

OneWaterSF

Leading through Action

January 2026



San Francisco
Water Power Sewer

Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

LEADING through ACTION

I am delighted to introduce this year's OneWaterSF brochure: Leading Through Action. This year's brochure celebrates the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's 10-year commitment to OneWaterSF. When we initiated OneWaterSF in 2016, we made a commitment to the future by formalizing an approach to managing our finite water, power, human and financial resources that encourages collaboration, innovation and resiliency. It's about optimizing our projects for our ratepayers. Our goal was to meet the needs of the communities we serve while sustaining the resources entrusted to our care for generations to come.

For the past 10 years, we have committed to OneWaterSF as a framework for how we do our work at the SFPUC. We are now at a pivotal moment in our history as we see this commitment resulting in completed projects and programs that embody the OneWaterSF Guiding Principles. This year's brochure showcases projects across all our service areas that demonstrate how OneWaterSF has taken us beyond planning and has led us to operational success.



This includes examples of where strategic partnerships and program implementation have resulted in outcomes that have exceeded expectations. One example is fisheries conservation successes along the Tuolumne River through collaboration with our Tuolumne River Partners. Another is meeting City climate targets ahead of schedule with the implementation of CleanPowerSF programs. We are also celebrating groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings for innovative projects that will provide reliable and resilient services to our customers while also creating community and environmental benefits. These include the completion of the new Headworks Facility at the Southeast Treatment Plant, construction of the new Treasure Island Water Resource Recovery Facility, and transformation of the Everett Middle School playground with green infrastructure to manage stormwater and improve outdoor spaces for students.

Advancing projects that embody OneWaterSF ensures that we continue to build a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable San Francisco. This is how we lead — not just with innovative thinking, but by turning that thinking into concrete action that benefits the environment and every resident we serve.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis J. Herrera".

DENNIS J. HERRERA

Vision and Guiding Principles of OneWaterSF



Pilarcitos Reservoir

OneWaterSF provides the essential framework for how we approach our work at the SFPUC. It compels us to lead through action by collaborating and thinking holistically, which maximizes the efficient use of all our resources - not just water and energy resources - but also financial resources, human resources, and community partnerships. This integrated approach delivers meaningful progress by fostering innovation and collaboration, enabling us to implement projects and programs that consistently yield greater environmental, economic, and social benefits.

Through OneWaterSF, we recognize that connected activities and integrated ideas yield more powerful outcomes than isolated efforts. This holistic view of our work allows us to create more opportunities for innovation and to better adapt to future changes and challenges. The OneWaterSF Vision and Guiding Principles serve as the foundation for developing and implementing the action-oriented projects that advance this philosophy.

OneWaterSF Vision

With the OneWaterSF approach, the SFPUC will optimize our resources to create a more resilient future that balances community and ecosystem needs.

OneWaterSF Guiding Principles

- 1 Practice a culture of collaboration.**
Work across traditional boundaries to foster collaboration that results in the efficient use of our resources.
- 2 Connect with a community of partners.**
Elevate and sustain partnerships with our communities to engage and exchange ideas that result in better stewardship of our resources.
- 3 Pursue multiple benefits.**
Identify approaches and solutions across our enterprises and operations that provide benefit to multiple resource areas.
- 4 Expand the culture of innovation.**
Encourage new ideas and partnerships that test creative business practices, pilot state-of-the-art technologies, and discover inventive solutions.
- 5 Match the right resource to the right use.**
Reimagine what resources are available to serve our customers in the most sustainable and reliable way.
- 6 Plan for future uncertainties.**
Build flexibility into our work so that the SFPUC can be resilient to a wide variety of situations, responsive to challenges, and adapt to future conditions.
- 7 Advance healthy communities.**
Ensure affordable and reliable services in the communities we serve and promote the equitable distribution of both benefits and impacts of our operations, programs and policies.
- 8 Support balanced ecosystems.**
Consider ways in which our work can better conserve resources and support ecosystems, including air quality and the health and quality of watersheds, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean.



EV charge station
installation in new
construction.

Leading through Action

Exceeding Climate Goals and Expanding Electrification through Clean Energy Leadership

From everyday programs to long-term investments, the SFPUC is delivering real environmental benefits for San Franciscans through its clean energy efforts. One of the most transformative milestones shows that in 2023, San Francisco's public power program, CleanPowerSF, delivered 100% renewable electricity to all of its 380,000 residential and business customers for the very first time. This achievement was delivered two years ahead of the City's Climate Action Plan target, highlighting the SFPUC's dedication to meeting its commitments. The Climate Action Plan, a foundational document that charts a pathway to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, outlined a City-wide goal of using 100% renewable electricity by 2025. Over the past nine years, CleanPowerSF has helped San Francisco reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity use by 98% from 1990 levels, improving the air quality in the city and fostering a healthier environment.

