

**NONRESIDENTIAL GRAYWATER
PRELIMINARY ACTION PLAN
California Building Standards Commission**

Task:

Develop nonresidential graywater building standards as required by statute through proposed actions outlined below.

Statute:

[Health & Safety Code (H&SC) 18941.8, (Stats 2009, c. 622, Lowenthal, SB518)]

(H&SC) 18941.8

18941.8

(a) As used in this section, "graywater" has the same meaning as defined in Section 17922.12.

Definition Section 17922.12: (a) For the purposes of this section, "graywater" means untreated wastewater that has not been contaminated by any toilet discharge, has not been affected by infectious, contaminated, or unhealthy bodily wastes, and does not present a threat from contamination by unhealthful processing, manufacturing, or operating wastes. "Graywater" includes wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines, and laundry tubs, but does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers.

(b) Notwithstanding Chapter 22 (commencing with Section 14875) of Division 7 of the Water Code, as a part of the next triennial edition of the California Building Standards Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations) adopted after January 1, 2011, the commission shall adopt building standards for the construction, installation, and alteration of graywater systems for indoor and outdoor uses in nonresidential occupancies.

Proposed Action: Develop and propose regulations for nonresidential graywater building standards by June 2012 for the 2012 triennial code adoption cycle (2013 CPC, projected to be effective January 1, 2014).

(c) In adopting building standards under this section, the commission shall do all of the following:

(1) Ensure protection of water quality in accordance with applicable provisions of state and federal water quality law.

Proposed Action: Research existing laws and ways to protect water quality.

(2) Consider the adopted building standards for the construction, installation, and alteration of graywater systems for indoor and outdoor uses in residential buildings.

Proposed Action: Research and compare Chapter 16A of the 2010 California Plumbing Code for residential graywater standards to find commonalities and differences with nonresidential uses.

(3) Consider existing research available on the environmental consequences to soil and groundwater of short-term and long-term graywater use for irrigation purposes.

Proposed Action: Research and consult with authoritative agencies for potential environmental issues with the use of graywater in irrigation applications.

(4) Consider graywater use impacts on human health.

Proposed Action: *Research and consult with state and local health department agencies for potential human health issues associated with the use of graywater in nonresidential building applications.*

(5) Consider the circumstances under which the use of graywater treatment systems in nonresidential occupancies is recommended.

Proposed Action: *Study regulations in Appendix G of the 2010 CPC for nonresidential uses. Research and consult with industry experts on the opportunities and applicability of graywater treatment systems in nonresidential occupancies.*

(6) Consider the use and regulation of graywater in other jurisdictions.

Proposed Action: *Research the current use or regulations of graywater in other jurisdictions, states and countries such as Arizona, Texas, Australia, Israel etc.*

(7) Use Chapter 16 of the Uniform Plumbing Code, adopted by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, as the starting point for the building standards and amend those standards as necessary.

Proposed Action: *Use Chapter 16 of the 2010 Uniform Plumbing Code as the starting point for development of new proposed nonresidential graywater standards.*

(d) The commission may revise and update the standards adopted under this section at any time.

Proposed Action: *The Commission will revise and update the nonresidential graywater standards as required and to align with current code adoption cycles.*

(e) The commission's adoption of building standards for graywater systems pursuant to this section shall terminate the authority of the Department of Water Resources to adopt and update standards for the installation, construction, and alteration of graywater systems in nonresidential buildings pursuant to Chapter 22 (commencing with Section 14875) of Division 7 of the Water Code.

Projected timeline for publication:

The projected publication timeline for the new nonresidential graywater building standards is in the next triennial edition of the California Building Standards Code sometime in July 1, 2013 with a projected effective date of January 1, 2014.