



**SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
RATE FAIRNESS BOARD
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

**Draft Minutes for Special Meeting
Monday, April 6, 2026, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Members of the Rate Fairness Board will attend this meeting in-person. Members of the public are invited to observe the meeting in-person or remotely online as described below. Members of the public attending the meeting in person or remotely online will have an opportunity to provide public comment on every item. It is possible that not every person in the queue will have an opportunity to provide remote public comment.

In-person Meeting: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), 525 Golden Gate Avenue, 3rd Floor, Tuolumne Conference Room, San Francisco, CA 94102

Virtually Via Zoom:

1. Modern Browser (WebRTC) [Best]

Please join with a modern browser such as Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge (no additional installation required)

2. Mobile Apple iOS or Android devices: Mobile users can also join with Zoom Cloud Meetings App on [Apple App Store](#) for iOS or [Google Play Store](#) for Android

3. [Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 881 1603 7339

Passcode: 462505

Join by Telephone [Audio only]: US: +1 669 219 2599 or +1 669 900 6833
or +1 213 338 8477 or +1 646 518 9805

Meeting ID: 881 1603 7339

Passcode: 462505

Meeting will be recorded for minutes only and will not be published. By joining this meeting, you agree to be recorded during the duration of this meeting.

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

Joshua Arce
President

Stephen E. Leveroni
Vice President

Avni Jamdar
Commissioner

Kate H. Stacy
Commissioner

Meghan Thurlow
Commissioner

Dennis J. Herrera
General Manager



MEETING AGENDA

Materials Distributed: Special Meeting Agenda for April 6, 2026; Draft Special Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2026, Draft letter "Rate Fairness Board Recommendations on Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Adjustments for FY 2026-27 & FY 2027-28 and Proposed Hetch Hetchy Power Rate Adjustments for FY 2026-27"

1. Call to Order

The special meeting of the SFPUC Rate Fairness Board (RFB) was called to order at 2:03 PM in-person and via teleconference.

2. Roll Call

Member Name/Title

Howard Ash, Chair, Residential City Retail Customer
Masood Samereie, Vice-Chair, City Retail Large Business Customer
Vishal Trivedi, Financial Analyst of Office of Public Finance
Eric Dew, Residential City Retail Customer
Ben Becker, Refuse Rates Analyst
Celeste Middleton, Principal Budget & Planning Analyst
Vacant, City Retail Small Business Customer

Appointed By

Board of Supervisors
Mayor's Office
Controller's Office
Mayor's Office
Controller's Office
City Administrator
Board of Supervisors

Roll Call:

- Present: Chair Ash, Vice-Chair Samereie, Member Trivedi, Member Dew, Member Becker, Member Middleton*

3. General Public Comment

Members of the public may address the Rate Fairness Board (RFB) on matters that are within the Board's jurisdiction but not on today's agenda.

Public Comment: No public comment.

4. Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2026

(Discussion and Action)

Chair Ash asked Board for comments, questions, or concerns.

Public Comment: No public comment.

The minutes of the special meeting of April 6, 2026, were adopted upon a motion by Vice-Chair Samereie and seconded by Member Dew.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Chair Ash, Vice-chair Samereie, Member Trivedi, Member Becker, Member Dew, Member Middleton*

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75 **5. Items Initiated by Board Members**

76 **a. Election of Board Officers** (Discussion and Possible Action)
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78 The Board proceeded with its biennial officer elections.
79 During discussion, Member Trivedi observed that the current leadership
80 arrangement had been functioning effectively and stated that he would
81 be comfortable continuing with the existing structure unless Board
82 members wished to nominate alternatives. Multiple members voiced
83 agreement.
84

85 A motion was made by Member Trivedi to re-elect Howard Ash as Chair
86 and Masood Samereie as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by
87 Member Becker.
88

89 *Chair Election Roll Call Vote:*

- 90
 - *Ayes: Chair Ash, Vice-Chair Samereie, Member Trivedi,*
91 *Member Dew, Member Becker, Member Middleton*
92

93 *Vice-Chair Roll Call Vote:*

- 94
 - *Ayes: Chair Ash, Vice-Chair Samereie. Member Trivedi,*
95 *Member Dew, Member Becker, Member Middleton*
96

97 **b. Board Recommendation on Proposed Water and Sewer Rate**
98 **Adjustments for FY 2026-27 & FY 2027-28**
99

100 The Board began discussions for consideration of proposed FY 2026–
101 27 and FY 2027–28 rate adjustments. Chair Ash noted that Board
102 members received a consultant report along with a draft
103 recommendation letter intended to reflect the Board's observations and
104 recommendations.
105

106 Board members discussed the significant infrastructure investments in
107 driving water and wastewater rate increases. Staff reviewed the
108 relationship between capital improvement projects, regulatory
109 requirements, system reliability investments, and debt-financing costs.
110 Several members acknowledged concern about the cumulative impact
111 of utility bill increases on residential customers and small businesses.
112 At the same time, members recognized the necessity of maintaining
113 and modernizing aging infrastructure to ensure long-term service
114 reliability.
115

116 Vice-Chair Samereie noted that while reviewing the financial
117 projections, they observed higher rate increases in the near term
118 followed by lower projected adjustments in later years. The member
119 requested clarification regarding the assumptions underlying those
120 forecasts.

