

1 [Commending the Community Benefits Program]

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3 **Resolution commending the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission’s Community**
4 **Benefits Program.**

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6 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) endeavored in
7 2009 to evaluate its activities with respect to workforce development initiatives and to develop
8 a Community Benefits Program in order to better serve and foster partnerships with the
9 community; and

10 WHEREAS, Challenging economic conditions in San Francisco have led to increased
11 unemployment and served as a significant impediment for our communities to access
12 economic opportunities; and

13 WHEREAS, The SFPUC stimulates the economy through the investment of billions of
14 dollars of infrastructure projects within and outside of San Francisco; and

15 WHEREAS, The SFPUC Commissioners provided leadership and direction to the
16 department in the development of a comprehensive Community Benefits Program; and

17 WHEREAS, The SFPUC retained expert consultants to conduct an evaluation of the
18 department’s current initiatives, conduct stakeholder outreach, research best practices in
19 other metropolitan areas, and provide recommendations regarding the components and
20 definition of a Community Benefits Program; and

21 WHEREAS, Nationwide best practices and comparative research revealed that no
22 other utility researched had as comprehensive a range of community benefit programs as the
23 SFPUC, that all such programs were decentralized, that a universal definition for “Community
24 Benefits” does not exist, and that most existing community benefit programs are created to
25 coincide exclusively with infrastructure projects; and

1 WHEREAS, To date the SFPUC has identified over 80 programs and initiatives already
2 in existence at the SFPUC that could be components of a Community Benefits Program; and

3 WHEREAS, The SFPUC has developed a draft definition of community benefits as
4 those positive community impacts resulting from SFPUC's development and operation of its
5 water, wastewater, and power services. In recognition of the importance of community
6 benefits, the SFPUC seeks to be a good neighbor to all those impacted by its activities and
7 promotes sustainability by adoption of a triple bottom line, which balances the SFPUC's
8 economic, environmental, and social equity goals; and

9 WHEREAS, The SFPUC's preliminary draft report outlined ten categories of outcomes
10 for a Community Benefits Program, including stakeholder and community involvement,
11 workforce development, environmental justice and environmental planning, economic
12 development, education, arts and culture, health, land use, diversity and inclusion, and
13 financial or in-kind contributions for community based organizations and efforts; and

14 WHEREAS, The desired outcomes of the Community Benefits Program incorporate the
15 triple bottom line of equity, economic strength, and environmental sustainability; and

16 WHEREAS, The SFPUC will redouble its educational programs and initiatives to
17 engage all of our diverse and vibrant communities, including our traditionally underserved
18 communities, through mentoring and internship opportunities for local youth, partnering with
19 our local schools to provide innovative programming and curricula that intersects with the arts
20 and instructs about SFPUC's fascinating environmental work, providing tours of SFPUC's
21 facilities, operations and wealth of breathtaking resources, and widely distributing and
22 disseminating educational materials that inform our communities regarding SFPUC's exciting
23 work and successes through culturally competent means that include language and disability
24 access, as well as many other opportunities for community-based engagement that reflect
25 San Francisco's incredible diversity and dynamism; and

1 WHEREAS, Stakeholder and community involvement is an integral part of the
2 SFPUC’s core principles as reflected by its Citizen Advisory Committees, oversight
3 committees, and various other community input mediums; and

4 WHEREAS, The SFPUC has worked internally and in partnership with the Office of
5 Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) and community based organizations to
6 provide workforce development opportunities through programs such as CityBuild, the Bay
7 Area Water/Wastewater Workforce Development Collaborative (BAYWORK), and
8 participation in several youth development and internship programs; and

9 WHEREAS, The SFPUC adopted an environmental justice policy and developed
10 environmental programs to preserve and expand clean and renewable water and other energy
11 resources, including projects such as rainwater harvesting, SF Greasecycle, several solar
12 projects, as well as energy efficiency programs and projects; and

13 WHEREAS, The SFPUC supports economic development through job training and
14 education programs and through collaborative partnerships that promote contracting with local
15 companies, hiring local workers, and providing efficient, renewable energy at a reduced cost;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Pursuant to Administrative Code Section 3.19 the SFPUC allocates 2% of
18 all above ground construction dollars to the Art Enrichment Fund and works with the Arts
19 Commission to support the arts and provide opportunities for publicly accessible art projects;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The SFPUC seeks to improve health through the operation of open
22 spaces for recreation and exercise, traffic management, odor control, and consistently clean
23 water; and

24 WHEREAS, The SFPUC works with the San Francisco Unified School District to
25 facilitate a pipeline to SFPUC related internships and career development opportunities,

1 provides on-site facility tours, leadership development classes, classroom education in
2 sustainability, and further seeks to educate customers through participation in citywide eco-
3 fairs because education is key to the community's understanding of SFPUC services; and

4 WHEREAS, The SFPUC allows right-of-way land use for yard space and community
5 gardens, provides community meeting space, acts responsibly in preserving watersheds and
6 trails within the SFPUC water service area, and provides opportunities for stakeholders to
7 include input on land use decisions; and

8 WHEREAS, Diversity and inclusion are core guiding principles in how the PUC
9 operates and on its activities in the community; and

10 WHEREAS, The SFPUC makes contributions to local community groups and many
11 SFPUC employees volunteer on boards, task forces, and with community organizations; and,

12 WHEREAS, The SFPUC will develop a Community Benefits Policy and companion
13 Community Benefits Program by utilizing the recommendations provided in a written report
14 drafted by expert consultants; and, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
16 commends the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission for developing a Community
17 Benefits Program to increase positive impacts from SFPUC operations and activities; and, be
18 it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the SFPUC's
20 dedication to remaining a good neighbor to all San Franciscans while promoting sustainability
21 through practices that balance the SFPUC's economic, environmental, and social equity
22 goals; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the SFPUC to adopt a
24 comprehensive Community Benefits Policy and to develop a Community Benefits Program
25 that applies to both its operations and activities in the community; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the SFPUC to integrate
2 the Community Benefits Program into the agency’s core mission, supported by executive
3 management, and provided with the appropriate resources and authority to effectively
4 implement the Program; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the SFPUC to ensure the
6 Community Benefits Program is centrally coordinated, sustainable across the SFPUC’s
7 Enterprises, and has measureable outcomes with a nexus to PUC services; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the SFPUC’s Community Benefits Program may serve
9 as a model to be adopted by other San Francisco City Departments in the future.

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