



HAIGHT ASHBURY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Eric Brooks, Our City (415) 756-8844

CLEAN ENERGY ADVOCATES APPLAUD REDUCED ELECTRICITY RATES FOR CLEANPOWERSF PROGRAM

San Francisco, July 9, 2013 – Advocates are applauding the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and its Power Enterprise staff for the work they have done to greatly reduce the proposed not-to-exceed electricity rate cap for the CleanPowerSF program, which is scheduled to launch early next year.

Until recently SFPUC staff planned to set the cap at almost double PG&E power rates, but after more than a year of work between advocates and the SFPUC, the rate cap is now set to be much lower. The new cap will ensure that tier one customers who are expected to make up the bulk of the program's participants, will receive the benefit of a much higher renewable electricity mix than that of PG&E, for an average monthly increase of less than six dollars.

CleanPowerSF is being planned to install hundreds of megawatts of clean, renewable energy and efficiency measures throughout San Francisco, and generate thousands of local jobs. But advocates had warned that if the CleanPowerSF rate were set too high, too many customers would have opted out of the program. This would have made the program too small in scale to achieve its main objective, which is to provide at least half its clean electricity from such local installations by the end of the decade.

Arthur Feinstein, chair of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club said, "This lower rate cap for the CleanPowerSF program is a big victory for our community and the environment. These lower rates mean more San Franciscans will take part in the program. This will result in more local clean energy generation and that means more local jobs. It also means a lot less greenhouse gas will be going into the atmosphere, a major success in our battle with the world's greatest threat, climate change."

Al Weinrub, director of Local Clean Energy Alliance, said, "Now that a reasonable and more competitive cap is being set for CleanPowerSF electricity, we can get on to the important business: putting thousands of San Franciscans to work building hundreds of megawatts of local clean energy installations over the next decade. A large local installation program is vital to recovering a vibrant San Francisco economy, and to ensuring that we are truly replacing fossil fuel with verifiable renewable sources."

Eric Brooks, Campaign Coordinator for Our City said, "These lower rates will ensure that everyone in San Francisco, no matter what their income level, will be able to take part in CleanPowerSF. This will mean that the program will be large enough in scale to ensure strong local hiring of thousands of union workers to build out the infrastructure."

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