

COMMUNITY BENEFITS PROGRAM

Creating Sustainable and Equitable Communities

Leadership And Policy Innovation

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is the first public utility in the nation to adopt an Environmental Justice Policy (2009) and a Community Benefits Policy (2011) that guides the Agency's efforts to be a "good neighbor" to all whose lives or neighborhoods are directly affected by the operation of its Water, Wastewater, and Power Enterprises. By balancing economic, environmental, and social equity goals, the SFPUC can serve as a catalyst for expanding economic inclusion, creating job opportunities, revitalizing low-income neighborhoods and supporting our nation's climate change priorities. As we make critical investments in our infrastructure, we focus our community benefits on a sustainable future for the people and places that make our region so special.

Community Benefits Programs: Investing in People and Place

Education: Educating our children will help create the next generation of environmental stewards who will care for our combined water system. In partnership with local nonprofits, philanthropy, and other city agencies, our educational initiatives such as Our Water, DrinkTap, Tap the Sky, and Conservation Connection, expose and educate school-aged children to ecoliteracy objectives focused on water and energy conservation, pollution prevention, environmental stewardship, and sustainability.

Defining Community Benefits in a Public Utility

- Ensure Leadership at Commission and Senior Management Levels
- Develop Administrative
 Policies that Define
 Outcomes and Guide Staff
 Implementation
- Embed Community Benefits in Contracting Mechanisms
- Implement Innovative Programs
- Invest in Targeted Placebased Strategies in Impacted Neighborhoods
- Leverage Public/Private Partnerships



Project Pull High School Students Participating in Service Day

Adult and Youth Workforce Development:

Public investment in infrastructure is a proven job creation strategy. As one of the City's largest employers with billions of dollars in capital improvement projects, the SFPUC is investing in workforce development efforts to create a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable local and regional economy. We support adult and youth workforce programs such as CityBUILD, Project PULL, and Youthworks that connect local residents, particularly those who are low-income or low-skilled, to job training and apprenticeship opportunities.

Economic Development: Small local businesses are a critical component of and major contributor to the strength of our economies. They present new employment opportunities and serve as the building blocks to a vibrant community. The SFPUC Contractors Assistance Center in Bayview Hunters Point will provide technical assistance and capacity to local small businesses to increase their ability to compete for SFPUC and city contracting opportunities.

Land Use: The SFPUC is one of the largest land owners in the region, including more than 38,000 acres in Alameda County. As a part of our commitment to environmental justice, the SFPUC believes urban agriculture is one way to promote resource-efficient use of our property. Urban agriculture is taking root across the country as an innovative solution to increase access to healthy food while, at the same time, revitalizing the economic and social health of communities. The SFPUC is piloting three urban agriculture programs throughout San Francisco in the Bernal Heights, Excelsior, and Bayview Hunters Point neighborhoods where the Agency identified an opportunity for secondary use on its property. The three sites will demonstrate different urban agriculture models offering environmental education programs,



The SFPUC is launching three Urban Agriculture Pilot Sites in the Bernal Heights, Excelsior, and Bayview Hunters Point neighborhoods

sustainable farming and food systems, and workforce development initiatives. The SFPUC is partnering with the San Francisco Foundation through the Convergence Fund to bring additional resources to the sites for community engagement and planning.

Neighborhood Revitalization: Located in the heart of the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood and adjacent to the SFPUC Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant, our Southeast Community Facility (SECF) and greenhouses serve as anchor institutions to provide community benefits to residents of the neighborhood. Over the next few years, the SFPUC will invest \$15 million to make significant physical improvements to the facility and greenhouses, incorporating the latest sustainability retrofits. We will also ensure that the facility tenants and organizations develop educational and workforce development programming beneficial to neighboring residents that is consistent with the community's priorities and our mitigation requirements.

Funding for the Arts: Cultural institutions and local artists animate our communities, bringing disparate people together to share common experiences, stimulate imaginations, and help foster a rich and varied quality of life. Recognizing the important role of this sector, the City and County of San Francisco passed an ordinance in 1969 requiring all city agencies to set aside 2% of all above-ground construction costs for public art and arts enrichment. Partnering with the San Francisco Arts Commission, the SFPUC is aligning our arts and community arts education investments to enhance local cultural institutions and invest in local artists that live in the impacted communities we serve.

Leveraging Resources

Philanthropic Partnerships: The Drink Tap in Schools initiative in San Francisco exemplifies innovative partnership between private, public, and nonprofit partners, by providing students drinking water through the installation of water filling stations. In 2010, legislation was passed at both state and federal levels requiring schools participating in the National Nutrition Education program to provide access to clean drinking water during meal times where meals are served. In 2011, the SFPUC partnered with the San Francisco School District (SFUSD) to help meet this requirement by instituting the Drink Tap program in public schools. The California Endowment provided an in-kind grant to purchase 2,500 reusable, stainless steel water bottles for students at the pilot schools. Students are



Drink Tap Partnership in SFUSD schools

encouraged to refill their bottles throughout the school day, including during class. In-school presentations teach students about the health and environmental benefits of switching from plastic to reusable bottles. We are proud that our collaboration will help the school district meet the new state and federal legislation, as well as provide children access to clean drinking water.

Community Benefits Through Professional Service Contracts: The SFPUC has embedded community benefits requirements in all of our professional services contracts over \$5 million. To date, our contractors have made community benefits commitments to local nonprofits, small businesses and schools in the form of direct financial contributions, volunteer hours, and inkind donations through the life of their SFPUC contract. Both multinational and local engineering, construction and architecture firms such as AECOM. Parsons Corporation, URS Corporation, MWH Global, AEPC Group, LLC, Black & Veatch Corporation, Brown and Caldwell, CH2M HILL, Avila & Associates, F.E. Jordan Associates, and Kennedy/Jenks Consultants are providing community resources aligned with areas defined in the SFPUC Community Benefits Policy.



Tree Lighting Ceremony in Partnership with AECOM/Parsons



Through this effort, the SFPUC is leveraging more than \$3 million directly into communities through programs such as: summer internship and career exploration opportunities for high school youth, education scholarships, technical assistance to local business enterprises, commitments to local vendor sourcing, conservation and habitat restoration initiatives, installation of solar panels on low-income households, and promotion of corporate social responsibility and volunteerism throughout their companies.

Images: front and back cover, left to right:

Homeowner installing solar panels on his home in Bayview Hunters Point with the help of SFPUC staff

Project Pull student working in City greenhouse

GLIDE students touring the SFPUC headquarters

For more information visit or contact:

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Our Mission

To provide our customers with high-quality, efficient and reliable water, power and sewer services in a manner that values environmental and community interests and sustains the resources entrusted to our care.



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