



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 11

City and County of San Francisco

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May 31, 2023

Ms. Angela Calvillo
Clerk, Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Proposed Increase in Water and Wastewater Rates
Request for Hearing and Additional Information

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

I write in response to your memo transmitting proposed water and wastewater rate increases from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Pursuant to the authority in Charter Section 8A.125, I am requesting that the Board of Supervisors hold a hearing on the water and wastewater increases impacting San Franciscans.

I earlier wrote to the SFPUC, requesting that they consider delaying their vote to allow for the Rate Fairness Board to ensure ratepayers had a seat at the table. Nevertheless, they voted 3-0 to approve these rate hikes. The Board's hearing will provide ratepayers a chance to make their voices heard to ensure we get information from the SFPUC about its plans with a goal of limiting these hikes.

In the interest of transparency, I am providing a preliminary set of questions my office will pose to the SFPUC, Mayor's Office, and other appropriate entities:

1. What percentage of the rate increases support already approved capital projects and new capital initiatives, and how much is dedicated to operational cost increases? Can you provide a list of capital projects funded specifically by these rate increases?
2. How long would it take for the SFPUC to conduct a meaningful Rate Fairness Board process with a full Board, and when does the Mayor plan to appoint her two vacant ratepayer seats?

3. Has the SFPUC responded to the ratepayers who submitted letters of protest with specific, actionable requests from the agency? If not, when will the SFPUC respond?
4. When was the last time a performance audit of the SFPUC's water and wastewater enterprises was conducted to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse?
5. What is the status of capital projects designed to prevent and reduce flooding in neighborhoods like the Excelsior, Mission, West Portal, and the Marina?
6. When does the SFPUC plan to permanently fill the Assistant General Manager for Wastewater position?
7. Is water consumption of customers outside of San Francisco comparable to San Franciscans? How are their rates calculated?
8. What reforms, if any, has the SFPUC implemented in response to the Controller's performance audit that found the PUC Revenue Bond Oversight Committee "does not have adequate visibility over bond proceeds" issued in December 2021?
9. Has the SFPUC calculated the cost pressures to other public agencies, such as the School District and City Departments, of these changes?

Over the next few weeks, I expect we will continue to hear from many stakeholders about the impact these rate increases will have, and my office will send along other items as they come up. I appreciate the SFPUC's willingness to answer these questions.

Sincerely,



AHSHA SAFAÍ
Supervisor for District 11

CC: President Aaron Peskin, Board of Supervisors
General Manager, SF Public Utilities Commission
Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Controller
City Administrator
Capital Planning