

## Recycled Water Program Update

### Overview

The City has determined that to meet the requirements of its Pure Water Program, no applications for new connections to its Recycled Water Program in the northern part of the City will be accepted after December 31, 2023.

- For projects that require discretionary approval prior to ministerial construction permit approval, discretionary approval applications deemed complete prior to December 31, 2023, may be considered for recycled water connection.
- For projects that only require ministerial construction permit approval, ministerial permit applications deemed complete prior to December 31, 2023, may be considered for recycled water connection.

### Questions & Answers

#### Why is the Recycled Water Program being updated?

There is currently less wastewater being generated in the City than originally forecasted. A portion of generated wastewater flow is allocated for the Pure Water Program, which will significantly reduce the amount of flow available for the Recycled Water Program.

Pure Water Phase I is required under the state's regulatory permit to produce 30 million gallons of purified water per day. For that to occur, a certain amount of wastewater is needed. There will be a forecasted wastewater shortage of 2 to 5 million gallons daily for Pure Water Phase I if the amount of flow allocated for recycled water is not managed.

#### What is the current policy?

Current policy states that projects in vicinity of existing distribution system must use recycled water *if capacity is available* or wherever feasible. This is found in the Muni Code ([Section 64.0801](#) et seq.), Council Policy 400-15 ([111014councilpolicy.pdf \(sandiego.gov\)](#)) and Reclaimed Water Ordinance ([https://docs.sandiego.gov/council\\_reso\\_ordinance/rao1989/O-17327.pdf](https://docs.sandiego.gov/council_reso_ordinance/rao1989/O-17327.pdf)).

#### When will the update go into effect?

No applications for new connections to the City's Recycled Water Program in the northern part of the City will be accepted after December 31, 2023.

- For projects that require discretionary approval prior to ministerial construction permit approval, discretionary approval applications deemed complete prior to December 31, 2023, may be considered for recycled water connection.
- For projects that only require ministerial construction permit approval, ministerial permit applications deemed complete prior to December 31, 2023, may be considered for recycled water connection.

#### What service area will be affected by the update?

The northern part of the City will be affected by the recycled water program updates. Connections will still be allowed in the southern part of the City as they will not impact Pure Water.

#### How will Pure Water Phase II affect the Recycled Water Program?

The City will reevaluate the Recycled Water Program in the coming years as part of Pure Water planning.

#### How will the update affect the cost of Recycled Water?

The City will be reevaluating the cost of recycled water in the coming years.

**What will happen to permitted projects?**

If a project has already been permitted for a recycled water connection, it will not be impacted by the policy update. For projects that require discretionary approval prior to ministerial construction permit approval, discretionary approval applications deemed complete prior to December 31, 2023, may be considered for a recycled water connection, based on availability.

For projects that only require ministerial construction permit approval, ministerial permit applications deemed complete prior to December 31, 2023, may be considered for a recycled water connection based on availability.

**Will the update be reflected in City water-related planning documents?**

New water-related planning documents will include the recycled water program updates.

**Will this impact LEED certification?**

LEED considers an overall project and does not focus on one building element like water. For a comprehensive explanation of LEED certification and options, visit <https://www.usgbc.org/leed>

**Where can I find additional information on the Recycled Water Program?**

For additional information please refer to the following website: <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-utilities/sustainability/recycled-water>

*Revised July 2023*