

**2011 Resolutions
Adopted
By
The SFPUC
Full Citizens'
Advisory
Committee**

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE SFPUC COMMISSION RELATIVE TO:**

CLIMATE CHANGE INFORMATION REQUEST

Approved at the July 26, 2011 Regular Meeting of the CAC

Whereas, the impacts of climate change on San Francisco's water supplies can affect residents, businesses and jobs in both the retail and wholesale service areas; and

Whereas, the SFPUC Citizens' Advisory Committee on May 25, 2010, adopted a resolution urging "the General Manager and the Commission to make public all scopes of work for studies and reports from studies related to the impacts of or adaptation to climate change, including draft documents in order to make this information available and to receive public input;" and

Whereas, the SFPUC is a founding member and chair of the Water Utility Climate Alliance; and

Whereas, the SFPUC has been engaged in modeling climate change impacts on their system for several years; and

Whereas, the Commission, at their June 14, 2011, authorized a grant application for federal funding to assess the potential effects of climate change on the SFPUC's water supply;

Whereas, that application specifically states that the project will be designed and performed with the "expectation" that the conclusions will be communicated to the public, but also states that such communication is not included in the grant workplan;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the CAC urges the Commission to make public all past reports generated by the SFPUC's climate research activities; and

Be it Further Resolved that the CAC urges the Commission to produce a written report that states: a) what, if any, specific results from that research have been incorporated into planning for water, wastewater and power management and capital improvements, and b) what results the Commission expects will be achieved by these research activities, on what schedule and at what expense.

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE SFPUC COMMISSION RELATIVE TO:**

WATER CONSERVATION AND NEW DEVELOPMENT

Approved at the July 26, 2011 Regular Meeting of the CAC

Whereas, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission has embarked on an aggressive program to increase water conservation in its retail service area in order to satisfy future water demands;

Whereas, some portion of the water conserved through this program will be used to satisfy the needs of new development;

Whereas, the SFPUC is investing more than \$5million per year on this program, a cost borne by current ratepayers;

Whereas, a significant portion of the SFPUC's residential customers live in multi-unit housing and do not receive a water bill, which provides a significant conservation incentive;

Whereas, most new development in San Francisco is multiunit construction;

Therefore be it Resolved, that the SFPUC Citizens' Advisory Committee urges the Commission to adopt and a "water neutral" development policy, whereby new developments would offset their projected net water use by funding SFPUC conservation efforts that would save an amount equivalent to that net water use, and that the Commission direct staff to work with City agencies, the development community and other stakeholders to develop a functional program;

Be it further Resolved, that the CAC urges the Commission to require that new multi-unit buildings be individually metered or submetered for water use, and that the Commission direct staff to work with City agencies, the development community and other stakeholders to develop a functional program;

Be it further Resolved, that the SFPUC take the necessary steps with the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to ensure that these policies are incorporated into the appropriate City codes.

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE SFPUC COMMISSION RELATIVE TO:**

STAFF REPORT CONTENT FOR INFORMED COMMISSION DECISIONS

Approved at the July 26, 2011 Regular Meeting of the CAC

Whereas, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is charged with representing the public in directing policy and budget decisions for the agency;

Whereas, the Commission currently has limited mechanisms for assessing the full costs and benefits of their actions;

Whereas, the public has limited ability to understand the impact of Commission decisions on their environment and their utility rates;

Therefore, be it resolved, that for assessing actions and policies being considered by the Commission, the Commission direct staff to cite in staff reports to the Commission:

- How the proposed action forwards or addresses sustainability and precautionary decision making;
- The life-cycle cost of the proposed action, including environmental and public health costs and benefits;
- The short and long-term impact on rates of the decision and the alternatives considered, including no action.

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) RE:

SFPUC BUDGET PAYMENTS TO OTHER CITY AGENCIES

Approved at the December 13, 2011 meeting of the full CAC

Whereas, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, as an Enterprise agency, generates the income for its budget needs through customer water and wastewater rates;

Whereas, the SFPUC is imposing annual increases in water rates of about 9% to pay increased debt service for the Water System Improvement Program, but a significant reduction in total water use over the past four years has significantly reduced their projected income, resulting in cuts to needed SFPUC programs;

Whereas, the SFPUC, as a City agency, contracts with other City departments (for instance Human Resources and the City Attorney's office) for certain services;

Whereas, the SFPUC, in its 2011/2012 budget, will provide approximately \$50 million in such payments to other City Departments;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the SFPUC CAC urges the SFPUC, the Mayor and the Supervisors to take steps to protect ratepayers by ensuring that the 2-year budget to be considered in early 2012 does not increase total payments from the SFPUC to other City Departments over 2011-2012 levels.

Be it Further Resolved, that the CAC urges SFPUC staff to include in its adopted budget language explaining the nexus between these payments and services provided to the SFPUC; and the Supervisors to direct the Budget Analyst to confirm that nexus.

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) RE:

POWER RATE INCREASES TO CITY GENERAL FUND DEPARTMENTS

Approved at the December 13, 2011 meeting of the full CAC

WHEREAS, the SFPUC Power Enterprise is now charging power rates lower than the cost of providing service to several City General Fund Departments, effectively subsidizing those departments by nearly \$20 million annually, possibly in violation of the City Charter, and

WHEREAS, this deficit is draining the Power Enterprise reserve that funds needed capital projects and diverts power revenues that would otherwise fund energy efficiency initiatives, renewable energy initiatives, and the Community Choice Aggregation program;

WHEREAS, charging below cost of service also discourages energy conservation efforts by those City Departments;

WHEREAS the SFPUC Commission has just approved increases to these below-cost power rates in order to redress this financial imbalance;

Therefore, be it Resolved that the CAC fully supports this effort of the Commission to raise power rates to better reflect cost of service, and urges the Mayor and Supervisors to support this action of the Commission.