

Rainwater Harvesting for SMO Compliance: 2022 Policy Update

The SFPUC Utility Planning Division has updated policies related to Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) for Stormwater Management Ordinance (SMO) compliance. These updates help to better align the SMO with recent amendments to San Francisco's Non-Potable Water Ordinance (NPO), which became effective for qualifying Site Permits submitted after January 1st 2022 (refer to the [Onsite Water Reuse webpage](#)).

Policy updates for projects subject to SMO and NPO are summarized below:

RWH for SMO compliance is allowed for the following types of uses:

- NPO-Required Uses, ONLY for the portion of demand that exceeds supply from NPO-Required Sources.
- Non NPO-Required Uses.

(See **Table 1** below for NPO-Required Sources and Uses; see **Figure 1** for Water Reuse Scenarios.)

No longer allowed:

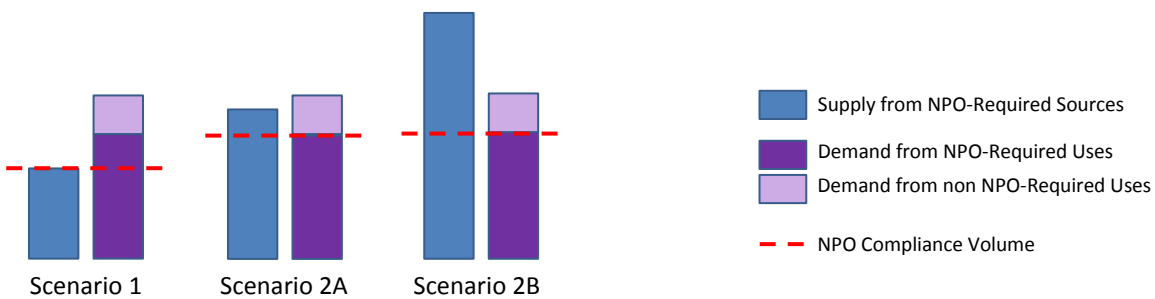
- Diversion of the required portion of an NPO-Required Source to prioritize RWH for an NPO-Required Use (see **Figure 1**).
- The 'Effective SMO Volume Runoff Reduction Equivalency' credit (i.e., SMO volume reduction credits for reuse of other onsite alternative water sources).

As always, the SFPUC continues to support and allow RWH for SMO compliance on projects not subject to the NPO.

Table 1. NPO-Required Sources and Uses: For reference, the NPO-Required Sources and Uses are listed below (as defined in the October 2021 NPO Amendment):

Building Type	Required Alternate Water SOURCES	Required Non-potable USES
Commercial	Blackwater Condensate	Toilet & Urinal flushing Drain trap priming
Residential & Mixed-Use	Graywater Condensate	Toilet & urinal flushing Irrigation Clothes washing Drain trap priming

Figure 1. Water Reuse Scenarios: To help visualize the SMO Policy updates, the charts below illustrate various scenarios in which RWH for SMO compliance is allowed for any demand that is above and beyond the 'NPO Compliance Volume' (i.e., purple/demand above the red dashed line). Also note that the required portion of any NPO-Required Source (i.e., blue/supply below the red dashed line) cannot be diverted to the collection system to prioritize RWH.



Scenario 1: NPO-Required Source supply < NPO-Required Use demand,
NPO-Required Source supply < total demand

Scenario 2A: NPO-Required Source supply > NPO-Required Use demand,
NPO-Required Source supply < total demand

Scenario 2B: NPO-Required Source supply > NPO-Required Use demand,
NPO-Required Source supply > total demand