While reaching the Climate Action Plan target is a monumental milestone, the SFPUC is intent on further expanding its efforts to achieve even loftier goals. The SFPUC launched a new program in May 2025 to encourage residential CleanPowerSF customers to install an electric heat pump water heater instead of gas models. This program provides a monthly \$50 bill credit directly on a customer's electricity bill for two years to customers who install a heat pump water heater and enroll it in a demand response program. Customers with low incomes on an electricity discount program will see a monthly \$50 bill credit for three years.

The SFPUC also recently broadened its pioneering EV Charge SF program, which provides customers up to \$120,000 in financial incentives as well as technical assistance to install electric vehicle charging equipment. In Spring 2025, the program expanded to include existing buildings in San Francisco, not just new construction projects. The program has enrolled over 50 projects, resulting in the electrification of over 600 parking spaces. Additionally, the SFPUC expanded its Electrify My Ride program in 2025, offering \$1,000 rebates for e-bikes at participating retailers for power customers enrolled in an electricity discount program, helping more residents afford clean, electric transportation.

SFPUC's clean energy programs play an essential role in **advancing healthy communities** by ensuring affordable and reliable services to the communities we serve. These programs, including delivering renewable electricity through CleanPowerSF, **pursue multiple benefits**—from significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, and delivering cost-effective, clean power to thousands of San Francisco homes.



The Paulsell Solar Energy Center in Stanislaus County providing renewable energy to CleanPowerSF customers.

Delivering Advanced Resource Recovery on Treasure Island

The SFPUC is demonstrating a commitment to the next generation of resilient infrastructure through the construction of the new Treasure Island Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF). This facility is setting a benchmark for sustainability and resilient design and has earned the prestigious Envision Platinum Award, the highest level of recognition from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure — a clear testament to its innovative planning and execution. The Envision Platinum Award recognizes projects that demonstrate exceptional environmental, social, and economic benefits. Only three wastewater treatment plants in the United States have earned an Envision Platinum Award, with Treasure Island becoming the second in California.



New WRRF under construction on Treasure Island.

The \$222 million facility, expected to be finished in 2026, is a critical component of the major redevelopment of Treasure and Yerba Buena Islands. The facility replaces an aging wastewater treatment plant and is designed to treat up to 3.9 million gallons of wastewater per day. The new WRRF will be San Francisco's first wastewater facility with advanced nutrient removal capabilities, significantly reducing nitrogen and phosphorous discharge that protects the health of the San Francisco Bay. The facility will also produce recycled water that will be used for plant operations, supply a truck fill station, and serve the toilet flushing and irrigation demands of the future development. By providing recycled water, the facility will be saving up to 357 million gallons of drinking water annually across the new community.

With the growing communities on Treasure and Yerba Buena Islands projected to gain 20,000 residents by 2036, the project's design also prioritizes improving public spaces and creating community amenities. This commitment is achieved by transforming a gravel lot at the former U.S. Navy site into a new public space that incorporates wetlands, landscaped areas, and public artwork. Additionally, through collaboration with residents and partnerships with local nonprofits and the school district, the project integrates volunteer stewardship, training, and internships for a wide range of community programs, delivering multiple benefits beyond wastewater treatment.

The Treasure Island WRRF demonstrates how **expanding a culture of innovation** encourages the development of new ideas and partnerships that create projects which **pursue multiple benefits** across our enterprises and operations. The new WRRF replaces an aging wastewater treatment plant with a modern facility that includes nutrient removal capabilities to protect the health of San Francisco Bay and will **match the right resource to the right use** by producing recycled water for irrigation and toilet flushing.



Construction of the
Treasure Island WRRF.

Leading through Action

Transforming Asphalt to Green at Everett Middle School

The SFPUC continues to lead the way in implementing innovative green infrastructure projects that improve performance of the City's sewer system, while delivering benefits that enhance community spaces. One recently completed project is located at Everett Middle School, which straddles the Castro and Mission districts. Everett Middle School welcomed students to the 2025-2026 school year with a reimagined playground and learning space that replaced two acres of asphalt and included four rain gardens and a rainwater harvesting system. The newly renovated schoolyard was made possible through a unique public-private partnership that included the SFPUC, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) and a private donor working through the San Francisco Education Fund. The SFPUC provided initial funding through its Green Infrastructure Grant Program, contributing about one-third of the nearly \$6 million investment. The SFPUC's Green Infrastructure Grant Program has awarded \$26.5 million to 26 projects, including 10 in partnership with SFUSD.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony at Everett Middle School with Mayor Daniel Lurie, California State Senator Scott Wiener, SFPUC staff and SFUSD staff.

