



**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ben Rosenfield  
Controller  
Todd Rydstrom  
Deputy Controller

Ms. Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

July 6, 2020

RE: File 200510 – Charter amendment to create a Public Works Commission to oversee the Department of Public Works and to create the Sanitation and Streets Department to create a Sanitation and Streets Commission to oversee the new Sanitation and Streets Department

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a significant impact on the cost of government beginning in fiscal year 2022-23, ranging from \$4 million to \$10 million annually, depending on future implementation decisions. The amendment allows the Board of Supervisors to require other departments to provide administrative support to the new department which could, if adopted, reduce the estimated cost. This estimate does not include changes to current service levels.

The proposed Charter amendment would create a new Department of Sanitation and Streets to perform specific duties currently performed by the Department of Public Works. The amendment would shift approximately 835 of 1,711 full-time equivalent employees currently working for Public Works to the new Sanitation and Streets Department. The amendment also allows the Board of Supervisors to limit, modify, or eliminate duties of the Department of Sanitation and Streets by two-thirds vote and transfer those services to other City departments.

Decoupling shared administrative services would necessitate a 10-25 percent increase in staffing for these functions for the loss of efficiency with shared services. These new positions would include adding managers and staff for information technology and systems, finance and budgeting, human resources, safety, training, and communications functions, as well as a new department head and support staff. Other ongoing and one-time costs for splitting shared services would include office space, technology infrastructure and systems, public-facing websites redesign and re-branding of Public Works vehicles.

The amendment requires any department performing public works or improvements in City streets, sidewalks, or City-owned buildings or facilities to first request the Department of Sanitation and Streets to perform the work, rather than contracting this work out. This requirement could increase the cost to government.

The amendment would also create two new five-member commissions: one to oversee the existing Department of Public Works and one to oversee the new Sanitation and Streets Department. Costs would include commission secretary, commissioner compensation, and costs such as preparing public materials.

Sincerely,

Ben Rosenfield  
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.