

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION
TO BUILDING STANDARDS OF THE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR)
REGARDING THE 2025 CALIFORNIA PLUMBING CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 5
(DWR 01/24)**

Notice is hereby given that the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) on behalf of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) proposes to adopt, approve, codify, and publish changes to building standards contained in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 5. The DWR is proposing building standards related to 2025 California Plumbing Code (CPC).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Reference: Government Code Sections 11346.5(a)(1), 11346.5(a)(15) and 11346.5(a)(17).

A public hearing has not been scheduled; however, written comments will be accepted from **May 17, 2024**, until midnight on **July 1, 2024**.

Comments may be submitted to CBSC via:

Email: cbsc@dgs.ca.gov

US Mail postmarked no later than **July 1, 2024**:

California Building Standards Commission
Attention: Public Comments
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833

Note: Only comments received in an accessible format will be viewable via CBSC's website.

Any interested person, or his or her duly authorized representative, may request no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period that a public hearing be held.

The public will have an opportunity to provide written and oral comments regarding the proposed action on building standards at a public meeting to be conducted by CBSC to be scheduled at a date near the end of the current adoption cycle. A meeting notice will be issued announcing the date, time and location of the public meeting.

POST-HEARING MODIFICATIONS TO THE TEXT OF THE REGULATIONS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(18).

Following the public comment period, CBSC may adopt the proposed building standards substantially as proposed in this notice or with modifications that are sufficiently related to the original proposed text and notice of proposed changes. If modifications are made, the full text of the proposed modifications, clearly indicated, will be made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date on which CBSC adopts, amends, or repeals the regulation(s). CBSC will accept written comments on the modified building standards during the 15-day period.

NOTE: To be notified of any modifications, you must submit written/oral comments or request that you be notified of any modifications.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(2).

The California Department of Water Resources proposes to adopt these building standards under the authority granted by Water Code Section 13557. The purpose of these building standards is to implement, interpret, or make specific the provisions of Water Code Sections 10951, 13521.2, 13523, 13523.1, 13550, 13552.2, 13552.4, 13552.6, 13552.8, 13553, 13554, 13555.2, 13555.3, and 13557 and Health and Safety Code Sections 8117, 8118, 17921.5, 18940.6, 116375, 116407, 116555.5, 116800, 116810, and 116815.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(3).

Summary of Existing Laws

Assembly Bill 371 (2006) (codified in Water Code, Section 13557) authorized DWR to adopt and submit to the CBSC regulations to establish a state version of a plumbing code to provide design standards to safely plumb buildings with both potable and recycled water systems. Such regulations were first adopted by DWR in 2009. The regulations were last adopted by DWR in the 2021 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle and were codified in Chapters 1, 2, 6, 15, and 16 in the 2022 CPC. Water Code Section 13557(b) also authorizes DWR to update these standards as necessary. To accomplish this, DWR must consider other state laws that regulate the various uses and applications of recycled water and regulations stemming from these laws adopted by other state agencies.

Assembly Bill 2282 (2014) (codified in Health and Safety Code Sections 17921.5 and 18940.6) directed CBSC and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to adopt regulations regarding the plumbing of newly constructed commercial buildings, public buildings, and single family and multifamily residential buildings for recycled water. Specifically, CBSC and HCD are required to establish provisions for the mandatory installation of recycled water supply systems and the standards for installation in the California Green Building Standards Code and the CPC. These standards for installation of recycled water supply systems overlap to some extent the existing standards adopted by DWR in the CPC. The regulations to mandate installation in newly constructed buildings however, do not overlap DWR authority.

Water Code Sections 13550, 13552.2, 13552.4, 13552.6, 13552.8, 13553, 13554, 13555.2 and 13555.3 declare that the use of potable water for certain indoor uses in certain structures and in outdoor landscape irrigation is an “unreasonable” use of water if recycled water is available. A general condition of availability is that the use of recycled water from the proposed source will not be detrimental to public health. Section 13553(d)(1)(B) states “That any plumbing modifications in the condominium unit or any physical alteration of the structure will be done in compliance with state and local plumbing codes.” Water Code Section 10951 authorizes use of recycled water for car washes.

Water Code Section 13521 authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to establish uniform statewide recycling criteria for each varying type of

use of recycled water where the use involves the protection of public health. These criteria are contained in Title 22 of the CCR and contain requirements related to plumbing installation and periodic inspection and testing for indoor and outdoor uses.