The partnership created not just a system to manage stormwater, but a beautiful, educational space for students and the community. The schoolyard transformation will help meet the city's stormwater management goals by capturing up to one million gallons of rainwater each year and easing the pressure on San Francisco's sewer system during heavy storms. In addition to the rain gardens and cistern, the new yard will serve about 400 students and feature a permeable turf field and new track, new basketball courts striped for pickle ball and volleyball, a shade structure, and seating areas. These green infrastructure features help rain soak into the ground, reduce flooding, and teach the next generation of San Franciscans the value of climate resiliency. The project is also the first of SFUSD's bond-funded comprehensive Schoolyard Outdoor Learning projects to be completed, with several more under construction across the City. The successful completion of the Everett Middle School playground transformation shows the vital role that green infrastructure plays in improving urban watershed management while also building engaging, natural environments that add to the resilience of our neighborhoods and communities.

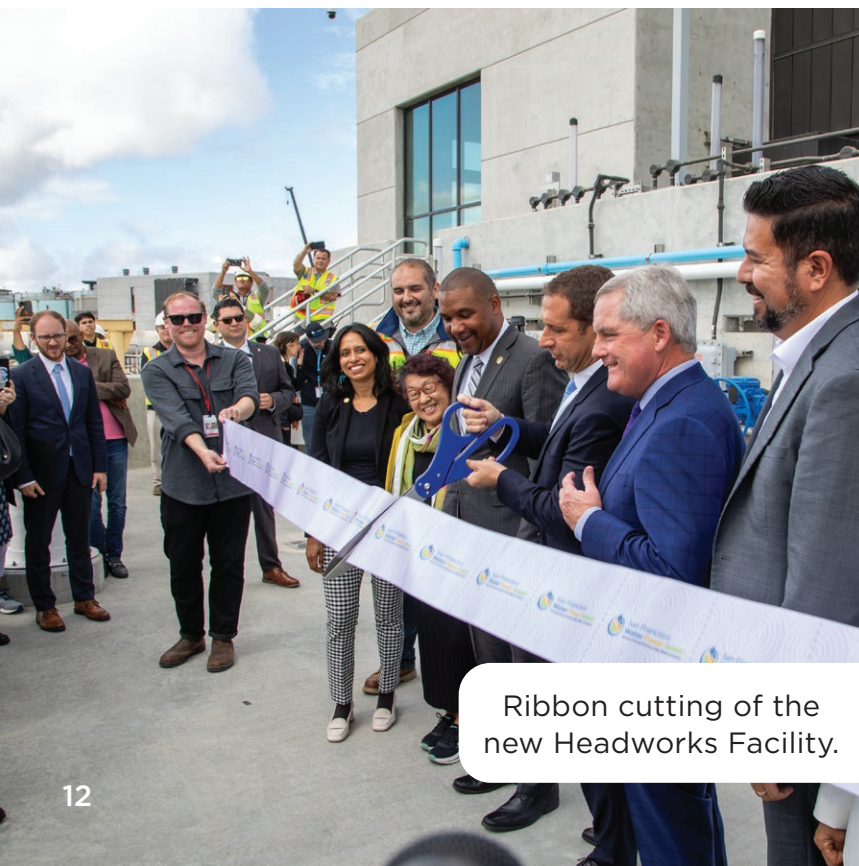
The Everett Middle School playground transformation exemplifies how **connecting with a community of partners** through a unique public private partnership and educational collaboration can create projects that **pursue multiple benefits**. This two-acre transformation **advances healthy communities** by replacing asphalt with green infrastructure and vibrant outdoor spaces, creating a place for students and the community to play, learn, and connect.

Green infrastructure at Everett Middle School.





Public art installation at the Southeast Treatment Plant.



Ribbon cutting of the new Headworks Facility.

Leading through Action

Investing in San Francisco's Future with the New Headworks Facility

The SFPUC's commitment to implementing projects that meet our water and sewer needs and also benefit the community is exemplified by its \$5 billion investment into critical upgrades at the Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant. These improvements include the Biosolids Digester Facilities Project, new Operations, Engineering, and Maintenance Buildings, the Nutrient Reduction Project, and the recently completed new Headworks Facility.

