

File # 080638
c - BOS

Board of
Supervisors/BOS/SFGOV

07/16/2008 02:08 PM

To BOS Constituent Mail Distribution,

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: BOS Meeting Memo from (PRO) Tuesday July 15, 2008

--- Forwarded by Angela Calvillo/BOS/SFGOV on 07/16/2008 09:57 AM ---



Aaron Goodman
<aarong@parkmercedresiden
ts.org>

07/14/2008 10:13 AM

To angela.calvillo@sfgov.org

cc daniel4pro@att.net

Subject BOS Meeting Memo from (PRO) Tuesday July 15, 2008

BOS Meeting Memo from (PRO) Tuesday July 15, 2008

The Parkmerced Residents Organization sends its support for the following legislation.

080650 (See Also noted submission for 080650)

080650 [Creating a Historic Preservation Commission]***

***Support of 080650 with the modification that pre-existing large scale planning developments should be required to be reviewed by the Commission prior to permitting development (Example: Market & Octavia Plan, Eastern Neighborhoods Plan, Bayview Hunters Point & Shipyards, Japantown plan, Parkmerced & SFSU Masterplans) to prevent the allowance of the planning dept. to rezone and densify neighborhoods without proper review of possible historic districts within or negotiation with neighborhood organizations on the review and final approval panel so that neighborhood input-insight is required in the development proposals of the land-use, preservation, and planning departments citywide. We also note the need for Landscape, or open-space design and representation for the commission due to park, and open space lands in question (EX: Parkmerced, Presidio, Ocean Beach, Lake Merced)

080821 [Residential Rent Ordinance, defining and prohibiting tenant harassment and providing remedies of rent reduction, criminal and civil penalties]

080647 [Commission on the Environment] with amendment that the commission be required to actively involve itself in land-use decisions that promote PRESERVATION/RESTORATION/REHABILITATION/RENNOVATION of

properties and landscapes to help in providing sustainable solutions to re-development. They also should have the ability to "over-rule" the planning dept. if health and citywide neighborhoods are affected negatively due to redevelopment and urban re-densification of existing neighborhoods (Ex: Parkmerced which is one of the densest neighborhoods in SF)

080638 [CSFN resolution supporting creating of an Office of Independent Ratepayer Advocate] in support of the proposed 42 neighborhood alliance resolution.

Aaron Goodman VP @ PRO
www.parkmercedresidents.org
aarong@parkmercedresidents.org

Coalition for San Francisco

Neighborhoods

www.csfn.net • PO Box 320098 • San Francisco CA 94132-0098 • 415.262.0440 • Est 1972

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2008 JUL 14 AM 11:01

BOS FILE# 080638

C: BOB

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Members-at-Large

Sue Cauthen

Joan Girardot

Angelique Mahan

RESOLUTION - CSFN WATER TASK FORCE &
CSFN LAND USE COMMITTEE
JUNE 17, 2008

Whereas, the SFPUC 10-Year rate forecasts for water and sewer service indicate continually escalating rates for San Francisco ratepayers; and

Whereas, SF ratepayers over 30 years will pay the costs of revenue bonds issued by the SFPUC to fund implementation of the \$4.3 Billion Water System Improvement Program (Hetch Hetchy Re-build), the upcoming \$4.0 Billion Wastewater Master Plan, the Groundwater Master Plan, the \$150.0 Million Westside Recycled Water Project and future recycled water projects, and the \$300.0 Million SFPUC headquarters building; and

Whereas, embedded in rates are the costs of other programs, such as, streetsweeping, funding of the Dept. of the Environment, Greening Initiatives, salaries of members of the Mayor's staff, child care and job training programs, outreach programs, rebate programs, and from HH revenues otherwise available to the water and wastewater divisions, costs of the Mayor's Energy Conservation Account (now the Sustainable Energy Account) and the Solar Incentive program; and

