

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

RESOLUTION NO. 21-0178

WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, the Mayor declared San Francisco to be in a local state of emergency due to the threat of a novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19), posing serious health threats to the population. On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency for all of California to protect against the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020, the Mayor mandated that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) suspend shut-offs of water and power service due to late or non-payments and the issuance of associated late penalties and fees; and

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, the City's Health Officer issued an order (Health Officer Order No. C19-07) requiring all San Francisco residents to shelter-in-place. Residents were forced to stay at home, resulting in the closure of all nonessential businesses. This order, which was extended through May 31, 2020, put significant economic strain on San Francisco residents; and

WHEREAS, On April 27, 2021, by Resolution No. 21-0063, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission extended the suspension of shut-offs on water and power service due to late or non-payment and the issuance of associated late penalties and fees through March 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has and continues to harm the local and state economies due to job loss, business closure, wage decreases, and other negative economic impacts. These challenges have made it more and more challenging for customers to afford utility bills; and

WHEREAS, As customers struggle to afford utility bills due to this economic hardship cause by COVID-19, there has been a rise in the numbers of total arrearages across all customer types, *burdening customers with the financial strain of piling bills and resulting in loss of revenues for the SFPUC;* and

WHEREAS, On July 13, 2021, as part of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 State Budget Act (SB 129), \$985 million was appropriated from the Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to the State of California Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for payments to community water systems and \$1 billion was appropriated from the same Fund to the State of California Department of Community Services (CSD) to electric utilities to forgive residential and commercial customers arrearages that accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic relief bill period (March 4, 2020 through June 15, 2021); and

WHEREAS, On July 16, 2021, as part of Assembly Bill 135, the requirements of the California Arrearage Payment Program (CAPP) were established, and on July 23, 2021, as part of Assembly Bill 148, the requirements of the California Water Wastewater Arrearages Program (CWWAPP) were established; and

WHEREAS, SFPUC submitted surveys to the State in September of 2021 with information on eligible residential and commercial water and electric arrearages; and

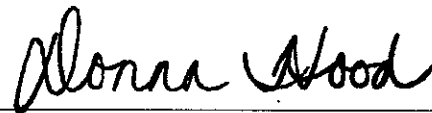
WHEREAS, The SFPUC expects to submit a CWWAPP application in November or December 2021 for customer account arrears and discount program funding, and has received preliminary notice it will receive the full amount requested to cover eligible customer water arrearages and bill discounts; and

WHEREAS, The SFPUC expects to submit a CAPP application in November or December 2021 for customer account arrears funding and has been notified that it will receive up to \$2,423,598 for CleanPowerSF and \$1,218,136 for Hetch Hetchy customer arrearages; and

WHEREAS, Once the State agencies have processed the SFPUC applications, funds are expected to arrive by mid-December, with a 60 day window in which they must be disbursed to customers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Commission hereby authorizes the accept and expend of up to \$11,188,097 in funds from the Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to cover the arrearages for eligible SFPUC Water, Hetch Hetchy Powr, and CleanPowerSF residential and commercial customers accumulated between March 4, 2020 and June 15, 2021, discounts applied to water customer bills during the same time period, and program administration costs.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its meeting of November 23, 2021.*



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Secretary, Public Utilities Commission