

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

1390 Market Street, Suite 1150, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 552-9292
FAX (415) 252-0461

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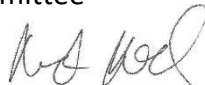
TO: Budget and Appropriations Committee
FROM: Budget and Legislative Analyst 
SUBJECT: May 20, 2026 Budget and Appropriations Committee Meeting

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Items 8 - 11 Files 26-0474, 26-0475, 26-0476, 26-0477	Department: Public Utilities Commission
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Legislative Objectives

- **File 26-0474** is an ordinance appropriating or re-appropriating \$1,158,611,060 in FY 2026-27 and \$1,300,411,374 in FY 2027-28 for capital project spending. The ordinance places \$875,731,280 in FY 2026-27 and \$998,678,841 in FY 2027-28 on Controller’s Appropriation Reserve pending Controller certification of the availability of funds.
- **File 26-0475** is an ordinance authorizing \$138,164,937 in Power revenue bonds.
- **File 26-0476** is an ordinance authorizing \$1,165,736,266 in Wastewater revenue bonds.
- **File 26-0477** is an ordinance authorizing \$570,508,918 in Water revenue bonds.

Key Points

- The proposed ordinances pertain to the SFPUC’s two-year capital budget for the Water, Wastewater, Power, and CleanPowerSF divisions.

Fiscal Impact

- The average annual debt service for the proposed \$1.9 billion in Water, Wastewater, and Power bonds over 30 years is approximately \$139.2 million, or \$4.2 billion in total debt service, excluding any capitalized interest for interim financing. Actual debt service costs may be lower due to bond refunding and access to state and federal lending.
- The SFPUC projects that each division will have sufficient net revenues and unrestricted fund balance to maintain debt service coverage ratios in compliance with its financial policies.

Policy Consideration

- While the current adopted water and wastewater rates do not exceed the SFPUC’s affordability targets, water and sewer bills are projected to exceed affordability targets beginning in FY 2033-34 and remain above the target rates until FY 2044-45.

Recommendations

- Approve Files 26-0475, 26-0476, and 26-0477, the Power, Wastewater, and Water Revenue Bond authorizations, and File 26-0474, the appropriation ordinance pertaining to the SFPUC’s two-year capital budget.
- Request a report from the SFPUC regarding strategies and future plans to (a) meet affordability targets for water and sewer bills, and (b) establish affordability targets for Hetch Hetchy and CleanPowerSF bills.

MANDATE STATEMENT

Charter Section 8B.124 states that the Public Utilities Commission is authorized to issue revenue bonds and other forms of indebtedness, when authorized by two-thirds vote of the Board of Supervisors.

Charter Section F1.113 states that 0.2 percent of the City’s budget, excluding bond debt, must be set aside for the Controller’s audit fund.

BACKGROUND

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) plans its capital spending over two-, 10-, and 20-year time frames. The two-year capital budget accompanies the SFPUC’s two-year operating budget and both two-year spending plans are subject to Board of Supervisors approval.

The SFPUC’s FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 10-Year Capital Plan totals \$12.5 billion across the four major enterprises described below.

Wastewater Enterprise Capital Improvement Plan

The Wastewater Enterprise’s major capital improvement programs total **\$5.9 billion** over the 10-year period from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36.

1. Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP) (**\$4.1 billion**): This program consists of multiple projects for treatment plant upgrades and improvements to the collection system. Major treatment plant upgrades include projects to address facilities beyond their service lives, treatment optimization, and responding to new regulatory requirements. Collection system improvements include sewer discharge structure improvements, conveyance pump and force mains upgrades, and stormwater management and flood resilience projects.
2. Non-SSIP programs (**\$1.8 billion**): Non-SSIP programs include: the Collection System Renewal and Replacement program (\$1.3 billion) to maintain the structural integrity and hydraulic capacity of sewer mains, force mains, and sewer laterals; the Treatment Facilities Renewal and Replacement program (\$286 million) to maintain and extend the useful life of water treatment infrastructure; and the Facilities and Infrastructure program (\$202 million) to support strategic facility improvements, infrastructure investments, and adaptation projects.

