

2020 Resolutions

Adopted

By

The SFPUC

Full Citizens'

Advisory

Committee

Resolution in Support of Interim Emergency Rate Assistance Program and Revised Community Assistance Program

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has maintained a Customer Assistance Program (CAP) since 2004 to provide rate subsidies for eligible San Francisco water and wastewater ratepayers;

WHEREAS, the SFPUC's CAP program currently serves approximately 1,200 households, even though the SFPUC has estimated that nearly 26,000 qualify for this subsidy;

WHEREAS, Mayor Breed ordered a moratorium on Water Shutoffs due to nonpayment of bills as of March 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, the SFPUC subsequently restarted all water connections that had been shut off due to nonpayment, such that no households are currently without water and wastewater service due to nonpayment;

WHEREAS, the SFPUC Commission at its May 26, 2020 meeting, adopted a 6-month interim emergency rate assistance plan for residents in economic distress, for which nearly 5,000 customers have already applied; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the SFPUC Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) supports the continuation of the Mayor's moratorium on shutoffs as well as the interim emergency rate assistance program adopted by the Commission;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CAC urges the SFPUC to consider changes to its current CAP program and the manner and extent to which it is advertised to ensure that the most at-risk San Francisco households are aware of the program and able to readily enroll;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the CAC further requests that the interim emergency rate assistance program be extended beyond its current September 10, 2020, end date until such time as the CAP program has been updated.

As adopted by the Full Citizens' Advisory Committee on July 21, 2020.

Resolution of Support of Online Virtual Tours and Educational Videos

WHEREAS, Tours of SFPUC's facilities, systems and other assets, including their rich and storied histories, foster a sense of ownership and pride for rate payers and other stakeholders;

WHEREAS, Such tours offer an educational opportunity for SFPUC's youngest stakeholders;

WHEREAS, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SFPUC has been conducting and recording tours via online webinar format in place of in-person tours;

WHEREAS, Many of these tours are not normally available to the public and many stakeholders are not able to attend available tours in person;

WHEREAS, SFPUCs online tours have been very popular with 250-300 attendees per tour, and there have been many requests from these attendees to have the tours made available online to share and view again;

RESOLVED, That the CAC encourages SFPUC to post educational videos online in order to educate and inform a larger audience;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the CAC encourages SFPUC to develop new online public tours as resources permit.

As Adopted by the Full Citizens' Advisory Committee on October 20, 2020.

Resolution in Support of the SFPUC's Offer to Purchase PG&E's Electric Distribution and Transmission Assets that Serve San Francisco

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has served the City of San Francisco (City) with water, wastewater, and power services for approximately a century, with the Hetch Hetchy Power System having generated greenhouse gas-free energy for San Francisco's streetlights, MUNI, schools, City Hall, Zoo, the San Francisco International Airport and more; and

WHEREAS, following the final automatic enrollment of CleanPowerSF in 2019, the SFPUC is now delivering cleaner and more affordable energy to San Francisco customers than ever before, meeting nearly 80 percent of the electricity demand in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, these public power programs have played a key role in helping the City reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 36 percent below 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 interconnection agreement between Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) and the City expired, and was replaced with a wholesale customer tariff that has resulted in the delay of more than 70 projects, including affordable housing, critical water and wastewater infrastructure, emergency response facilities, public schools and public recreation facilities managed by the City; thereby delaying projects and increasing costs by more than \$12 million; and

WHEREAS, while continued interconnection-related disputes have been challenged at Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and in the courts, public ownership of San Francisco's energy grid has the potential to eliminate interconnection-related disputes with PG&E and provide local control of public power options; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of Proposition A (2018), a revenue bond for power facilities excluding fossil fuels and nuclear energy charter amendment, and would provide a financial mechanism to support public power ownership of the City's energy grid; and

WHEREAS, in January 2019, following PG&E bankruptcy, Mayor London Breed and the Board of Supervisors directed the SFPUC to study public power options, finding that public ownership of City's energy grid has the potential for strong and long-term cost savings; timely and cost-efficient modernization of the grid; and meeting the City's priorities on affordability, clean energy, safety, reliability, workforce development and equity; and

WHEREAS, PG&E's existing workforce would be welcomed into the SFPUC's community-owned public service culture that provides training and long-term career opportunities for workers; and

WHEREAS, a public poll found that nearly 70 percent of San Francisco residents support public power, along with Mayor Breed, City Attorney Dennis Herrera, the Board of Supervisors and the SFPUC Commission; and,

WHEREAS, on September 6, 2019, the City submitted a formal offer of \$2.5 billion to purchase PG&E's electric distribution and transmission assets that serve San Francisco and the City is prepared to begin immediate negotiations on this proposal with PG&E; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2019, PG&E rejected the City's offer to acquire PG&E electric distribution and transmission assets within San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the SFPUC Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) supports the City's continued efforts to evaluate and acquire PG&E assets and encourages the City and the SFPUC to continue negotiations with PG&E and other stakeholders to ensure a more reliable, safe, and clean electric grid for both San Francisco and California.

As adopted by the Full Citizens' Advisory Committee on November 17, 2020.