

From: [Barnes, Bill \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation. \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Strongly SUPPORTING BOS Agenda Item #60 [Audit of Public Utilities Commission's Water and Wastewater Enterprises, Rate Setting and Oversight Processes With a Focus on Reducing Rate Increases] File #230719
Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 9:15:28 AM

Please include this is File #230719, Item #60 on today's agenda.

Thanks,

BILL BARNES (he/him/his)

Chief of Staff

Supervisor Ahsha Safaí

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244

San Francisco, CA 94102

415.554.7896 (direct)

415.554.6975 (main line)

From: aeboken <aeboken@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 8:54 AM

To: BOS-Supervisors <bos-supervisors@sfgov.org>; BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org>

Subject: Strongly SUPPORTING BOS Agenda Item #60 [Audit of Public Utilities Commission's Water and Wastewater Enterprises, Rate Setting and Oversight Processes With a Focus on Reducing Rate Increases] File #230719

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TO: Board of Supervisors members

Sunset-Parkside Education and Action Committee (SPEAK) is strongly supporting this SFPUC audit.

SPEAK also strongly urges that the following be included in the SFPUC audit:

- 1) There was apparently a ratepayers revolt in the 1970s when the SFPUC raised water and wastewater rates significantly. What were the causes, actions and policy implications?
- 2) How is the SFPUC's financial situation affecting its rate increases? What debt is the SFPUC holding? When is this debt coming due? Are there balloon payments? What percentage of the SFPUC's revenue is going to debt service?
- 3) Are there issues with the SFPUC's capital program in terms of on-budget and on-time

performance? Has the SFPUC investigated longstanding allegations of pay to play contracting?

4) Are the SFPUC's policies aligned with its mission? Are its water management and drought planning policies overly conservative? Is the SFPUC fulfilling its environmental obligations on the Tuolumne River? Are the policies re the SFPUC's wholesale customers correctly aligned and why is the SFPUC considering making San Jose and Santa Clara permanent customers? Should the SFPUC be investigating offshore desalination (desal) as a water diversification strategy? Should the SFPUC be able to access Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response (ESER) bonds even though this is inconsistent with Prop 218? Should the Emergency Firefighting Water System be transferred to the City Administrator and the Department of Public Works?

Best,

Eileen Boken,
President

Sunset-Parkside Education and Action Committee (SPEAK)

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: The Board of Supervisors must reject SFPUC rae increase and return for a full and proper analysis
Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 11:36:05 AM

Hello,

Please see below for communication from Brian Browne regarding File No. 230719.

File No. 230719 - Audit of the Public Utilities Commission's Water and Wastewater Enterprises, Rate Setting and Oversight Processes With a Focus on Reducing Rate Increases

Sincerely,

Joe Adkins
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 554-5184 | Fax: (415) 554-5163
board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

From: Brian Browne <brian@h2oecon.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 10, 2023 11:29 AM
To: Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: Fwd: The Board of Supervisors must reject SFPUC rae increase and return for a full and proper analysis

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I sent this email to my D3 Supervisor Honorable Aaron Peskin. FYI - do not allow this rate increase to go through as is. It must be shown to conform with the California Constitution (XIII c and d). I believe that is impossible in regard to only charging customers only the cost of service for utilities provided. Nothing else. See San Juan Capistrano case 2015. Please read

Brian Browne

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: The Board of Supervisors must reject SFPUC rate increase and return for a full and proper analysis

Date:Sat, 10 Jun 2023 10:53:27 -0700

From:Brian Browne <brian@h2oecon.com>

Reply-To:brian@h2oecon.com

To:Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org <Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org>, "aaron.peskin\"@earthlink.net, aaron.peskin@earthlink.com

CC:Douglas L Comstock <dougcomz@mac.com>, bodisco <bodisco@sbcglobal.net>, Sean Elsbernd (MYR) <sean.elsbernd@sfgov.org>, Breed, Mayor London (MYR) <MayorLondonBreed@sfgov.org>

Dear President Peskin,

I hope you read this letter.

The Board must reject the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) request for a rate increase.

California 1996 Proposition 218 (also Sections XIII c and d of the California Constitution) mandates that municipal-generated fees, such as water rates, must be approved by the voters and strictly limited to specific delivery costs. I kindly request the opportunity to demonstrate, as I have with the SFPUC and as a member of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee (frequently mentioned in the Westside Observer), that the SFPUC cannot provide evidence of meeting the mandated cost of service requirement as required by our state Constitution. I believe that approving this request may expose the SFPUC and City to a Proposition 218 challenge.

I am available to substantiate my claim. Please consider placing a hold on this rate increase approval and returning the matter for a proper investigation.

Sincerely,

Brian Browne

https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/bag061323_agenda.pdf