

SB 166 (WIENER) PROCESS WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS: BREWERIES & WINERIES: WATER QUALITY CRITERIA

POSITION: The Chamber's Public Policy Sub-Committee on Energy & Water voted to SUPPORT the bill on the basis that the bill doesn't turn into a mandate on March 7, 2019. The Chamber's Board of Directors voted to SUPPORT the bill on March 28, 2019.

RATIONALE: Water reuse reduces costs and increases efficiencies, which is beneficial for both business and the environment.

STATUS: SB 166 was introduced by Senator Scott Wiener on January 28, 2019 and is set for a hearing in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on April 3, 2019.

SUMMARY

SB 166 streamlines the regulatory process to make it easier for breweries and wineries to recycle process water onsite on a voluntary basis.

INDUSTRY/IES IMPACTED

Industries impacted by this bill include alcoholic beverage, agriculture, water, manufacturing, construction, and more.

SUPPORTERS

- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (sponsor)
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- SPUR
- WaterNow Alliance
- Coauthors: Senator Steve Glazer, Senator Jeff Stone, Assemblymember Randy Voepel

OPPONENTS

- None known

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

- This bill provides breweries and wineries with clear guidelines on recycling process water and will therefore lower costs for production in this industry.
- According to the author, "recycling process water onsite in a brewery can reduce the water needed to make 1 gallon of beer from about 7 gallons to as low as 2.5 gallons." SB 166 has the ability to insulate communities and industries from the effects of drought by providing regulatory guidance to recycling process water onsite and therefore lower water consumption levels.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

- SB 166 presents potential public health risks without appropriate oversight of onsite reuse.
- The provisions in this bill could start off as voluntary and transition to a mandate which negatively inserts government into business operations.

MORE INFORMATION

Specifically, SB 166 directs the State Water Board to work with the California Department of Public Health to develop regulations for this process on or before December 1, 2025.

Process water is the water used in the cleaning of tanks and packaging. This bill would apply to the recycling of process water, not water to be used in beer and wine itself.

The Chamber has a long track record of supporting water recycling efforts such as the City of San Diego's Pure Water program.