

These amendments are not intended to have any change in regulatory effect or cost impact. The addition of the water pressure standards is intended to clarify that water pressure standards are consistent between potable and recycled water fixtures. This clarification matches current practices and the addition of the water pressure standards is not expected to change current practices or result in an economic impact.

### **Cost Impact**

Because the changes proposed by DWR either are non-substantive clarifying changes, incorporate references to standards established by the State Water Board, or add a new water pressure section that is consistent with what is in the code for potable water, these changes are not expected to have cost impacts to individuals, businesses, or local, state, or federal government.

### **Benefits**

The primary benefit of the proposed regulations is the facilitation of the proper interpretation and enforcement of the CPC, thereby ensuring the safe use of recycled water. The secondary benefit is the provision of clear and effective regulations to facilitate the expanded use of recycled water and its public acceptance. The use of recycled water may offset the cost of more expensive or less environmentally acceptable water supplies to meet the growing water needs of the state. Recycled water is also a more resilient source of water during water shortages and drought.