Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to authorize the Public Utilities Commission to contract with developers that are installing infrastructure, pursuant to a development agreement, to install electric equipment that the Public Utilities Commission would otherwise be required to install without competitive bidding, subject to specified conditions.

NOTE: Unchanged Code text and uncodified text are in plain Arial font. Additions to Codes are in single-underline italics Times New Roman font. Deletions to Codes are in strikethrough italics Times New Roman font. Board amendment additions are in double-underlined Arial font. Board amendment deletions are in strikethrough Arial font. Asterisks (* * * *) indicate the omission of unchanged Code subsections or parts of tables.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. Background and Findings.

(a) The City and County of San Francisco (“City”) operates a municipal electric utility through the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”).

(b) Administrative Code Chapter 99 requires the City to “consider the feasibility of supplying electricity to all new City developments, including, without limitation, military base reuse projects, redevelopment projects, projects occupying any portion of public land, and projects funded in whole or in part by local, State, or Federal funds and other City projects.”

(c) Consistent with Chapter 99, the City has included in development agreements a requirement that, where feasible, electric service to these developments shall be provided by the PUC, provided that the costs of that service, which includes the capital refund structure for
the applicable service, is comparable to or less than the prevailing market rates in San Francisco for comparable types of service.

(d) Pursuant to Chapter 99, the PUC has conducted feasibility studies for a number of development projects and determined that it is feasible for the PUC to provide electric service to a number of projects, including Hunters Point Shipyard and Candlestick Point, Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island, Mission Rock, Pier 70, Sunnydale HOPE SF, and Potrero HOPE SF. These are all mixed-use projects that will, among other things, provide new housing for residents of San Francisco (including significant affordable housing), parks and open spaces, and office and retail space.

(e) As repeatedly recognized by the Board of Supervisors, the City faces a severe and continuing housing crisis, and the City has adopted many measures to try to alleviate the crisis, including building additional affordable housing.

(f) In 2017, the PUC adopted the Power Enterprise Rules and Regulations Governing Electric Service (“Rules”). Consistent with standards for electric utilities, Article XV of the Rules requires the PUC and developers to share the responsibilities and costs to install the electric infrastructure that is necessary for the PUC to provide service to these new developments.

(g) Under existing development agreements, developers are responsible for constructing significant infrastructure for dedication to the City. Under the Rules, the costs to install new electric facilities and equipment to serve the developments are shared between developers and the PUC. Developers are responsible for the costs to install overhead or underground structures and other infrastructure. The PUC is responsible for the costs to install new conductors and equipment to connect to the infrastructure completed by developers, including protective devices, switches, transformers, and meters.
Developers constructing infrastructure for the City under development agreements can install the PUC’s facilities at lower costs and in a more expeditious manner than can the PUC, as part of their ongoing work at the project sites. Developers are also better able to schedule and complete this work so as not to conflict with other construction, and to ensure that it is completed in the time frame needed to meet project schedules. Because developers are already constructing infrastructure for the City with significant job and workforce requirements and protections, and meet all City imposed requirements for the completion of this work as set forth in the applicable development agreement, the addition of the PUC work will not pose any new or increased risk but will result in the expeditious completion of projects and other public benefits at lower cost.

It is reasonable and in the public interest for the PUC to contract directly with developers for this work, without obtaining bids and quotes from other contractors, because developers are already subject to City workforce development requirements. Every City development agreement includes a detailed workforce development program with Local Business Enterprise nondiscrimination, prevailing wage, and local hire or first source hiring requirements.

Section 2. Chapter 99 of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding Section 99.5, to read as follows:

SEC. 99.5 CONTRACTING WITH DEVELOPERS TO INSTALL ELECTRIC FACILITIES AT NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

(a) The PUC may contract with developers that are subject to a development agreement with the City to install utility facilities that the PUC would otherwise be required to install, without competitive bidding, provided that:

(1) The PUC has determined it is feasible to provide power to the development project, and the developer has agreed that the PUC will be the power provider for the project;
(2) The City has entered into a development agreement that (i) requires the developer to complete infrastructure for the project; and (ii) includes a workforce and job creation program that, among other things, requires nondiscrimination and the payment of prevailing wages; and

(3) The PUC has reasonably determined that the amount payable to the developer for the PUC work is equal to, or less than, the amount the PUC would expect to pay to perform the same work itself through its standard contracting process.

(b) The PUC may consider every contract entered into under this Section 99.5 as supplemental to the work required under the development agreement, provided the PUC includes in the contract: (1) the nondiscrimination and workforce requirements contained in the applicable development agreement, so that the PUC work is performed in the same manner and with the same workforce requirements as the other infrastructure work to be completed by the developer under the development agreement; and (2) a detailed description of the developer’s scope of work and PUC’s costs. The PUC may exclude from the contract any City contracting requirements that were waived by the Board of Supervisors in its approval of the applicable development agreement.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor’s veto of the ordinance.

Section 4. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the “Note” that appears under the official title of the ordinance.
APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By: ___________________________
   /s/ WILLIAM K. SANDERS
   Deputy City Attorney

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City and County of San Francisco

Tails

Ordinance

File Number: 210260  Date Passed: April 27, 2021

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to authorize the Public Utilities Commission to contract with developers that are installing infrastructure, pursuant to a development agreement, to install electric equipment that the Public Utilities Commission would otherwise be required to install without competitive bidding, subject to specified conditions.

April 12, 2021 Rules Committee - RECOMMENDED

April 20, 2021 Board of Supervisors - PASSED ON FIRST READING
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

April 27, 2021 Board of Supervisors - FINALLY PASSED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 210260

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was FINALLY PASSED on 4/27/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

London N. Breed
Mayor

5.7.21
Date Approved