Water Enterprise Capital Improvement Program

The Water Enterprise provides both regional water conveyance and local (in-city) water distribution. The regional water system includes the New Irvington Tunnel conveying water from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, the San Antonio and Calaveras Reservoirs in Alameda County, and the San Andreas and Crystal Springs Reservoirs on the Peninsula. The in-city distribution system is a series of pipelines that distributes water from the regional water system to residences and businesses in San Francisco. The Water Enterprise’s FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 10-Year Capital

Plan includes \$1.2 billion for regional systems and \$1.3 billion for the local system, totaling **\$2.5 billion**.

Hetch Hetchy Water and Power Capital Improvement Program

The Hetch Hetchy Enterprise is composed of Hetch Hetchy Water and Hetch Hetchy Power. Hetch Hetchy Water manages the water system in and around the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and throughout the Sierras and is responsible for power generation. Because power is generated hydroelectrically, some capital projects benefit both Hetch Hetchy Water and Hetch Hetchy Power operations. Hetch Hetchy Power primarily provides electricity to local City agencies, government-affiliated entities, as well as redevelopment areas and low-income housing. Hetch Hetchy Water's FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 10-Year Capital Plan totals **\$1.9 billion**, including \$168.2 million for the Water Infrastructure program, \$440.6 million for the Power Infrastructure program, and \$1.3 billion for joint Water and Power infrastructure projects.

Hetch Hetchy Power's Plan includes **\$2.2 billion** for local power projects, including transmission and distribution projects, City streetlights, energy efficiency improvements, renewable generation power projects, and the Public Power Expansion project to fund efforts to support the potential acquisition of PG&E's distribution infrastructure.

CleanPowerSF Capital Improvement Program

CleanPowerSF, which provides renewable electricity to residential and commercial customers in San Francisco, is also part of the Hetch Hetchy Enterprise. The FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 10-Year Capital Plan for CleanPowerSF totals **\$37.2 million**, all of which is revenue-funded and for the Local Energy Renewable Program, which funds new solar and battery storage projects.

DETAILS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

File 26-0476 is an ordinance (a) authorizing the issuance and sale of tax-exempt or taxable Wastewater revenue bonds and other forms of indebtedness by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,165,736,266 to finance the costs of Wastewater Enterprise capital projects; (b) authorizing the issuance of Wastewater revenue refunding bonds and the retirement of outstanding Wastewater Enterprise commercial paper; (c) declaring the intent of the SFPUC to reimburse itself with one or more issues of tax-exempt or taxable bonds or other forms of indebtedness; and (d) ratifying previous actions taken in connection with the issuance of the bonds.

File 26-0477 is an ordinance (a) authorizing the issuance and sale of tax-exempt or taxable Water revenue bonds and other forms of indebtedness by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$570,508,918 to finance the costs of Water Enterprise capital projects; (b) authorizing the issuance of Water revenue refunding bonds and the retirement of outstanding Water Enterprise commercial paper; (c) declaring the intent of the SFPUC to reimburse itself with one or more issues of tax-exempt bonds or other forms of indebtedness; and (d) ratifying previous actions taken in connection with the issuance of the bonds.

File 26-0475 is an ordinance authorizing (a) the issuance and sale of tax-exempt or taxable Power revenue bonds and other forms of indebtedness by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$138,164,937 to finance the costs of various Power Enterprise capital projects; (b) the issuance of Power revenue refunding bonds and the retirement of outstanding Power Enterprise commercial paper; (c) declaring the intent of the SFPUC to reimburse itself with one or more issues of tax-exempt or taxable bonds or other forms of indebtedness; and (d) ratifying previous actions taken for purpose of issuing the bonds.

