Resolution in Support of Continuing Remote Public Comment

Sponsors: Jennifer Clary

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, San Francisco Board and Commission meetings have largely been held remotely, and provided the public the ability engage with those bodies through remote public comment; and

WHEREAS, On March 1, 2023, the statewide COVID-19 emergency declaration will expire and all San Francisco Boards and Commissions must resume public meetings, in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Public Meeting Act; and

WHEREAS, A resolution (<u>File #221008</u>) has been introduced at the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to limit remote participation by the public at meetings of the Board and its committees, except to the extent required by law to accommodate persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The SFPUC Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) has found remote public comment to be beneficial to achieving its goal of reflecting and supporting public awareness of and engagement with the affairs of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the SFPUC CAC supports maintaining remote public comment at the meetings of all San Francisco Boards and Commission as a way to encourage civic engagement and participation with City government; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That if the Board of Supervisors votes to end remote public comment at its meetings, that it not extend that decision to all Boards and Commissions; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the SFPUC CAC intends to continue to allow remote public comment at its public meetings, and we urge the SFPUC to continue remote public comment to ensure engagement with community stakeholders.

As adopted by the Full Citizens' Advisory Committee on February 21, 2023.

PROPOUNDED BY: Jennifer Clary