Staff explained that long-term financial plans are regularly updated and reflect changing assumptions regarding capital spending, operating costs, energy markets, customer demand, and debt service obligations. Staff emphasized that future projections are planning tools rather than fixed commitments and may change as conditions evolve.

Discussion continued and expanded into broader issues of financial forecasting, reserve policies, infrastructure needs, and the challenge of balancing affordability with maintaining reliable utility service.

c. Board Recommendation on Proposed Hetch Hetchy Power Rate Adjustments for FY 2026-27

Chair Ash referenced information contained in the consultant report and raised questions regarding costs associated with streetlights and traffic signals within the Hetch Hetchy Power system. Erin Corvinova, Financial Planning Director, explained that Hetch Hetchy Power is responsible not only for supplying electricity to city streetlights but also for maintenance of most city-owned streetlight infrastructure and noted that ownership and maintenance responsibilities are shared among multiple entities in some instances.

Board members discussed the importance of transparency and public education regarding why rates continue to rise and how deferred investments from prior decades contribute to current funding requirements.

The Board reviewed the draft recommendation letter intended for submission to the Commission. Members discussed wording, technical corrections, and opportunities to more clearly communicate the Board's reasoning.

Discussion focused on ensuring that the letter appropriately balanced concerns regarding affordability with acknowledgment of the utility's operational and infrastructure needs. Members generally agreed that the draft accurately reflected the Board's deliberations throughout the rate review process.

Member Becker motioned to approve the recommendation letter, subject to minor edits and technical revisions, for transmission to the SFPUC Commission.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Chair Ash, Vice-Chair Samereie, Member Trivedi, Member Dew, Member Becker, Member Middleton

Public Comment: No public comment.

6. Announcements, Comments, Questions (Discussion)

Staff provided updates regarding public outreach efforts related to proposed rate increases. Discussion included customer concerns expressed during outreach activities, affordability assistance programs available to eligible customers, and plans to improve public understanding of long-term infrastructure funding needs.

Staff also informed the Board that additional fee-related items would be presented to the Commission in the coming weeks, including matters associated with stormwater compliance and streetlight services. Board members requested advance distribution of supporting materials whenever possible so that they could review upcoming proposals in greater detail prior to future meetings.

Public Comment: No public comment.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:52 PM.

Accessible Meeting Policy: To obtain meeting materials in alternative format, please contact the Rate Fairness Board Secretary via email at RateFairnessBoard@sfwater.org. Providing at least 72 hours notice will help to ensure availability. Written reports or background materials for calendar items are available online at sfpuc.gov/about-us/boards-commissions-committees/rate-fairness-board.

Meeting Procedures: Public Comment will be taken before or during the Board's consideration of each agenda item. Speakers may address the Board for up to three minutes on that item. During General Public Comment, members of the public may address the Board on matters that are within the Board's jurisdiction and are not on the agenda. Procedures do not permit: 1) persons in the audience to vocally express support or opposition to statements by Board Member, by other persons testifying; 2) ringing and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing electronic devices; 3) bringing in or displaying signs in the meeting room; and 4) standing in the meeting room. The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing electronic devices.

Know your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance: Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils, and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact by mail Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102; phone at (415) 554-7724; fax at (415) 554-7854; or by email at sotf@sfgov.org.

Citizens may obtain a free copy of the Sunshine Ordinance: by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at sfbos.org/sunshine.

311 Free Language Assistance: 免費語言協助 / Ayuda gratuita con el idioma / Бесплатная помощь переводчиков / Trợ giúp Thông dịch Miễn phí / Assistance linguistique gratuite / 無料の言語支援 / 무료 언어 / 지원 / คำ“มขว” ยเหลอื ห“งภ“ษ“โดยไมเ่ ส่วยคําไขจําย / Libreng tulong para sa wikang Tagalog ยเหลอื

Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Requirements: Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign &

238 Governmental Conduct Code Sec. 2.100] to register and report lobbying
239 activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the
240 San Francisco Ethics Commission at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220, San
241 Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 252-3100; fax (415) 252-3112; web site
242 at sfgov.org/ethics.

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244 Explanatory documents that have been provided to the Board in connection
245 with this agenda are available for public inspection online at [sfpuc.gov/about-](http://sfpuc.gov/about-us/boards-commissions-committees/rate-fairness-board)
246 [us/boards-commissions-committees/rate-fairness-board](http://sfpuc.gov/about-us/boards-commissions-committees/rate-fairness-board).
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