



Her/His Worship Mayor

I am writing you from the Polaris Institute, an organization dedicated to supporting citizens and communities in the process of democratic social change. For many years we have been concerned with the increasing privatization of water.

On June 21, 2007 the Office of the Mayor of San Francisco took a major social and environmental step forward, issuing an Executive Directive prohibiting city departments and agencies from purchasing bottled water.

In the previous years, the city of San Francisco had spent \$2 million on single serve water bottles, water containers, paper cups, and coolers. These expenditures occurred while San Francisco had access to a pristine reservoir of water in the Sierra Nevada.

The city discovered that paying \$400 for a public water dispenser saved the \$500,000 the city was spending on bottled water annually. As well, the decision will reduce the amount of plastic bottles being thrown into area landfills.

Please review attached Executive Directive 07-07 from the City of San Francisco. In light of this bold step forward by one city mayor, we strongly encourage you to look into your own municipality's expenditures on bottled water and weigh the costs and benefits. Not only is switching to tap water less expensive, it is the most environmentally responsible decision.

If you would like more information on San Francisco's public water commitment, or steps taken by other city mayors, please feel free to contact Andrea Harden at 613-237-1717 x.102.

Sincerely,

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