San Francisco Public Utilities Rate Fairness Board

Minutes Tuesday, February 11, 2014

5:30 p.m.
525 Golden Gate Avenue 2nd Floor
O’Shaughnessy Conference Room
San Francisco, CA 94102

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
Chair Kevin Cheng called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.
Present: Kevin Cheng, Howard Ash, Patricia Breslin, Anthony Ababon, Risa Sandler, and Mirian Saez.

2. Public Comment: Members of the public may address the Rate Fairness Board (RFB) on matters that are within the RFB’s jurisdiction and are not on today’s agenda
Public Comment:
Mr. David Pilpel, member of the SFPUC Citizens’ Advisory Committee, noted that he had received a copy of independent rate consultant’s SFPUC Utility Rate Study report and thanked SFPUC staff for their work in getting it to him.

3. Chair’s Report
- SFPUC Water/Sewer FYE15-FYE18 Proposed Rates – Finance Update
- SFPUC Water/Sewer FYe15-FYE18 Proposed Rates – Communication Update

Director of Financial Planning Crispin Hollings introduced Rob Grantham of Carollo Engineers who gave a brief summary of the completed SFPUC Utility Rate Study report.

Deputy Director of Communications Deborah Chilvers presented an update on the draft Proposition 218 notice and outreach efforts being coordinated by the SFPUC Communications group.

Director of Financial Planning Crispin Hollings presented the Finance update regarding the SFPUC Water/Sewer FYE15-FYE18 Proposed Rates.

Chair Cheng made the following requests for additional information:
  a. Provide summary feedback from community outreach efforts.

Member Ash made the following requests for additional information:
  a. Determine if fire service rates are required as part of Proposition 218 noticing.
  b. Explain why the proposed fire service charges changed from what was set in 2009.
  c. Explain how advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) will impact Customer Service costs.

Public Comment:

Ms. Joan Girardot, Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, noted that she was opposed to the Large Household Grant program, that she was concerned about tiers in the proposed water rate structure, and that she was glad to see the tiers being phased out of the wastewater rate structure.

Ms. Judy Berkowitz, Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, requested the following additional information:

a. Show seasonal water usage by customer class.

Mr. David Pilpel, member of the SFPUC Citizens' Advisory Committee, noted that he was opposed to the Large Household Grant program and requested the following additional information:

a. Show how meter size relates to flow rate.

b. Show the number of SFPUC meters by meter size.

c. Provide wet-weather-mitigation project cost by unit of diverted water.

d. Overview of SFPUC low income program discounts and staff consideration to change the discount to a uniform amount.

Ms. Lorrain Lucas, Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, requested information regarding all SFPUC grant programs. Director of Communications, Tyrone Jue, noted that this information would be provided as part of a Sunshine Request.

4. Approval of RFB Minutes of January 31, 2014

Member Ash noted that the date on the printed version of the minutes was incorrect and moved to postpone approval of the minutes until the next meeting of the Rate Fairness Board.

Public Comment:
Mr. Pilpel requested various edits that were provided to the meeting secretary.

On the motion to postpone approval:
Ayes: Cheng, Ash, Breslin, Ababon, Saez, Sandler

5. Announcements, Comments, Questions, and Future Agenda Items

Mr. Hollings noted that, per general consensus of Rate Fairness Board members, the next meeting of the Rate Fairness Board would take place on March 14, 2014 at 2:00pm.

Public Comment:
Mr. Pilpel noted that this date would provide time for Rate Fairness Board deliberation on the proposed water and sewer rates in advance of the April 22, 2014 Commission meeting.

5. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.