

SFPUC State Legislative Agenda

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission will support or sponsor state legislation and administrative action in pursuit of the following goals:

Water & Wastewater:

- Support legislation to promote water conservation, recycled water, desalination, and other sustainable water measures.
- Promote legislation that ensures safe drinking water standards for San Franciscans and Californians.
- Endorse legislation that helps prevent hazardous waste materials (such as pharmaceutical drugs from households, or hazardous chemicals from construction sites) from being dumped into local wastewater systems.
- Support follow-up efforts to legislation that gives guidance to local agencies on the safe use of gray water for indoor non-potable use (such as toilet flushing).
- Promote legislation that directs state funds towards flood management, particularly addressing the needs of combined sewer systems.
- Endorse legislation that ensures San Francisco and the SFPUC water customers remain on a level playing field in securing regional water grants.
- Support legislation that protects local agency ratemaking controlling authority and protects San Francisco's historic water rights.
- Support legislation to reduce the use of bottled water.

Protect the Bay:

- Explore and support state legislation or regulations that will prevent future oil spills like the Cosco Busan incident.

Energy and Alternative Fuels:

- Expand energy reliability and the use and implementation of renewable energy projects and funding programs, such as solar and wind power, as well as exploring the potential for tidal energy projects.
- Support legislation that removes statutory barriers to the development of renewable energy.
- Increase the current renewable energy portfolio standard for utilities
- Support legislation that provides incentives for renewable power, such as tax incentives, and rebates.
- Promote energy reliability, safety of energy delivery systems, prevention of power failures, and reduction of blackouts.
- Support needed biofuel storage facilities
- Support energy efficiency measures such as reductions in uses of incandescent light bulbs.
- Endorse legislation on the research, development and use of cleaner fuel technologies.
- Promote incentives for microturbine generation on existing hydropower facilities.
- Support follow-up efforts to legislation that streamlines government reviews for renewable energy facilities, including the review process for installing solar power on public school rooftops.
- Support studies on the impact of renewable energy on distribution grids in order to better manage the expansion of renewable energy in California.

- Protect energy consumers from price gouging among energy markets.
- Ensure that inappropriate fees shall not be applied to the City of San Francisco, such as Exit Fees for former military facilities like Hunters Point or Treasure Island.
- Support legislation that protects San Francisco's historic Hetch Hetchy Power generation rights.

Economic Stimulus:

- Participate in efforts to ensure that resources disbursed through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and other economic stimulus programs, are disbursed with consideration of SFPUC/CCSF priorities for funding.

Clean Air/Climate Change:

- Work with Cal ISO on commitments to shut-down the Potrero Power Plant when adequate back-up energy sources are on-line, and explore legislative options as well.
- Support legislation that directs state agencies (such as the Department of Water Resources) to plan for the impacts of Climate Change.
- Support legislation to create a State-wide carbon offset program
- Encourage or incentivize large employers to help reduce their employee's commute by offering commuter assistance programs
- Improve air quality by regulating stationary or automobile sources emissions, providing incentives for the purchase of low emission vehicles, ensuring funding for air quality mitigation projects, and strengthening existing air quality regulations and provide stiffer enforcement penalties
- Provide financial and technical assistance to low-income residents and communities of color to prevent and reduce disproportionate impacts of climate change

GreenBuilding:

- Promote adoption of state-wide residential green building guidelines and/or energy conservation standards on residential properties at time of sale
- Protect our local green building ordinance from preemption by state law unless the state law affords more protection for the environment, more resource efficiency, or more reductions in toxicity.
- Provide increased financial incentives for green building and renewable energy projects in the private sector i.e., exempt green building improvements from reassessment
- Ban hazardous substances from being used in new construction such as legislation to ban toxic fire retardants on furniture purchased by the State
- Promote new development on remediated Brownfield sites
- Encourage/incentivize commercial buildings to have Performance Verification or Retro-Commissioning at specified time intervals
- Reduce toxins and indoor contaminants in residential buildings, especially low-income housing through use of green building practices

Toxics:

- Require manufacturers to take back certain products such as batteries, pharmaceuticals, or electronics at the end of their useful life
- Expand the number of chemicals tracked in the State's Bio-monitoring program authorized by SB 1379

- Strengthen chemical labeling requirements on consumer products
- Empower the Department of Toxic Substance Control to require manufacturers to submit health and environmental data on chemicals they sell in California
- Support legislation removing toxics from consumer products.