

# Anchor Brewing Company – San Francisco, CA



Anchor Brewing Company

**Project Status:** Completed

**Project Size:** Not Available

**Alternate Water Sources:**

- Brewery Process Water

**End Uses:**

- Tank and Bottle Rinses
- Packaging
- Clean-in-Place
- Facility Washdown

**Treatment System Size:** 10,000 Gallons/Day

**Potable Water Use Reduction:** 68%;  
(Capacity to Recycle up to 20,000,000 Gallons/Year)

**Drivers:** Sustainability Goals

**System Cost:** \$5,290,000

**Annual O&M Cost:** Not Available

**Owner:** Anchor Brewing Company

**Project Description:**

Anchor Brewing Company, America’s first craft brewery, is the first brewery in San Francisco to install a brewery process water recycling system.

With help from Cambrian’s wastewater reuse technology, Anchor installed a water recycling system that captures and treats process water from rinsing bottles and cleaning equipment for reuse in similar applications. Anchor’s process water recycling system will have the capacity to save 20 million gallons of water per year. This reduction in wastewater will reduce Anchor’s water usage footprint by 68%.

Cambrian’s wastewater reuse technology treats brewery process water to meet San Francisco’s guidelines for brewery process water recycling.

The project was implemented through Cambrian’s 20 year water-purchase agreement (WEPA), under which Cambrian invested into the plant and sells clean water back to Anchor brewing as a service, reducing long term stress of keeping up with ever changing regulations.

### Drivers for Onsite Water Reuse:

Anchor Brewing Company was driven by its commitment to sustainability. Onsite water recycling helps Anchor reduce its potable water consumption by over 60%. The system is also providing ongoing cost savings by reducing the brewery's annual wastewater fees. Additionally, with the water reuse system, Anchor is achieving environmental benefits such as reducing carbon emissions. By treating water at the source, it reduces the need for pumping and trucking water. Overall, the system is reducing the brewery's overall carbon footprint by over 90 metric tons per year.

### Ownership Model:

Cambrian owns the onsite water reuse system. Cambrian and Anchor entered into a Water Energy Purchase Agreement (WEPA) which, removed any cost barriers for Anchor to successfully implement their water recycling system. The Cambrian WEPA is an innovative approach to partnering with customers so breweries such as Anchor only pay for the gallons of water treated instead of the construction and ongoing operational maintenance of the technology.

### Role of Public Utility in Project:

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) developed brewery process water reuse guidance, including pathogen and chemical control strategies for process water to be reused for tank and bottle rinses, floor wash down, boiler feed water, and as a source water for the beer. The SFPUC guidance includes requirements for source water characterization, source control, treatment, and ongoing monitoring to ensure the water is safe for these uses. Following the SFPUC's guidance, the project received a \$1,000,000 grant from the SFPUC through the Onsite Water Reuse Grant Program.

**Reference:** Michelle Keefer, Cambrian ([mkeefe@cambrianinnovation.com](mailto:mkeefe@cambrianinnovation.com))



Anchor Brewing Company's brewery process water recycling system