File 26-0474 is an ordinance that:

1. (a) Appropriates \$1,346,585,789 of proceeds from Wastewater revenue bonds, Wastewater revenues, and Wastewater capacity fees, and (b) de-appropriates \$3,898,000 of funds from Wastewater projects that have been delayed, canceled, or completed and re-appropriates these funds to current ongoing Wastewater projects, for a total two-year San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Wastewater Enterprise Capital Improvement Program budget of \$1,350,483,789 for FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28.
2. (a) Appropriates \$635,110,445 of proceeds from Water revenue bonds, Water revenues, and Water capacity fees, and (b) de-appropriates \$6,715,741 of funds from Water projects that have been delayed, canceled, or completed and re-appropriates these funds to current ongoing Water projects, for a total two-year San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Water Enterprise Capital Improvement Program budget of \$641,826,186 for FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28.
3. (a) Appropriates \$458,737,983 of proceeds from Water revenue bonds, Power revenue bonds, Hetch Hetchy revenues, and Cap and Trade revenues, and (b) de-appropriates \$7,790,835 of funds from Hetch Hetchy projects that have been delayed, canceled, or completed and re-appropriates these funds to current ongoing Hetch Hetchy projects, for a total two-year San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Hetch Hetchy Water & Power Enterprise Capital Improvement Program budget of \$466,528,818 for FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28.
4. Appropriates \$213,640 in CleanPowerSF customer revenues for ITS Capital Projects and the Workforce Management System in FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28.

In addition to revenue bond proceeds, the sources of funds may also include loans and grants from state or federal entities, when available.

File 26-0474 also places \$875,731,280 in FY 2026-27 and \$998,678,841 in FY 2027-28 of funding on Controller's Appropriation Reserve pending Controller certification of the availability of funds.

Projects funded by the appropriated funds are subject to final approval of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings by the SFPUC and the Board of Supervisors.

Revenue Bond Issuance

At the February 10, 2026 Commission meeting, the SFPUC approved the issuance of new Wastewater, Water, and Power revenue bonds to finance capital projects. The proposed ordinances allow the issuance of commercial paper or other interim debt to finance the projects

prior to the issuance of the revenue bonds and provide for the SFPUC to access California Water Resources Control Board revolving loan funds or grant funds.

The SFPUC may issue taxable or tax-exempt bonds in one or more series through either a negotiated or competitive sale. Each bond authorization ordinance requires the SFPUC to report to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days of the bond issuance: (i) the principal amount sold and method of sale, (ii) true interest cost, (iii) final maturity, (iv) the facilities constructed and/or improved, and (v) a statement about the remaining bonding authorization.

In addition, the SFPUC may issue refunding bonds to repay outstanding revenue bond debt if the issuance of the refunding bonds results in net present value debt service savings of 3 percent or more and does not extend the maturity date. If the SFPUC issues refunding bonds, then the SFPUC needs to submit to the Board of Supervisors the final official statement for the refunding bonds and a statement from the financial advisor on the 3 percent net present value debt service savings. The Commission may also authorize refunding bonds if other benefits accrue. The authorization to issue refunding bonds extends through June 2031.

Wastewater Capital Budget

The proposed appropriation ordinance appropriates or re-appropriates a total of \$1,350,483,789 in FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28 of Wastewater bond proceeds, Wastewater revenues, Wastewater capacity fees, and de-appropriated Wastewater project funding to various SSIP and other Wastewater projects, as shown in Exhibit 1 below.

Exhibit 1: Wastewater Appropriation

Sources of Funds	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	Total
Wastewater Bond Proceeds (File 26-0476)	\$503,943,037	\$661,793,229	\$1,165,736,266
De-appropriations and Re-appropriations	3,898,000	0	3,898,000
Wastewater Revenues	81,902,693	91,397,722	173,300,415
Wastewater Capacity Fees	3,718,772	3,830,335	7,549,107
Total Sources of Funds	\$593,462,503	\$757,021,286	\$1,350,483,789
Uses of Funds			
Uses of Funds	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	Total
Sewer System Improvement Project (SSIP)			
Collection System Improvements	4,553,064	11,530,124	16,083,188
Biosolids/Digester Project	36,889,474	53,313,321	90,202,795
Drainage Basin/Early Implementation	3,907,957	25,593,111	29,501,068
Flood Resilience/Hydraulic Improvements	91,159,812	196,184,812	287,344,624
Treatment Plant Improvements - Southeast	169,238,479	108,524,506	277,762,985
Treatment Plant Improvements - Other	59,169,876	106,118,781	165,288,657
Planning/Budget	13,750,000	13,750,000	27,500,000
Total, SSIP Uses	\$378,668,662	515,014,655	\$893,683,317
Other Wastewater Programs			
Renewal & Replacement-Collection System	131,520,005	135,054,132	266,574,137
Renewal & Replacement-Treatment Facilities	15,790,000	16,972,050	32,762,050
Facilities Infra. / Customer Service System	1,588,657	3,477,162	5,065,819
Total, Other Wastewater Programs Uses	\$148,898,662	\$155,503,344	\$304,402,006
Financing Costs	65,895,179	86,503,287	152,398,466
Total Uses of Funds	\$593,462,503	\$757,021,286	\$1,350,483,789