The agencies that treat and distribute recycled water to users are regulated by permits issued by the SWRCB or one of nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards as authorized by Water Code Sections 13523 and 13523.1. The CPC must take into consideration this permitting authority.

Health and Safety Code Section 116375 authorizes the SWRCB to adopt requirements for the control of cross-connections between potable and nonpotable water. Section 116800 authorizes local regulation of water users to control cross-connections.

AB 1671 (Chapter 533, Statutes of 2017; codified in Health and Safety Code Sections 116407, 116555.5, and 116810) provided that the SWRCB on or before January 1, 2020, shall adopt standards for backflow prevention and cross-connection control and may do this through the adoption of a policy handbook. AB 1180 (Chapter 455, Statutes of 2019; codified in Health and Safety Code Section 116407 and Water Code Section 13521.2), provided that the SWRCB's policy handbook shall include provisions for the use of a swivel or changeover device to supply potable water to a dual-plumbed system during an interruption in recycled water service.

Health and Safety Code Section 116815 designates the use of the color purple for recycled water pipes. Health and Safety Code Sections 8117 and 8118 authorize hose bibs for recycled water in cemeteries.

Summary of Existing Regulations

Regulations adopted by DWR governing recycled water are found in Chapters 1, 2, 6, 15, and 16 of the CPC. The main provisions for recycled water are in Chapter 15, Section 1505.0. The CPC is now being amended based on both the 2022 CPC and the 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code.

Regulations specifying authorized uses of recycled water, use practices, and inspections and cross-connection testing of recycled water systems are found in Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Division 4, Chapter 3, Section 60301.050 et seq. Regulations related to cross-connection control and backflow prevention are found in the recently adopted State Water Resources Control Board's Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH). Pursuant to Assembly Bill No. 1180 (2019), the CCCPH replaces Title 17 provisions regarding cross-connection control standards.

Upon the effective date of the CCCPH, which is stated as July 1, 2024, Title 17 provisions become inoperative. The CCCPH contains provisions regarding cross-connection control and backflow prevention regulations formerly in Title 17, as well as new provisions regarding the certification of cross-connection control specialists and testers and the use of a swivel ell or changeover device. Therefore, the CCCPH language is pertinent to the CPC and must be taken into consideration.

Summary of Effect

The proposed Express Terms are intended (a) to identify all sections of the UPC and California amendments in the CPC that DWR has previously adopted and will be carried forward into the 2025 CPC as contained in Chapters 1, 2, 6, 15, and 16 and (b) to propose new amendments. The main effect of the proposed amendments by DWR, which are in Chapter 15, would be to make clarifying changes to existing requirements and add provisions in alignment with SWRCB regulations and the CCCPH. These amendments would have insignificant or no regulatory effect. The adoption of clear and effective regulations facilitates the expanded use of recycled water and its public acceptance. The effects of the new amendments would provide improved clarity and public health protection, provide cross-references to relevant sections in the CCCPH, incorporate Section 1505.5 from 2024 UPC standards into 2025 CPC to specify appropriate water pressure for recycled water systems consistent with current potable water pressure standards, and renumber and correctly cross-reference renumbered sections to accommodate the addition of the new water pressure section.

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.

Comparable Federal Statute or Regulations

There are no comparable federal statutes or regulations.

Policy Statement Overview

The primary benefits of the proposed amendments are improved clarity, flexibility, public health protection, and consistency within the CPC and with other state regulations. A secondary benefit is that by making clarifying changes to the plumbing code language with regard to recycled water, the regulations are clear, understandable, and implementable and thereby facilitate the expanded use of recycled water. Having consistent design standards which are easy to follow can improve the public acceptance of the use of recycled water. The benefit of incorporating the new CCCPH requirements provides clear and safe directions to allow a swivel or changeover device to supply potable water to a dual-plumbed system during an interruption in recycled water service. This ensures that users of the CPC are aware of this option to enable implementation and thus provide more water supply reliability for recycled water users. Similarly, the new reference to the CCCPH requirements provides clear directions to code users on the certification of cross-connection control specialists and testers as regulated by the SWRCB. 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.

Evaluation of Consistency

The DWR has determined that the proposed amendments are not inconsistent or incompatible with existing state regulations.

OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE APPLICABLE TO THE AGENCY OR TO ANY SPECIFIC REGULATION OR CLASS OF REGULATIONS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(4).

None.

MANDATE ON LOCAL AGENCIES OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(5).

DWR has determined that the proposed regulatory action would not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts.

ESTIMATE OF COST OR SAVINGS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(6).

