



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

MEMO

December 18, 2008

President Ann Moller Caen
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
1155 Market Street, 11th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

General Manager Ed Harrington
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
1155 Market Street, 11th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Water Supply in SFPUC Service Area

Dear President Caen, Fellow Commissioners, and Mr. Harrington,

On behalf of the San Francisco Planning Commission, I am pleased that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission ("SFPUC") revised its Water System Improvement Program ("WSIP") in response to public concern regarding Tuolumne River resources. Employing alternative water supply strategies, such as water conservation, groundwater, and recycled water programs will go a long way to serve the needs of San Francisco and the greater service area.

Based on the discussions at the October 30, 2008 certification hearing on the WSIP Program Environmental Impact Report, the Commission understands that the adopted WSIP only serves the needs of the SFPUC service area through 2018 and the decision on the 2030 water supply element of the WSIP will be deferred until 2018 to allow the SFPUC and its wholesale customers to focus first on implementing conservation, recycled water, groundwater and demand management programs.

As you know, the Tuolumne River is a precious resource and the City and County of San Francisco should continue to protect it. Thus, the Commission urges the SFPUC to continue to find alternative ways to provide water supply to the service area that do not involve withdrawing additional water off the Tuolumne River.

The Commission also encourages the SFPUC to begin working with Planning Department staff to determine and conduct the kinds of environmental studies that will inform any California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis for a decision in 2018 as to whether the 2030 water supply element of the WSIP will have new or different effects on the environment. The Commission is particularly concerned about hydrology, fisheries resources, vegetation and wildlife. The Commission believes that the scope and content of future baseline studies should be discussed with the Planning Department as soon as possible to ensure that there is adequate information for any future CEQA analysis.

Memo

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The Commission would also like an annual report on progress related to implementation of conservation/recycled water/groundwater programs and the results of baseline studies in the Tuolumne River Watershed.

We strongly recommend that the SFPUC fully engage the San Francisco Planning Commission and Planning Department staff as this planning process moves forward to address the many comments and concerns about the potential future environmental effects that were raised at the October 30, 2008 certification hearing. We hope that our departments can work together to develop a successful outcome.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Olague". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christina Olague
Commission President

cc: John Rahaim, San Francisco Planning Department
Bill Wycko, San Francisco Planning Department
Diana Sokolove, San Francisco Planning Department