Source: SFPUC.

Note: Total sources of funds may not add due to rounding.

Financing costs include the costs of interim, short-term funding for projects by the Commercial Paper Program, such as accrued interest and credit bank and dealer fees associated with outstanding commercial notes as well as capitalized interest and other issuance costs. It also includes the funding for the Controller's Audit Fund, as required by the City Charter.

Water Capital Budget

The proposed appropriation ordinance appropriates or re-appropriates a total of \$641,826,186 in FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28 of Water revenue bond proceeds, Water revenues, Water capacity fees, and de-appropriated Water project funding to various Water projects, as shown in Exhibit 2 below.

Exhibit 2: Water Appropriation

Sources of Funds	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	Total
Water Bond Proceeds (File 26-0477)	\$272,888,345	\$221,913,742	\$494,802,087
De-appropriations and Re-appropriations	6,715,741	0	6,715,741
Water Revenues	65,705,483	71,606,345	137,311,828
Water Capacity Fees	1,468,887	1,527,643	2,996,530
Total Sources of Funds	\$346,778,456	\$295,047,730	\$641,826,186
Uses of Funds			
	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	Total
Regional Water			
Regional Water Facilities and Infrastructure	115,171,668	117,712,815	232,884,484
Watersheds & Right of Way	13,589,956	13,863,696	27,453,652
Regional Alternative Water Supplies	2,010,000	1,610,000	3,620,000
Total Regional Water Uses	\$130,771,624	\$133,186,511	\$263,958,136
Local Water			
Local Water Facilities and Infrastructure	171,767,017	112,200,210	283,967,226
Local Water Resources	8,648,368	20,715,739	29,364,107
Total Local Water Uses	\$180,415,385	\$132,915,949	\$313,331,333
Financing Costs	35,591,448	28,945,271	64,536,718
Total Uses of Funds	\$346,778,456	\$295,047,731	\$641,826,187

Source: SFPUC.
 Financing costs include the costs of interim, short-term funding for projects by the Commercial Paper Program, such as accrued interest and credit bank and dealer fees associated with outstanding commercial notes as well as capitalized interest and other issuance costs. It also includes the funding for the Controller’s Audit Fund, as required by the City Charter.

Hetch Hetchy Water & Power Capital Budget

The proposed appropriation ordinance appropriates or re-appropriates a total of \$641,826,186 in FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28 of Power revenue bonds, Water revenue bonds, Hetch Hetchy revenues, Cap and Trade revenues, and de-appropriated Hetch Hetchy project funding to various Water, Power, and joint Water/Power projects, along with local power projects, as shown in Exhibit 3 below.