Whereas, in November 2002 (Prop E) voters forfeited their historic right to vote on SFPUC revenue bonds, and voters also removed the historic Charter requirement that the Board of Supervisors vote affirmatively to approve any revenue bonds proposed by the SFPUC; and

Whereas, there is currently inadequate oversight protection in place for the ratepayer in the ratemaking process and in the deliberations prior to adoption of policies which affect rates, as evidenced by the imposition of tiered rates which unfairly impose a "family tax" on larger households;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that CSFN strongly supports the proposed Charter Amendment Creating the Office of Independent Ratepayer Advocate, and

Be it further Resolved, that CSFN urges the Board of Supervisors to place this proposed Charter Amendment on the November 2008 Ballot for a vote by the people of San Francisco.

ADOPTED 6/17/08

Barbary Coast Neighborhood Assn
Bayview/Hunters Point
Coordinating Council
Buena Vista Neighborhood Assn
Cathedral Hill Neighbors Assn
Cayuga Improvement Assn
Cole Valley Improvement Assn
Cow Hollow Assn
Dumbarton Heights Community Assn
East Heights Improvement Club
East Mission Improvement Assn
Ewing Terrace Neighborhood Assn
Excelsior District Improvement Assn
Fair Oaks Community Coalition
Forest Knolls Neighborhood Assn
Francisco Heights Civic Assn
Glen Park Assn
Golden Gate Heights Nghbrd Assn
Greater West Portal Nghbrd Assn
Haight Ashbury Improvement Assn
Inner Sunset Action Committee
Jordan Park Improvement Assn
Laurel Heights Improvement Assn
Lincoln Park Homeowners Assn
Marina Civic Improvement &
Property Owners Assn
Miraloma Park Improvement Club
Mission Creek Harbor Assn
Mission Terrace Improvement Assn
North Beach Neighbors
North of Panhandle Nghbrd Assn
North Park Neighbors
Oceanview, Merced Heights,
Ingleside -- Neighbors in Action
Outer Mission Residents Assn
Pacific Heights Residents Assn
Panhandle Residents Organization/
Stanyan-Fulton
Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Assn
Richmond Community Assn
Rincon Point Neighborhood Assn
Russian Hill Improvement Assn
Russian Hill Neighbors
Stop 55/Preserve Our Waterfront
Sunset Heights Assn of
Responsible People
Sunset-Parkside Education &
Action Committee
Telegraph Hill Dwellers
Twin Peaks Council & Open
Space Conservancy
Twin Peaks Improvement Assn
West Presidio Neighborhood Assn

[Creating an Independent Rate Payer Advocate to review and recommend utility service rates proposed by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.]

CHARTER AMENDMENT

PROPOSITION ____

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the qualified voters of the City and County of San Francisco to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco by adding Section 8B.128, to require the City Administrator to appoint an Independent Rate Payer Advocate, and prescribing the duties and responsibilities of the Independent Rate Payer Advocate.

The Board of Supervisors hereby submits to the qualified voters of the City and County, at an election to be held on November 4, 2008, a proposal to amend the Charter of the City and County by adding Section 8B.128 to read as follows:

Note: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman.
Deletions are ~~strikethrough italics Times New Roman~~.

SEC. 8B.128. **INDEPENDENT RATE PAYER ADVOCATE**

(a) The City Administrator shall appoint an Independent Rate Payer Advocate to evaluate, analyze and comment on rate proposals prepared by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission under Charter section 8B.125. The City Administrator shall obtain such services prior to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's submission of any draft proposed rate changes to the Rate Fairness Board for its review. The Independent Rate Payer Advocate shall have at least five years of experience in utility rates methodology and analysis, and at least five years of experience relevant to the operation of water, wastewater or power utilities.

(b) The Independent Rate Payer Advocate shall conduct analyses, independent of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and from the ratepayers' perspective, to evaluate the efficiency, equity, and fiscal feasibility of utility rate proposals, contracts, investments, program expenditures and operations.

