File No	230	719

Committee Item	No.	
Board Item No.	60	

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee:		Date:	
Board of Sup	pervisors Meeting	Date:	June 13, 2023
Cmte Boar	d		
	Motion Resolution Ordinance Legislative Digest Budget and Legislative Analys Youth Commission Report Introduction Form Department/Agency Cover Lett MOU Grant Information Form Grant Budget Subcontract Budget Contract/Agreement Form 126 – Ethics Commission Award Letter	er and/	
	Application Public Correspondence		
OTHER	. dono correspondence		
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Prepared by:	Lisa Low	Date	June 9, 2023
Prepared by:		Date:	Juile 3, 2023

1	[Audit of the Public Utilities Commission's Water and Wastewater Enterprises, Rate Setting and Oversight Processes With a Focus on Reducing Rate Increases]
2	and evereign recesses whit a reside on resident greate mereases;
3	Motion directing the Budget and Legislative Analyst, on a priority basis, to audit the
4	Public Utilities Commission's Water and Wastewater Enterprises, rate setting, and
5	contract oversight processes, with a focus on reducing rate increases.
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7	WHEREAS, Board Rule 3.25.3 states that "it is the policy of the Board that each
8	program of the Citybe the subject of a performance or management audit once every eight
9	years;" and
10	WHEREAS, Board Rule 3.25.3 further states that "it shall be the function of these
11	audits to ensure that City departmentsmake prudent and efficient use of City resources and
12	that the departmentseffectively perform the functions assigned to them by the Charter and
13	applicable laws;" and
14	WHEREAS, It appears that the last performance audit of the Public Utilities
15	Commission (PUC) by the Budget and Legislative Analyst occurred in 2005; and
16	WHEREAS, Since that time, the Public Utilities Commission has been subject to
17	reviews by the Controller that have found serious deficiencies in some of its programs and
18	oversight mechanisms; and
19	WHEREAS, The Budget and Legislative Analyst, in its reports about PUC contracting,
20	has raised serious concerns about management and oversight of individual projects, including
21	a finding that performance measures were not routinely included in multimillion dollar
22	professional services contracts; and
23	WHEREAS, The Public Utilities Commission proposes to raise the rates of retail and
24	commercial ratepayers by extraordinary levels; and

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WHEREAS, Over 300 protest letters raised serious concerns about flooding in our
neighborhoods, ability to pay by low-income ratepayers, lack of serious oversight of spending
and much more; and
WHEREAS, Much of the rate increase appears to tie to existing capital projects and
debt, and only a small portion of the current increase appears to be tied to new projects; and
WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors remains concerned about the lack of oversight
at the Public Utilities Commission, the unchecked flooding happening in our neighborhoods,
and the fact that ratepayers deserve a seat at the table; and
WHEREAS, Only one of four ratepayer seats on the Rate Fairness Board was filled
when the rates were recommended to the Public Utilities Commission, and that is
unacceptable; and
WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors intends to fill its seats on the Rate Fairness
Board and encourages the Mayor to do the same; and
WHEREAS, Leading homeowner groups called on City leaders to ensure fiscal
responsibility at this multibillion dollar agency and suggest cutting waste, fraud and abuse
before raising rates; and
WHEREAS, Reforms must be made to this process now to reduce rate increases in the
future; now, therefore, be it
MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Budget and Legislative Analyst to
conduct a management audit, on a priority basis, of the Public Utilities Commission's Water
and Wastewater Enterprises, rate setting, and contract oversight processes, with a focus on
reducing rate increases; and, be it
FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors intends that this management audit
would be funded by SFPUC revenues, as allowed, and be part of the Board of Supervisors'

authorization to amend the BLA contract consistent with Motion No. M22-114.

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Introduction Form

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)