Exhibit 3: Hetch Hetchy Water & Power Appropriation

Sources of Funds	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	Total
Water Bond Proceeds (File 26-0477)	\$58,680,180	\$17,026,651	\$75,706,831
Power Bond Proceeds (File 26-0475)	40,219,718	97,945,219	138,164,937
De-appropriations and Re-appropriations	7,790,835	0	7,790,835
Hetch Hetchy Water Revenues	32,522,250	36,012,538	68,534,788
Hetch Hetchy Power Revenues	73,295,956	96,349,419	169,645,375
Cap and Trade Revenue	5,788,234	897,818	6,686,052
Total Sources of Funds	\$218,297,173	\$248,231,645	\$466,528,818
Uses of Funds			
Uses of Funds	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	Total
Upcountry Water and Power			
Water Infrastructure Projects	58,120,524	12,024,111	70,144,635
Power Infrastructure Projects	40,166,224	92,084,748	132,250,972
Joint Water/Power Projects	54,724,385	85,949,448	140,673,833
Total Upcountry Water and Power Uses	\$153,011,133	\$190,058,307	\$343,069,440
Local Power			
Distribution Services Retail	22,710,902	17,959,114	40,670,015
Distribution Services Retail - Program	202,376	379,025	581,401
Distribution Services Retail - Grid Connections	6,133,926	13,898,711	20,032,637
Streetlight Replacement	4,424,000	625,092	5,049,092
Small Renewables	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000
Cap and Trade Projects	6,000,000	1,000,000	7,000,000
Public Power Expansion	10,955,000	8,004,000	18,959,000
Total Local Power Uses	\$51,426,204	\$42,865,942	\$94,292,145
Financing Costs, Water	8,613,786	2,531,933	11,145,719
Financing Costs, Power	5,246,050	12,775,463	18,021,513
Total Uses of Funds	\$218,297,173	\$248,231,645	\$466,528,818

Source: SFPUC.

Financing costs include the costs of interim, short-term funding for projects by the Commercial Paper Program, such as accrued interest and credit bank and dealer fees associated with outstanding commercial notes as well as capitalized interest and other issuance costs. It also includes the funding for the Controller's Audit Fund, as required by the City Charter.

CleanPowerSF Capital Budget

Finally, the proposed appropriation ordinance appropriates \$213,640 of CleanPowerSF customer revenue for ITS Capital Projects and the Workforce Management System.

Proposition E Bond Funds

San Francisco voters approved Proposition E in 2002 and Proposition A in 2018, providing for the Board of Supervisors to authorize issuance of Water, Power, Wastewater Revenue Bonds and other forms of debt with two-thirds approval of the Board members. As shown below in Exhibit 4, the Board has authorized \$15.3 billion, of which \$12.1 billion has been issued and \$3.2 billion is authorized but not issued.

Exhibit 4: Proposition E Bond Authorizations

SFPUC Division	Authorized	Issued	Unissued	Proposed	New Total Authorized
Wastewater	\$8,052,606,653	\$5,930,155,128	\$2,122,451,525	\$1,165,736,266	\$9,218,342,919
Water	6,171,641,818	5,692,330,982	479,310,836	570,508,918	6,742,150,736
Power	1,029,790,456	480,174,000	549,616,456	138,164,937	1,167,955,393
Total	\$15,254,038,927	\$12,102,660,110	\$3,151,378,817	\$1,874,410,121	\$17,128,449,048

Source: SFPUC

Approval of the proposed bond authorization ordinances would increase the amount of bonds authorized in accordance with Propositions E and A to \$17.1 billion. The SFPUC plans to issue approximately \$11.3 billion in new revenue bonds between FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36, according to the 10-Year Capital Plan (amounts are preliminary are subject to change due to market conditions and actual project spending).

FISCAL IMPACT

Debt Service

The SFPUC’s 10-Year Financial Plan assumes future bond issuances after FY 2027-28 will have a 6.0 percent interest rate and a thirty-year term. This assumption is unchanged from the 6.0 percent interest rate assumed in last year’s Financial Plan. Transactions in FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28 are assumed to have lower interest rates of 4.75 percent and 5.0 percent, respectively, given the expected near-term rate environment.

Assuming a fixed 6.0 percent interest rate, the average annual debt service for the proposed \$1.9 billion in Water, Wastewater, and Power bonds over 30 years is approximately \$139.2 million, or \$4.2 billion in total debt service, excluding any capitalized interest for interim financing. Actual debt service costs may be lower due to bond refunding, access to state and federal lending and other capital revenues, and the lower interest rates assumed for FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28.