Superseded by
2nd Draft
6-13-08



Avrum Shepard

07/04/2008 01:14 PM

To "Board of Supervisors";;

cc

bcc Board of Supervisors/BOS/SFGOV

Subject 080638 [Creating an Independent Ratepayer Advocate to
review and recommend utility service rates proposed by the
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission]

File # 080638
C. Bo

I urge you to support the submission of a charter amendment to create an Office of the Independent Ratepayer Advocate to evaluate, analyze, provide comments and make recommendations on the efficiency, equity, and fiscal feasibility, from the ratepayers' perspective, of utility rate proposals prepared by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

Avrum Shepard

ve

San Francisco, CA 94127



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**

**Ben Rosenfield
Controller
Monique Zmuda
Deputy Controller**

July 3, 2008

Ms. Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2008 JUL - 8 PM 4:50
BY *AM*

RE: File 080638 – Charter Amendment requiring appointment of an independent ratepayer advocate regarding the rates for water and wastewater services under the Public Utilities Commission (Second Draft)

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would increase the cost of government by an estimated \$250,000 every other year, or \$125,000 on an annual basis, for independent analytical services from a ratepayer advocate and for Public Utilities Commission (PUC) staff to respond to requests from the ratepayer advocate. The amendment specifies that this cost would be included as an expense of the water and wastewater utilities and paid for through the charges to their customers.

The proposed amendment adds a ratepayer advocate to the existing Charter-required processes through which the PUC establishes water and wastewater service rates. Currently, these processes include carrying out independent rate and cost studies every five years, performing studies of rate-based incentives for conservation and other programmatic goals, and administering a Rate Fairness Board which reviews and holds hearings on rate proposals prior to their approval by the PUC and Board of Supervisors.

For comparison, the City retained a ratepayer advocate during the most recent garbage rate-setting process at a cost of \$50,000. Water and wastewater rate-setting processes, which occur every other year, are likely to require a somewhat greater level of effort and cost to provide the services of a ratepayer advocate.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Monique Zmuda
Deputy Controller

June 12, 2008

Ms. Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: File 080638 – Charter Amendment requiring appointment of an independent ratepayer advocate regarding the rates for water and wastewater services under the Public Utilities Commission

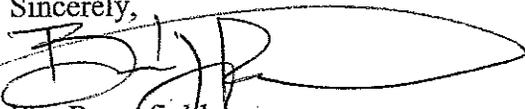
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Controller

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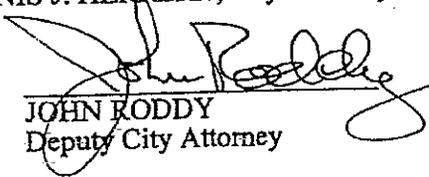
080638
1st Draft
Rec 6-12-08

(h) Failure to comply with any provision of this Section will not invalidate, or serve as grounds to challenge or invalidate any rates adopted pursuant to Charter Section 8B.125.

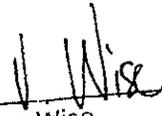
(i) The costs of providing the services of the Independent Rate Payer Advocate shall be paid from revenues of the utility rates that are the subject matter of those services, as adopted by the Public Utilities Commission under Section 8B.125, that have been appropriated for such services by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors in accordance with the budget and fiscal provisions of the Charter.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By:


JOHN RODDY
Deputy City Attorney

Not a project
per Section 15378 (b) (5)
of the CEQA Guidelines.

 6/3/08
Vikoriya Wise

7/15

Coalition for San Francisco



Neighborhoods

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RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2008 JUN 27 PM 12:13

File # 080638
C: BOS

BY _____
RC

Clerk,
Board of Supervisors
1 Carlton Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

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1st Vice President
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Corresponding Secretary
Dick Millet 861-0345
Treasurer
Jim Lew 771-5250
Members-at-Large
Sue Cauthen
Joan Girardot
Angeliqne Mahan

Dear Madame Clerk:

Re File 080638

The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, an umbrella alliance of 42 neighborhood organizations recently passed a resolution strongly supporting the creation of the Office of Independent Ratepayer Advocate.

