

**Ballot Simplification Committee  
DRAFT for Consideration  
Friday, August 1, 2008**

**Clean Energy Act**

**THE WAY IT IS NOW:**

The City generates hydroelectric power at its Hetch Hetchy facilities in Tuolumne County. The City uses this power to meet its municipal power needs and those of other public entities, such as the San Francisco Unified School District. The City sells some Hetch Hetchy energy to the Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts. The City does not sell power to San Francisco residents and businesses.

The City's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) oversees the City's power and water utilities. A private company sells power to San Francisco residents and businesses.

**THE PROPOSAL:**

Proposition \_\_\_\_ is a Charter Amendment that would require the PUC to produce a study examining options for providing clean, secure, cost effective energy for San Francisco

residents and businesses and City departments. Proposition \_\_\_\_ would require the study to consider:

- Various ways of transmitting Hetch Hetchy power to the City
- Power transmission and distribution needs in the City
- Resources needed to meet the demand for power in the City
- Cost-effective options to reduce and off-set greenhouse gas emissions
- Costs and benefits of making the City the primary provider of power in San Francisco

The study would also include a workforce development plan to train and place individuals in jobs related to operating or expanding PUC facilities.

The draft study would be reviewed by independent experts and subject to public hearing. The final draft of the study, with recommendations, would be considered by the Board of Supervisors. If the Board then found that the public interest demands it, Proposition \_\_\_\_ would require the Board to direct the PUC to immediately prepare a plan to acquire the electric system that serves the City.

Proposition \_\_\_ states that employees of the current private utility provider who become City employees as a result of the Proposition would be granted the same compensation, seniority, and benefits as they hold with that utility.

Proposition \_\_\_ would require the PUC to rely on energy efficiency and clean and renewable energy resources, excluding nuclear power, to meet the electricity demand of customers served electricity by the City. Proposition \_\_\_ would establish deadlines for the City to meet the following energy needs through the use of clean power resources:

- By 2012, at least 107 megawatts
- By 2017, at least 51% of the City's electricity needs
- By 2030, at least 75% of the City's electricity needs
- By 2040, 100% or the greatest practical amount of the City's electricity needs

Proposition \_\_\_ would require that every two years the PUC file a report with the Board of Supervisors describing its efforts to meet these clean energy requirements. The

Board of Supervisors could modify these requirements by a 2/3 vote if it found the change serves the public interest.

Proposition \_\_\_\_ would create an Office of the Independent Ratepayer Advocate to make recommendations about utility rates to the City's PUC. The City Administrator would appoint the Independent Ratepayer Advocate, whose office would have the same powers and duties as the Office of the Independent Ratepayer Advocate described in

Proposition [*Letter assigned to Office of the Independent Ratepayer Advocate*]. But,

Proposition \_\_\_\_ would make the appointment and removal of the Independent Ratepayer Advocate subject to Board of Supervisors approval.

Proposition \_\_\_\_ would also allow the Board of Supervisors to approve issuing revenue bonds to pay for utility facilities.

**A “YES” VOTE MEANS:** If you vote "yes," you want to require the City to:

- consider options to provide energy to San Francisco residents and businesses and City departments, including acquiring the private electric system that serves the City and making the City the primary provider of energy;
- meet certain deadlines for serving energy needs through clean power resources; and
- establish a new Office of the Independent Ratepayer Advocate to make recommendations about utility rates to the City's PUC.

**A “NO” VOTE MEANS:** If you vote “no,” you do not want the City to make these changes.

word count: 634 [suggested word limit: 300]