An estimate, prepared in accordance with instructions adopted by Department of Finance, of cost or savings to any state agency, local agency, or school district.

- A. Cost or Savings to any state agency: **NO**
- B. Cost to any local agency required to be reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: **NO**
- C. Cost to any school district required to be reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: **NO**
- D. Other nondiscretionary cost or savings imposed on local agencies: **NO**
- E. Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: **NO**

Estimate: \$0

INITIAL DETERMINATION OF NO SIGNIFICANT STATEWIDE ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON BUSINESSES

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(8).

If the agency makes an initial determination that the adoption/amendment/repeal of this regulation will not have a significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states, it shall make a declaration to that effect.

DWR has made an initial determination that the proposed amendments will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact on businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

Declaration of Evidence

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(8).

In making the declaration, the agency shall provide in the record of facts, evidence, documents, testimony, or other evidence that the agency relied upon to support its initial determination of no effect.

The proposed amendments of the CPC primarily make clarifying changes to existing standards on how to design, construct, maintain, and test a dual plumbed building in Chapter 15. Additionally, there are new provisions referencing SWRCB's CCCPH to make code users aware of additional requirements already adopted, as well as a new

provision clarifying that the appropriate water pressure for recycled water systems is consistent with current potable water pressure standards.

The proposed amendments by DWR do not require any business or individual to install recycled water systems in a building. The authority for DWR's proposed amendments is in California Water Code Section 13557.

FINDING OF NECESSITY FOR THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(11).

Any regulation that requires a report shall not apply to businesses, unless the agency makes a finding that it is necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the public that the regulations apply to businesses.

N/A

COST IMPACT ON REPRESENTATIVE PRIVATE PERSON OR BUSINESS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(9).

Describe all cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. If no cost impact, provide the following statement:

DWR is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECT OF REGULATIONS UPON JOBS AND BUSINESS EXPANSION, ELIMINATION OR CREATION

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(10).

The California Department of Water Resources has assessed whether and to what extent this proposal will affect the following:

A. The creation or elimination of jobs within the State of California.

The proposed amendments will not create or eliminate jobs.

B. The creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the State of California.

The proposed amendments will not create or eliminate businesses.

C. The expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California.

The proposed amendments will not affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business with the State of California. The CPC as currently in effect and as changed by the proposed amendments facilitates the use of recycled water, and thereby could allow business to expand in areas that are constrained by water availability.

D. The benefits of the regulation to the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment.

The proposed amendments will update and improve the clarity of CPC standards for the safe use of recycled water in buildings and surrounding landscape with both potable and recycled water.

ESTIMATED COST OF COMPLIANCE OF STANDARDS THAT WOULD IMPACT HOUSING

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(12).

The DWR has made an initial determination that this proposal would not have a significant effect on housing costs.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(13).

DWR has determined that no reasonable alternative considered by DWR or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of DWR would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action. In addition, no reasonable alternative considered by DWR or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of DWR would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provisions of law.

AVAILABILITY OF RULEMAKING DOCUMENTS

Reference: Government Code Sections 11346.5(a)(16) and 11346.5(a)(20).

All of the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file, which is available for public review, by contacting the person named below. This notice, the express terms and initial statement of reasons can be accessed from the [CBSC website](https://dgs.ca.gov/BSC): dgs.ca.gov/BSC.

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(19).

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the final statement of reasons, once it has been prepared, by making a written request to the contact person named below or at the [CBSC website](https://dgs.ca.gov/BSC): dgs.ca.gov/BSC.

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(21).

DWR shall provide, upon request, a description of proposed changes included in the proposed action, in the manner provided by Section 11346.6, to accommodate a person with a visual or other disability for which effective communication is required under state or federal law. The statement shall note that providing the accessible description of proposed changes may require extending the period of public comment for the proposed action.

CBSC CONTACT PERSON FOR PROCEDURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(14).

General questions regarding procedural and administrative issues should be addressed to:

Kevin Day, Acting Executive Director
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833
Telephone: (916) 263-0916

**PROPOSING STATE AGENCY CONTACT PERSON FOR SUBSTANTIVE OR
TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BUILDING
STANDARDS**

Specific questions regarding the substantive or technical aspects of the proposed changes to the building standards should be addressed to:

Primary Contact:

Nancy King, Engineer, Water Resources
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Regional Assistance
(916) 326-9028
Nancy.King@water.ca.gov

Back up Contact:

Fethi BenJemaa, PhD, Program Manager II
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Regional Assistance
(916) 296-7886
Fethi.Jemaa@water.ca.gov