A copy of that resolution is attached, so it may be entered into the record.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Gary Noguera
President

- Barbary Coast Neighborhood Assn
- Bayview/Hunters Point Coordinating Council
- Buena Vista Neighborhood Assn
- Cathedral Hill Neighbors Assn
- Cayuga Improvement Assn
- Cole Valley Improvement Assn
- Cow Hollow Assn
- Diamond Heights Community Assn
- Dolores Heights Improvement Club
- East Mission Improvement Assn
- Ewing Terrace Neighborhood Assn
- Excelsior District Improvement Assn
- Fair Oaks Community Coalition
- Forest Knolls Neighborhood Assn
- Francisco Heights Civic Assn
- Golden Gate Heights Nghbrd Assn
- Greater West Portal Nghbrd Assn
- Haight Ashbury Improvement Assn
- Inner Sunset Action Committee
- Jordan Park Improvement Assn
- Laurel Heights Improvement Assn
- Lincoln Park Homeowners Assn
- Marina Civic Improvement & Property Owners Assn
- Miraloma Park Improvement Club
- Mission Creek Harbor Assn
- ow Mission Terrace Improvement Assn
- North Beach Neighbors
- North Park Neighbors
- Oceanview, Merced Heights, Ingleside — Neighbors in Action
- Outer Mission Residents Assn
- Pacific Heights Residents Assn
- Panhandle Residents Organization/ Stanyan-Fulton
- Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Assn
- Richmond Community Assn
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- Sunset-Parkside Education & Action Committee
- Telegraph Hill Dwellers
- Twin Peaks Council & Open Space Conservancy
- Twin Peaks Improvement Assn
- West Presidio Neighborhood Assn

Coalition for San Francisco



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Don Heights Community Assn

Forest Heights Improvement Club

East Mission Improvement Assn

Forest Terrace Neighborhood Assn

Forest District Improvement Assn

Fair Oaks Community Coalition

Forest Knolls Neighborhood Assn

Francisco Heights Civic Assn

Glen Park Assn

Golden Gate Heights Nghbrd Assn

Golden Gate West Portal Nghbrd Assn

Golden Gate Ashbury Improvement Assn

Golden Gate Sunset Action Committee

Golden Gate Jordan Park Improvement Assn

Golden Gate Forest Heights Improvement Assn

Golden Gate Lincoln Park Homeowners Assn

Golden Gate Marina Civic Improvement &

Property Owners Assn

Golden Gate Aloma Park Improvement Club

Golden Gate Mission Creek Harbor Assn

Golden Gate North Terrace Improvement Assn

Golden Gate North Beach Neighbors

Golden Gate North of Panhandle Nghbrd Assn

Golden Gate North Park Neighbors

Golden Gate Oceanview, Merced Heights,

Golden Gate Presidio — Neighbors in Action

Golden Gate Outer Mission Residents Assn

Golden Gate Pacific Heights Residents Assn

Golden Gate Presidio Residents Organization/

Stanyan-Fulton

Golden Gate Boosters Neighborhood Assn

Golden Gate Richmond Community Assn

Golden Gate Union Point Neighborhood Assn

Golden Gate Russian Hill Improvement Assn

Golden Gate Russian Hill Neighbors

Golden Gate SFPUC/Preserve Our Waterfront

Golden Gate Sunset Heights Assn of

Responsible People

Golden Gate Sunset-Parkside Education &

Action Committee

Golden Gate Telegraph Hill Dwellers

Golden Gate Twin Peaks Council & Open

Space Conservancy

Golden Gate Twin Peaks Improvement Assn

Golden Gate Presidio Neighborhood Assn

RESOLUTION - CSFN WATER TASK FORCE &
CSFN LAND USE COMMITTEE
JUNE 17, 2008

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Whereas, SF ratepayers over 30 years will pay the costs of revenue bonds issued by the SFPUC to fund implementation of the \$4.3 Billion Water System Improvement Program (Hetch Hetchy Re-build), the upcoming \$4.0 Billion Wastewater Master Plan, the Groundwater Master Plan, the \$150.0 Million Westside Recycled Water Project and future recycled water projects, and the \$300.0 Million SFPUC headquarters building; and

