

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITIZEN’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION URGING THE SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE SFPUC TO AMEND RELEVANT CITY CODES AND REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE EACH INDIVIDUAL LIVING UNIT IN ALL NEW MULTI-UNIT HOUSING IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO TO INCLUDE A CONNECTION TO ITS OWN WIRELESS DIGITAL WATER METER FOR MEASURING AND REPORTING USAGE, BILLING PURPOSES, AND INCENTIVIZING WATER CONSERVATION.

Conservation of water in San Francisco can be increased by each living unit having its own water meter. Each month, when the bill is paid, the cost of consumption is realized by the rate payer. In a drought, such as this one, users without usage and payment responsibility lack access to information about their true water habits. They are less motivated to improve their water efficiency. Saving water in California is the right thing to do, even when there is no drought.

WHEREAS, the sub-par rainfall and snow of the rainy season is now in its fourth year, and climate models predict a hotter and drier climate in the future, and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s booming economy is creating the demand for increased housing and commercial space, the vast majority of which is found in multi-unit buildings and high rises where water meters are installed to serve multiple households, and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s affordable housing crisis (e.g. severely insufficient workforce housing delivery) is targeted for some relief by 2020, almost exclusively through construction of multi-unit structures, and

WHEREAS, high-end housing creation is also being delivered primarily in multi-unit structures, and

WHEREAS, the SFPUC now collects and bills customers entirely from digital wireless water meter data, to eliminate the costs of manual meter reading, while also making it possible for the SFPUC to create customized water consumption targets for each water meter in the City based on prior history and current needs, and

WHEREAS, in previously unmetered areas, water use has seen declines averaging twenty percent following the installation of meters;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Citizens Advisory Committee of the SFPUC urges the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the SFPUC to amend relevant City codes and regulations to require each individual living unit in all new multi-unit housing in the City and County of San Francisco to include a connection to its own wireless digital water meter for measuring and reporting usage, billing purposes, and incentivizing water conservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SFPUC work with elected city officials and relevant city departments to implement such legislation as soon as possible, given the pace of building and the severity of the current drought.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the SFPUC will work with impacted groups such as tenant rights organizations, home owner associations, and landlord advocacy groups to reasonably retrofit existing multi-unit buildings' water lines voluntarily with a means of reading individual unit consumption.

As Adopted by the Full Citizens Advisory Committee on June 16th, 2015