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It's Official! San Francisco Bans Bottled Water on City Property

Posted By [Beth Buczynski](#) On March 16, 2014 @ 9:20 am In [News, San Francisco](#) | [4 Comments](#)



[1]

In a permanent extension of a 2007 law, San Francisco has made it illegal for the City to buy or distribute plastic water bottles. Bottled water contributes to massive amounts of litter and plastic waste all over the world. San Francisco has an aggressive plan to achieve [zero net waste by 2020](#) ^[2]. In late 2013, Inhabitat reported that San Francisco's Board of Supervisors appeared ready to enact [one of the strictest bans on bottled water](#) ^[3] in the nation. Days ago, the proposal became law, and plastic water bottles smaller than 21 ounces will no longer be allowed on city property starting Oct. 1, 2014.





[4]

As Inhabitat's Charley Cameron reported last year, [San Francisco's legislation](#) [3], introduced by Supervisor David Chiu, "does not prohibit private business from trading in small plastic bottles of water." Rather, it restricts the sale at events of more than 100 people (not including marathons and other sporting events), and on all city property and parks. San Francisco Airport will also be allowed to sell plastic bottles indefinitely.

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San Francisco's Board of Supervisors supported the legislation unanimously. Prior to the vote, Chiu held up a water bottle that was a quarter of the way filled with oil. The move illustrated just how much oil is used in the production and transport of plastic water bottles.

"He also reminded San Franciscans that the current fad of buying bottled water only started in the 1990s when the bottled water industry mounted a huge ad campaign that got Americans buying bottled water," reports the [San Francisco Bay Guardian](#) [6]. "Somehow, Chiu noted, 'for centuries, everybody managed to stay hydrated.' He, and the rest of San Francisco seem confident that they can learn to do so again.

Not surprisingly, the American Beverage Association and bottled water industry [were less than enthusiastic](#) [7] about the bottled water ban. These critics claim that banning bottled water at concerts and other large events will drive them to choose alcohol or carbonated beverages instead of healthier water.

Via [San Francisco Bay Guardian](#) [6]

Images via [calliope](#) [8] and [stevendepolo](#) [9]

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