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Whereas, in November 2002 (Prop E) voters forfeited their historic right to vote on SFPUC revenue bonds, and voters also removed the historic Charter requirement that the Board of Supervisors vote affirmatively to approve any revenue bonds proposed by the SFPUC; and

Whereas, there is currently inadequate oversight protection in place for the ratepayer in the ratemaking process and in the deliberations prior to adoption of policies which affect rates, as evidenced by the imposition of tiered rates which unfairly impose a "family tax" on larger households;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that CSFN strongly supports the proposed Charter Amendment Creating the Office of Independent Ratepayer Advocate, and

Be it further Resolved, that CSFN urges the Board of Supervisors to place this proposed Charter Amendment on the November 2008 Ballot for a vote by the people of San Francisco.

ADOPTED 6/17/08



06/13/2008 08:23 AM

To Mary.Red@sfgov.org
cc
bcc
Subject Rules Comm. item 5, 6/13/08 Comment

Please include my comments in the file for the following item:

RE: file number 080638, Independent Ratepayer Advocate

Item 5, RULES COMMITTEE MEETING June 13, 2008

The PUC Office of Independent Ratepayer Advocate is long overdue! With utility rates ever on the rise, the voices of those who pay the bills are essential to the development of fair and equitable rates.

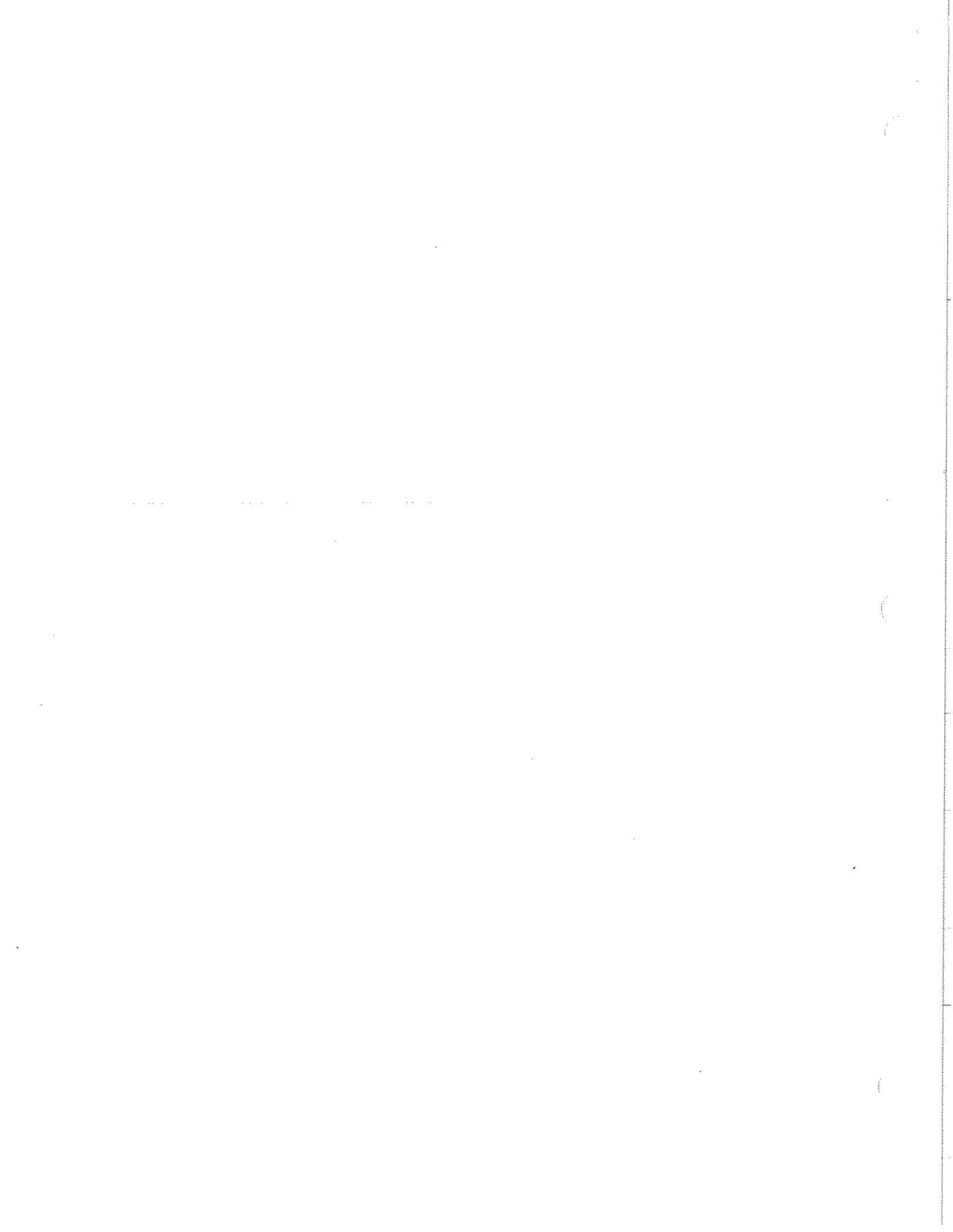
This Advocate will not only provide a vital service to the ratepayers, but will also benefit the PUC by providing an important communication channel to the public that does not currently exist. The carefully designed details of the operation, responsibilities, and authority of this Office will ensure its effectiveness.

