

FILE NO. 020435

MOTION NO. M02-47

1 [Budget Analyst – Best Practices for Issuance of Debt for Capital Improvements]

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3 **Motion directing the Board of Supervisors Budget Analyst, in conjunction with the**  
4 **Office of the Legislative Analyst and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission**  
5 **(“PUC”), to review the best practices for financing large capital improvement**  
6 **projects at municipal utilities in the State of California and at state agencies**  
7 **performing similar utility construction projects; directing the Budget Analyst, in**  
8 **consultation with the Mayor’s Office of Public Finance and the PUC, to interview**  
9 **analysts at bond rating agencies to determine the outlook for PUC bond ratings for**  
10 **the Water and Clean Water enterprises, and to determine recommended steps to**  
11 **improve bond ratings for the water and sewer enterprises; directing the Budget**  
12 **Analyst to calculate potential savings in potential interest payments for the PUC’s**  
13 **proposed capital improvement program if bond ratings for the Water and Clean**  
14 **Water enterprises increase to their former levels; and directing the Budget Analyst**  
15 **to report back to the Board of Supervisors by May 31, 2002.**

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17       Whereas, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) is planning an  
18 aggressive Capital Improvement Program that is expected to cost approximately \$4.6 billion  
19 over a period of at least 10 years; and

20       Whereas, Much of the work in the proposed Capital Improvement Program is required  
21 to seismically retrofit the PUC’s water and sewer infrastructure and to replace or repair  
22 infrastructure that is in some cases more than 100 years old; and

23       Whereas, Many of the PUC’s system components lie along three major earthquake  
24 faults, including the San Andreas Fault, the Hayward Fault and the Calaveras Fault, and it has  
25 been estimated that a severe earthquake could result in water outages for 2.4 million water

1 users served by the PUC for a period of 60-90 days, potentially resulting in catastrophic  
2 impacts to public health and the regional economy; and

3           Whereas, Several Peninsula lawmakers have introduced bills that could affect the  
4 future financing of the PUC Capital Improvement Program or future ownership of PUC assets,  
5 including a bill that would set the groundwork for a State takeover of the PUC; and

6           Whereas, Over the past several years, bond rating agencies have down-graded bond  
7 ratings for the Water and Clean Water (sewer) enterprises of the PUC, resulting in increased  
8 cost of debt for bonds issued to finance capital improvements; and

9           Whereas, It is in the best interests of San Francisco ratepayers to avoid a state  
10 takeover of the PUC and to maintain City control of the assets under jurisdiction of the PUC;  
11 and

12           Whereas, It is in the best interests of San Francisco ratepayers for the PUC to maintain  
13 the highest possible bond ratings that will result in the lowest possible water and sewer rate  
14 increases; now, therefore, be it

15           Resolved, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby direct the Budget  
16 Analyst to perform the following research and report back to the Board not later than May 31,  
17 2002:

- 18           1. In conjunction with the Office of the Legislative Analyst and the Public Utilities  
19           Commission, review the best practices for financing large capital improvement  
20           projects at municipal utilities in the State of California and at state agencies  
21           performing similar utility construction projects;
- 22           2. In consultation with the Mayor's Office of Public Finance and the Public Utilities  
23           Commission, interview analysts at bond rating agencies to determine the outlook for  
24           the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") bond ratings for the Water  
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and Clean Water enterprises, and to determine recommended steps to improve bond ratings for the water and sewer enterprises; and

- 3. Calculate potential savings in potential interest payments for the PUC's proposed capital improvement program if bond ratings for the Water and Clean Water enterprises increase to their former levels.

Further Resolved, That the Budget Analyst is authorized to expend not more than 40 hours of staff time preparing the Budget Analyst's report pursuant to this motion and, if needed, to request additional time for report preparation via a motion approved by the Board.



# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails Motion

**File Number:** 020435

**Date Passed:** March 18, 2002

Motion directing the Board of Supervisors Budget Analyst, in conjunction with the Office of the Legislative Analyst and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission ("PUC"), to review the best practices for financing large capital improvement projects at municipal utilities in the State of California and at state agencies performing similar utility construction projects; directing the Budget Analyst, in consultation with the Mayor's Office of Public Finance and the PUC, to interview analysts at bond rating agencies to determine the outlook for PUC bond ratings for the Water and Clean Water enterprises, and to determine recommended steps to improve bond ratings for the water and sewer enterprises; directing the Budget Analyst to calculate potential savings in potential interest payments for the PUC's proposed capital improvement program if bond ratings for the Water and Clean Water enterprises increase to their former levels; and directing the Budget Analyst to report back to the Board of Supervisors by May 31, 2002.

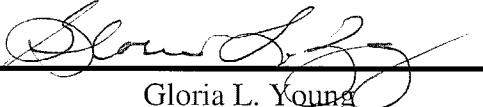
March 18, 2002 Board of Supervisors — AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE  
BEARING NEW TITLE

March 18, 2002 Board of Supervisors — APPROVED AS AMENDED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick,  
Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

File No. 020435

I hereby certify that the foregoing Motion  
was APPROVED AS AMENDED on March  
18, 2002 by the Board of Supervisors of the  
City and County of San Francisco.



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Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board