



September 14, 2022

Planning Commission
 Room 400 of City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
 San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: 2022 Safety and Resilience Element Update
 General Plan Amendment, 2018-004217GPA

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is pleased to offer support for the 2022 Safety and Resilience Element of the San Francisco General Plan. The 2022 Safety and Resilience Element Update will provide a comprehensive set of policies for minimizing San Francisco’s contribution to the climate crisis and ensuring local resilience to multiple hazards. It will help protect the people and assets of San Francisco, especially areas and communities that face higher vulnerability to disasters. This work will strengthen the General Plan’s support of climate resilience, environmental justice, and racial and social equity.

The SFPUC recognizes its role in responding to the climate crisis and preparing for disasters. The SFPUC is committed to providing reliable services to San Franciscans and to managing assets in the context of a changing climate. The SFPUC supports Objective 3.3 of the Safety and Resilience Element to anticipate, mitigate, respond to, and recover from threats and disasters. Policy 5.1.1. also aligns with SFPUC’s goal of providing reliable water, power, and sewer services to San Franciscans. Additionally, the SFPUC supports policies under Objective 4.2 to ensure potable water is accessible and renewable energy sources are available for redundant energy in the event of an emergency.

The SFPUC supports the Safety and Resilience Element Update’s incorporation of climate resilience by including the Hazards and Climate Resilience Plan and Climate Action Plan by reference, and by drafting policies with a multi-hazards and multi-benefit perspective. The SFPUC supports the strategic use of multi-benefit, nature-based solutions and green infrastructure for climate adaptation, stormwater management, and flood resilience to reduce risk and increase public benefits (Policies 2.2.2., 2.3.2., and 2.3.3.).

London N. Breed
 Mayor

Anson Moran
 President

Newsha Ajami
 Vice President

Sophie Maxwell
 Commissioner

Tim Paulson
 Commissioner

Dennis J. Herrera
 General Manager

OUR MISSION: To provide our customers with high-quality, efficient and reliable water, power and sewer services in a manner that values environmental and community interests and sustains the resources entrusted to our care.



The SFPUC is committed to the goals of environmental justice to promote healthy communities in all SFPUC service areas by eliminating disproportionate environmental burdens and distributing public and environmental benefits equitably. To help address social and environmental issues, the SFPUC has adopted Environmental Justice and Community Benefits policies. The SFPUC participated in the Environmental Justice Working Group to provide feedback on the Environmental Justice Communities Map and draft policy recommendations for environmental justice policies in the General Plan. The SFPUC supports the incorporation of the Environmental Justice Communities in the Safety and Resilience Element policy language to designate prioritization and resources to areas of the City that experience the top 30% of environmental burdens. The SFPUC has already begun to align existing programs with the Environmental Justice Communities policy language by incorporating its language in the criteria for the SFPUC's Green Infrastructure Grant Program.

The SFPUC is also committed to eliminating race-related barriers and modeling leadership that creates an equitable work environment for all employees. The SFPUC has developed and is in the process of implementing its Racial Equity Action Plan and is in support of Policy 1.2.2. to center racial and social equity into existing programs.

The SFPUC has participated in the Safety and Resilience Element Update process since January 2021 through interagency forums, including ClimateSF's Sea Level Rise and Flood Hazards Coordinating Committee.

The SFPUC supports the 2022 Safety and Resilience Element Update in the broader context of the Planning Department modernizing the General Plan. We also support the Planning Commission approving the adoption of the 2022 Safety and Resilience Element Update.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. Herrera".

Dennis J. Herrera
General Manager