Financial Policies: Revenues

The SFPUC’s 10-Year Financial Plan projects that the Water, Wastewater, and Hetch Hetchy Water and Power Enterprises will have sufficient net revenues and unrestricted fund balance to maintain debt service coverage ratios in compliance with the Department’s financial policies.

Water, Wastewater, and Power are in compliance with the Department’s Capital Financing policy, which requires operating revenues to fund between 15 and 30 percent of capital spending. The purpose of this policy is to manage the impact of debt service on utility charges.

Financial Policies: Affordability

In November 2023, the SFPUC adopted a new Affordability Policy that establishes two non-binding affordability targets. The Typical Customer Affordability Metric states that the average residential combined water and sewer bill should be no more than three percent of typical

household income.¹ The Low-Income Customer Affordability Metric states that the average residential combined water and sewer bill should be no more than seven percent of low-income household income,² and no more than five percent of low-income household income after accounting for enrollment in applicable bill discount programs. These targets are evaluated on a 20-year planning horizon, as established in the Affordability Policy.

According to the SFPUC's 10-Year Financial Plan, the combined water and sewer bill is projected to exceed the typical customer affordability metric target rate of three percent beginning in FY 2033-34 and not return to below three percent until FY 2044-45. Over the 20-year period, the combined water and sewer bill is forecast to grow to a maximum of 3.1 percent of typical household income (compared to the 3.0 percent target) and 7.4 percent of low-income household income (compared to the 7.0 percent target). Low-income households enrolled in applicable discount programs remain under the target during the 20-year forecast period (reaching a maximum of 4.4 percent, compared to the 5.0 percent target). According to the 10-Year Financial Plan, increases in sewer charges are the largest driver of the growth in customer bills due to capital spending and associated increases in debt service costs, primarily related to the replacement and modernization of the Southeast Treatment Plant.

However, the current adopted rates and the SFPUC's FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28 budget do not exceed these affordability targets. Multiple factors, including construction cost inflation, interest rates, and the availability of external state or federal financing, will influence customer rates and the SFPUC's ability to meet its affordability targets in future years.

The SFPUC's Affordability Policy does not establish an affordability target for Hetch Hetchy and CleanPowerSF bills.³ The Financial Plan projects that over the 20-year period, Hetch Hetchy Power's average and discounted bills will reach 1.6 percent of typical household income, 3.9 percent of low-income household income, and 2.8 percent of low-income household income enrolled in discount programs. The Financial Plan projects that CleanPowerSF average bills will reach 1.2 percent and 2.9 percent of typical and low-income household incomes, respectively, over the 10-year period through FY 2035-36. (Due to uncertainty regarding power supply expenses and PG&E rate increases, the Financial Plan only forecasts CleanPowerSF bills over a 10-year, rather than 20-year, period.)

¹ Typical household income is defined as the 40th percentile of household income in San Francisco, as measured in the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent Five-Year American Community Survey.

² Low-income household income is defined as the 20th percentile of household income in San Francisco, as measured in the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent Five-Year American Community Survey.

³ According to SFPUC staff, while the SFPUC has been considering a Power Affordability policy, power bill targets are more challenging to establish because power purchase costs continue to be volatile, Hetch Hetchy customers are primarily municipal, and the CleanPowerSF bill is largely driven by PG&E.

Customer Rates

Exhibit 5 below shows the projected rate increases for each utility service for the next five fiscal years, based on the 10-Year Financial Plan and adopted rates. Future rate estimates are subject to change prior to adoption. Rates for service pay for operating and capital expenditures.

Exhibit 5: Utility Rate Increases (Red = higher than last year, Blue = lower than last year)

Utility	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Retail Water	7.0%	7.0%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%
Wholesale Water	7.4%	6.9%	3.9%	2.0%	4.5%
Wastewater	15.0%	14.5%	13.0%	13.0%	12.0%
Hetch Hetchy Power - Retail	6.0%	7.0%	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%
CleanPowerSF Generation	-23.1%	8.5%	8.0%	5.5%	5.5%

Source: SFPUC FY 2026-27 – FY 2035-36 10-Year Financial Plan

Notes: Red highlighting indicates higher increases than projected in last year’s financial plan, with increases ranging from 0.5 to 8.5 percentage points. Blue highlighting indicates lower increases than projected in the financial plan, with decreases ranging from 0.5 to 23.1 percentage points. Notably, CleanPowerSF is planning a rate decrease of 23.1% in FY 2026-27 in response to lower power supply costs and a difficult competitive environment.

