

1 [Urging Extension of Utility Debt Relief]

2

3 **Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Public Utilities**
4 **Commission to extend utility debt relief to assist households up to 80% Area Median**
5 **Income and customers enrolled in Community Choice Aggregation programs.**

6

7 WHEREAS, On May 14, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom announced in his May budget
8 revise the state would provide up to \$2 billion in relief for utility debt including \$1 billion for
9 electricity and gas arrears; and

10 WHEREAS, On May 18, 2021, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
11 Francisco unanimously passed a resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom and the
12 California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to extend the utility shut-off moratorium past
13 June 30, 2021, and forgive utility debt beginning March 2020; and

14 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco and its San Francisco Public
15 Utilities Commission (SFPUC) have been leaders in providing support to utility customers,
16 including suspending shutoffs prior to the state mandate, implementing residential and
17 commercial emergency COVID discount programs, participating in national convenings, and
18 leading legislative efforts to secure funding; and

19 WHEREAS, A majority (70%) of San Francisco's electricity supply is provided by the
20 SFPUC's Hetch Hetchy Power and CleanPowerSF Programs; and

21 WHEREAS, CleanPowerSF, a not-for-profit program of the SFPUC that provides
22 cleaner energy at competitive rates to San Francisco electricity customers, and has served
23 residential and commercial customers since May 2016; and

24 WHEREAS, The SFPUC suspended the return of delinquent CleanPowerSF
25 Customers to PG&E generation service for failure to pay CleanPowerSF charges and

1 implemented a one-time \$2.8 million customer assistance bill credit for low-income customers;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, On April 27, 2021, the SFPUC extended its emergency customer
4 assistance programs and rule changes described above, through March 2022; and

5 WHEREAS, As of March 29, 2021, CleanPowerSF's residential customer bill
6 delinquency more than 60 days overdue was \$2,739,333, with highest percentage of
7 delinquent customer accounts being in Districts 6 and 10, two districts with the highest poverty
8 rates in San Francisco which have also been historically impacted by environmental harms
9 including power generation and suffered from a lack of access to affordable and reliable
10 energy; and

11 WHEREAS, Prior to shelter-in-place for COVID, 10% of active CleanPower SF
12 customer accounts were enrolled in the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)
13 program, and as of October 1, 2020, 13.4% of all CleanPowerSF customers are enrolled in
14 CARE or Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA), a 34% increase in the number of
15 program participants since March 2020; and

16 WHEREAS, California's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
17 utilizes the Federal Poverty Level to determine a household's eligibility for program
18 assistance; and now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
20 urges Governor Newsom and the CPUC to provide utility debt relief to households with up to
21 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) of San Francisco instead of the Federal Poverty Level;
22 and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
24 Francisco urges the office of Governor Newsom and the CPUC to provide utility debt relief to
25 customers of CCA programs in addition to investor-owned utilities; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
2 Francisco urges the SFPUC to continue to explore debt relief for its customers in preparation
3 that the Governor and CPUC’s actions may fall short of providing the appropriate amount of
4 relief; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
6 Francisco hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the
7 office of Governor Newsom and the CPUC.

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25