



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

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

**Draft Minutes Special Meeting Agenda
Thursday, March 19, 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, 2nd Floor, Yosemite 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: 845 3139 8471

Passcode: 810654

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: 845 3139 8471

Passcode: 810654

Meeting will be recorded for minutes only and will not be published.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



37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49

50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73

MEETING AGENDA

Materials Distributed: Special Meeting Agenda for March 19, 2026; Draft Special Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2026, “Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Adjustments” Presentation, “Power Rate Study” Presentation, Communications Log

1. Call to Order

The special meeting of the SFPUC Rate Fairness Board (RFB) was called to order at 2:05 PM in-person and via teleconference.

2. Roll Call

Member Name/Title	Appointed By
Howard Ash, Chair, Residential City Retail Customer	Board of Supervisors
Masood Samereie, Vice-Chair, City Retail Large Business Customer	Mayor's Office
Vishal Trivedi, Financial Analyst of Office of Public Finance	Controller's Office
Eric Dew, Residential City Retail Customer	Mayor's Office
Ben Becker, Refuse Rates Analyst	Controller's Office
Celeste Middleton, Principal Budget & Planning Analyst	City Administrator
Vacant, City Retail Small Business Customer	Board of Supervisors

Roll Call:

- Present: Chair Ash, Member Trivedi, Member Dew, 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 January 16, 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 January 16, 2026, were adopted upon a motion by Member Trivedi and seconded by Member Middleton.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Chair Ash, Member Trivedi, Member Dew, Member Middleton*

5. Items Initiated by Board Members

74 **a. Election of Board Officers** (Discussion and Possible Action)

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

It was noted that not all Board members were present at the meeting, raising the question of whether to proceed with elections or defer to allow full participation. Members expressed a preference to postpone the election to ensure full participation.

The election of board officers was postponed to the subsequent meeting upon a motion by Member Trivedi and seconded by Member Dew.

Roll Call Vote:

- *Ayes: Chair Ash, Member Trivedi, Member Dew, Member Middleton*

6. Report of the Chair

a. Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Adjustments for FY 2026-27 & FY 2027-28

Matthew Freiberg, Rates Manager, introduces presentation on the proposed water and sewer rate adjustment proposals. The presentation begins with an overview of the rate-setting framework. SFPUC operates as a cost-recovery utility with rates designed strictly to cover operating costs, capital investments, and debt service. Under the City Charter, a rate study must occur at least every five years. The last study was completed in 2023, resulting in a 3-year adopted rate plan and the current proposal covering the next 2-year cycle.

The presentation continues with a detailed description of the water system. The system is regional in scale, sourcing water primarily from Hetch Hetchy and spanning over one hundred miles. The infrastructure is complex and designed to accommodate seismic activity, including pipelines capable of movement during earthquakes.

The sewer system is a combined system that manages both stormwater and wastewater. The system includes three primary treatment facilities, with the Southeast Treatment Plant handling most of the flow, the Oceanside Treatment Plant handling a smaller portion, and the North Point facility operating during wet weather events. Additional explanation is provided regarding system design, including transport and storage facilities used to manage excess flow.

The key cost drivers for the water and sewer systems include aging infrastructure, high construction costs, regulatory requirements, and reduced federal funding support. Staff emphasize active efforts to limit rate increases by maintaining high credit ratings, refinancing debt, and pursuing low-cost loans and grants.

121 Staff discuss public outreach required by Prop 218. Staff are conducting
122 public meetings, webinars, and circulating communications in multiple
123 languages.

124

125 Rate proposals will be presented to Commission for approval on April
126 28th. Board members discuss preparing a companion report with their
127 recommendations and plan to meet on April 6th to finalize report.

128

129

b. Update on the Power Rate Study

130

131 Matthew Freiberg, Rates Manager, proceeds with the Power Rate
132 Study update. The rate study uses a specific methodology, including
133 analysis of a full fiscal year of billing data and hourly usage patterns
134 across customers. The data is reconciled with internal modeling
135 systems, and effective rates are calculated for forecasting purposes.
136 Updated billing data indicates slightly higher effective rates than
137 previously anticipated, which would allow increased revenue collection
138 without changes to nominal rates.

139

140 Discussion continues with proposed adjustments to the green tariff
141 program. It is explained that rate adjustments are intended to recover
142 marginal costs while maintaining net benefits for participating
143 customers. Staff provide clarification that customers would continue to
144 experience a net benefit despite the adjustments.

145

146 The implementation timeline includes a recent decrease in
147 CleanPowerSF rates effective March 1, no planned changes for that
148 program on July 1, and upcoming Commission hearings. The target
149 implementation date for proposal is July 1st. The proposal has received
150 executive team approval and is undergoing final quality control and
151 routing.

152

153 *Public Comment: No public comment.*

154

7. Communications (Information Only)

155

a. Correspondence Log

156

157 Board members review recent customer feedback addressed to the
158 Rate Fairness Board. Staff confirm that the communications have been
159 forwarded to the proper division for resolution.

160

161

162 Members ask for updates on resolutions to communications.

163

164 *Public Comment: No public comment.*

165

8. Announcements, Comments, Questions (Discussion)

166

167

168 Chair Ash references an article regarding potential restructuring of city
169 boards and commissions.

170 The next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 6th.

171
172 *Public Comment: No public comment.*

173
174
175 **9. Adjournment**

176
177 *Meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM.*

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

184
185 **Meeting Procedures:** Public Comment will be taken before or during the
186 Board's consideration of each agenda item. Speakers may address the Board
187 for up to three minutes on that item. During General Public Comment,
188 members of the public may address the Board on matters that are within the
189 Board's jurisdiction and are not on the agenda. Procedures do not permit: 1)
190 persons in the audience to vocally express support or opposition to statements
191 by Board Member, by other persons testifying; 2) ringing and use of cell
192 phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing electronic devices; 3) bringing in
193 or displaying signs in the meeting room; and 4) standing in the meeting room.
194 The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing
195 electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the
196 Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s)
197 responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-
198 producing electronic devices.

199
200 **Know your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance:** Government's duty is to
201 serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions,
202 boards, councils, and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct
203 the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted
204 before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For
205 information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the
206 San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance,
207 contact by mail Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett
208 Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102; phone at (415) 554-7724; fax at
209 (415) 554-7854; or by email at sotf@sfgov.org.

210
211 **Citizens may obtain a free copy of the Sunshine Ordinance:** by printing
212 Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at
213 sfbos.org/sunshine.

214
215 **311 Free Language Assistance:** 免費語言協助 / Ayuda gratuita con el idioma
216 / Бесплатная помощь переводчиков / Trợ giúp Thông dịch Miễn phí /
217 Assistance linguistique gratuite / 無料の言語支援 / 무료 언어 / 지원 / ความช่วย
218 ยเหลือี ท่่งภ่ษ”โดยไม่ว่ ส่ย์คหำไซจ้่าย / Libreng tulong para sa wikang Tagalog
219 ยเหลือี

220
221 **Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Requirements:** Individuals and entities
222 that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action
223 may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign &

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

229

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

233

234