The most recent retail Water and Wastewater rates for FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28 were adopted by the SFPUC on April 28, 2026.

Wholesale Water rates are based on contracts with wholesale customers.

Hetch Hetchy Power and CleanPowerSF rates will be adopted annually, given recent volatility in energy markets. The SFPUC approved new FY 2026-27 Hetch Hetchy retail rates on April 28, 2026. A CleanPowerSF rate reduction of 20 to 25 percent, depending on customer class, was approved by the SFPUC in January 2026 and went into effect March 1, 2026. CleanPowerSF rates are expected to remain at the reduced rates through July 2027. This rate reduction was put in place in response to lower power supply costs and a difficult competitive environment. After this decrease, CleanPowerSF projects generation rate increases of between 5.5 and 8.5 percent between FY 2027-28 and FY 2030-31.

POLICY CONSIDERATION

Debt Service Coverage Policy

In prior reports, the Budget and Legislative Analyst has noted that the SFPUC’s Debt Service Coverage Policy includes two formulas: (1) for maintaining sufficient net revenues and fund balance to exceed debt service coverage requirements in bond indentures and (2) for maintaining sufficient net revenues to exceed debt service. The Indenture Coverage formula explicitly includes enterprise fund balance. The Current Coverage ratio does not explicitly include fund balance, which is consistent with how credit rating agencies and some PUC creditors evaluate

debt service coverage.⁴ However, according to the 10-Year Financial Plan, on advice of bond counsel, the SFPUC may include appropriated fund balance in the calculation of an SFPUC Enterprise's Current Coverage, even though it is not specified in the policy formula, as it is a funding source for operating costs. In June 2025, we reported that the SFPUC was considering potential changes to update formal financial policies which would be incorporated in the following year's 10-year financial plan. However, according to SFPUC staff, the SFPUC determined that no changes were necessary, and no changes were made to SFPUC's adopted financial policies or debt service coverage policy.

Affordability Policy

As discussed earlier in this report, over the 20-year Affordability Policy forecast period, the SFPUC is projecting that the combined water and sewer bill is forecast to grow to a maximum of 3.1 percent of typical household income (compared to the 3.0 percent target) and 7.4 percent of low-income household income (compared to the 7.0 percent target). Water and sewer bills are projected to exceed these affordability targets beginning in FY 2033-34 and remain above the target rates until FY 2044-45.

The Board of Supervisors could work with SFPUC and decide, either now or at a later time, to reduce SFPUC's capital plans and proposed debt issuances, or future capital plans and future proposed debt issuances, to reduce rate increases so that the SFPUC's water and sewer bills remain within their affordability targets. Such decisions would impact planned projects, many of which are important to meet regulatory and safety standards. While water and sewer bills are not projected to exceed affordability targets until FY 2033-34, the impacts of debt issuance reductions could be less drastic if action is taken now, depending on construction costs and interest rates.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve Files 26-0475, 26-0476, and 26-0477, the Power, Wastewater, and Water Revenue Bond authorizations.
2. Approve File 26-0474, the appropriation ordinance pertaining to the SFPUC's two-year capital budget.
3. Request a report from the SFPUC regarding strategies and future plans to (a) meet affordability targets for water and sewer bills, and (b) establish affordability targets for Hetch Hetchy and CleanPowerSF bills.

⁴ As calculated in SFPUC's Debt Service Coverage Policy: The Indenture Coverage formula is: ((Annual Revenues – Operating Expenses) + Unappropriated Fund Balance)/ Annual Debt Service. The Current Coverage formula is: (Annual Revenues – Operating Expenses)/Annual Debt Service. The Indenture Coverage must be at least 1.35x debt service and the Current Coverage must 1.10x debt service.