The new Headworks Facility is the first stop for 80% of San Francisco's wastewater, responsible for removing large debris and grit. San Francisco, like many large cities established before the 1900s, operates a combined sewer system, which collects and treats both wastewater and stormwater. The Headworks Facility has been rebuilt to withstand a 7.8 earthquake on the San Andreas fault and up to 36 inches of sea level rise, improving its resilience to climate change and natural disasters. On average, the new Headworks Facility treats about 45 million gallons of wastewater per day, enough to fill 68 Olympic-sized swimming pools. During storms, it can handle flows that surge to more than 5.5 times the normal amount – as much as 250 million gallons per day. It also significantly reduces odors for the surrounding Bayview neighborhood, a long-requested improvement. Other upgrades to the Bruce Flynn Wet Weather Pump Station enable it to operate year-round and continue to protect public health and the San Francisco Bay. These upgrades improve the long-term reliability of the Headworks Facility and reduce maintenance costs, ultimately helping to save ratepayer dollars.

The project also supported the local community and economy. For instance, local San Francisco businesses received \$106 million in project contracts, supporting local jobs and investment into the community. Over 600 San Francisco residents worked more than 414,000 hours on the project and earned \$34 million in wages and benefits, exceeding Project Labor Agreement local hiring requirements and ensuring that the investment into the new Headworks Facility also benefited the local economy. The project also included the installation of artist Norie Sato's Whorl Whirl: Our Circular Nature, a painted aluminum and stainless-steel sculpture that celebrates water's connection to nature. The upgrades to the Headworks Facility are a monumental step in modernizing the Southeast Treatment Plant, blazing a path to a more sustainable and resilient future.

The new Headworks Facility exemplifies how the SFPUC is **planning for future uncertainties** by building flexible and resilient infrastructure that can respond to potential seismic events, sea level rise, and climate uncertainty. The completion of the project also **advances healthy communities** by building infrastructure that ensures affordable and reliable services to the communities we serve while also promoting the equitable distribution of project benefits through local job creation and investment in the local business community.



New Headworks Facility
at the Southeast
Treatment Plant.

Leading through Action

Collaborating with Partners to Achieve Fisheries Success on the Tuolumne River

The SFPUC continues to do important watershed work as part of the Tuolumne River Partners with Modesto Irrigation District and Turlock Irrigation District. Last year, in collaboration with, and with valuable input from, experts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk and Northern Valley Yokuts tribes, the Partners completed the Tuolumne River Mainstem Channel Restoration Project which creates critical spawning habitats for trout and salmon.

In an exciting conservation success, 1,200 adult spring-run Chinook salmon – originally released as part of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program – made their way to the Tuolumne River. These spring-run Chinook salmon were drawn to the Tuolumne due to its robust spring pulse flows, favorable temperature conditions, and higher water volumes – conditions created under the Tuolumne River Partners' annual operations to support Chinook salmon.

Demonstrating continued commitment to this success, the Partners have voluntarily implemented an extensive scientific monitoring program to better support this unique salmon population throughout their entire lifecycle. This includes real-time monitoring of critical water quality parameters, detailed mapping of river habitats, and expansion of on-the-ground surveys to track fish behavior and spawning success. Weekly drone surveys continue to monitor the health and numbers of spring-run Chinook. This voluntary scientific monitoring program reflects the SFPUC's history of leadership through action, taking the initiative to drive real, implementable solutions.



Chinook Salmon on the Lower Tuolumne River.

The SFPUC's sustained work through the Tuolumne River Partners demonstrates how **connecting with a community of partners** elevates the exchange of ideas that result in better stewardship of our resources. This partnered work has **supported balanced ecosystems** through stewardship and monitoring programs that have demonstrated success in improving fisheries populations.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead, the OneWaterSF vision will continue to guide our actions and commitment to a resilient, reliable, and equitable water and energy future. By prioritizing implementation, embracing innovation, and continuously investing in resilience, we are preparing for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow and reimagining how we deliver essential services to our ratepayers in transformative ways. With OneWaterSF, we will continue to lead through action, proactively implementing enduring projects and programs that will ensure the long-term sustainability of our ecosystems and communities.



Crystal Springs Reservoir

A nighttime photograph of a city street, likely in San Francisco. The scene is illuminated by streetlights and building lights. In the foreground, several palm trees are visible, some of which are lit up with blue and yellow lights. People are walking on the sidewalk. In the background, there are several tall buildings, including a prominent one with the 'HYATT REGENCY' sign. The sky is dark blue.

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