Good government starts with involving all parties equally in the process of debate, discovery and decision making. Please support this charter amendment on behalf of the people. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Nancy Wuerfel
Ratepayer

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West of Twin Peaks Central Council

P. O. Box 27112 • San Francisco, CA 94127

June 13, 2008

The Honorable Chris Daly
Chair
Rules Committee
1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, California 94102-4689

RE: Independent Ratepayer Advocate for San Francisco

Dear Supervisor Daly:

The West of Twin Peaks Central Council (WOTPCC), which represents 17 neighborhood organizations and over 10,000 homeowners in the West of Twin Peaks area of San Francisco.

Since July, homeowners have disproportionately absorbed the exorbitant water rate increase exact on property only without a fair, public hearing to voice objections to a \$70 million tax. It is under these inequitable and unfair circumstances to homeowners and families that we support the creation of an independent ratepayer office in San Francisco.

If possible, we believe the legislation should be strengthened even further to ensure that future utility service rate increases be examined from the perspective of the ratepayer. The existing law only allows 30 days for rejection, and in the instance of the most recent increase, ratepayers were denied a hearing at the Board of Supervisors to raise serious concerns about the allowable costs embedded in the rate increase.

The State of California has an independent ratepayer advocate and this legislation moves San Francisco one step closer to that good government model.

We support the independent ratepayer advocate legislation before you today.

Sincerely,

Denise LaPointe
President

Cc: Supervisor Ammiano
Supervisor Dufty
Supervisor Alioto-Per
Supervisor Elsbernd

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Balboa Terrace • Forest Hill • Forest Knolls • Greater West Portal
Ingleside Terraces • Lakeshore Acres • Lakeside Property Owners • Merced Manor • Midtown Terrace
Miraloma Park • Monterey Heights • Pinelake Park • St. Francis Homes • Sherwood Forest
Twin Peaks Improvement • Westwood Highlands • Westwood Park**

