

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

RESOLUTION NO. 23-0022

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 shutoffs 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 a stay safe at home order, Health Officer Order No. C19-07 (the Stay Safe At Home Order), requiring most people to remain in their homes subject to certain exceptions including obtaining essential goods such as food and necessary supplies, and requiring the closure of nonessential businesses; and

WHEREAS, On June 15, 2021 Governor Gavin Newsom signed Executive Order N-07-21 and N-08-21 rescinding the Stay At Home Order and implementing the Blueprint for a Safer Economy; and

WHEREAS, On June 13, 2022, the SFPUC extended the suspension of shutoffs on power service due to late or non-payment and the issuance of associated late penalties and fees through October 2022 for retail customers and through June 30, 2023 for 2022 CAPP benefiting residential customers by adopting Resolution 22-0157; 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, In January 2022, The SFPUC received and distributed \$1.9 million to Hetch Hetchy Power customers and \$5.4 million to CleanPowerSF customers in need of arrearage relief through the 2021 California Arrearage Payment Program (2021 CAPP), funded by the American Rescue Plan of 2021; and

WHEREAS, As part of the Fiscal Year 2022-23 State Budget Act, \$1.2 billion was appropriated from the State General 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 December 31, 2021); and

WHEREAS, On July 1, 2022, as part of Assembly Bill 205, the requirements of the California Arrearage Payment Program (CAPP) were established; and

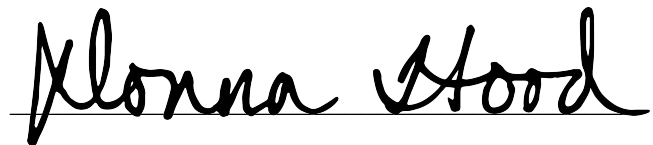
WHEREAS, SFPUC submitted a CAPP application with data on eligible customers in October 2022 for customer account arrears and discount program funding; and

WHEREAS, The SFPUC was notified in November 2021 that it will receive its full requested allocation of \$1,244,798.66 for CleanPowerSF and \$103,243.80 for Hetch Hetchy Power customer arrearages; and

WHEREAS, The State CSD has processed the SFPUC's application, and funds arrived on December 5, 2022, with a 60-day window in which they must be dispersed to customers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Commission hereby authorizes the accept and expend of \$1,348,042.46 in funds from the 2022 California Arrearage Payment Program to cover the arrearages for eligible Hetch Hetchy Power and CleanPowerSF residential customers accumulated between March 4, 2020 and December 31, 2021.

I hereby certify that the foregoing was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its meeting of January 24, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monna Hood". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Secretary, Public Utilities Commission