PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

RESOLUTION NO. **12-0165**

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is a leading water, power, and sewer utility with a constituency that serves customers and impacts stakeholders who expect reliability as well as the adoption of best management practices including innovation and the incorporation of cost-effective, sustainable technologies; and

WHEREAS, The SFPUC's expertise on water, power, and wastewater systems has been build through hands-on experience, as well as continuous education and staff development, including participation in pilot studies and demonstration projects; and

WHEREAS, This experience has helped the SFPUC initiate new policies, programs, capital projects, and operational strategies that are consistent with the Commission's Strategic Sustainability Plan goals, including our consistent satisfaction of regulatory standards and compliance, our provision of high quality service, our planning for the future, and our promotion of a green and sustainable City; and

WHEREAS, To position the SFPUC to successfully address the challenges of today and into the future, we have identified, planned for and are employing critical infrastructure investment; and

WHEREAS, This Technology Policy will serve and guide the SFPUC as we consider beneficial technologies and innovation during the planning, design, construction and operation of critical investments, including physical plant assets, facilities, systems, processes and procedures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission adopts the following Technology Policy:

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is committed to high quality, sustainable, reliable, around-the-clock delivery of Water, Power, and Sewer utility service to our customers and ratepayers. To ensure customer service excellence that takes advantage of innovative technologies, consistent with the Commission's Budgetary and Ratepayer Assurance policies, practices and endorsed Level of Service (LOS) goals, we will consider proven as well as new and emerging technologies. Beneficial technologies will be identified, researched, and analyzed, prior to proposal for full-scale implementation, where ratepayer benefit is demonstrated, along with consistency with Triple Bottom Line principles. The Technology Policy will both guide the management of and be implemented for operations and capital programs, covering physical plant assets, facilities, systems, processes and procedures. The key principles and criteria shall include:

Economic Principles & Criteria

- Manage risk through the timely adoption of proven technologies that meet LOS goals;
- Consider small-scale demonstration projects and pilot studies prior to any large-scale proposals, when previously unproven technologies are involved;

- Assess compatibility of new technologies with existing facilities, and operations and maintenance capabilities;
- Assess costs using a total cost approach including transition costs and timing, capital cost, and projected long-term life cycle costs; and
- Explore grant funding for demonstration projects and larger-scale projects alike, including strategic partnerships with governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Environmental Principles & Criteria

- Seek technologies that optimize sustainability and the conservation of natural resources;
- Consider long-term environmental impacts of proposed technologies, including the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and the wise use of our resources; and
- Seek technologies that achieve regulatory compliance with all public health, environmental standards, and operational permits.

Social Principles & Workforce Development Criteria

- Evaluate technology alternatives for their contribution to our Community Benefits Policy, including local jobs creation and retention in our service areas and community vitality, and to our Environmental Justice Policy;
- Provide staff development opportunities to ensure the SFPUC has well-trained and qualified staff to evaluate, implement and operate any new technology;
- Collaborate and partner with other utility professionals and organizations in the research, joint demonstration projects, and assessments related to new technologies; and
- Make the review and monitoring of new technologies a continuous part of staff development and job performance planning.

Leadership Principles & Transparency Criteria

- Identify the technologies in which the SFPUC has an interest;
- Invest staff and resources in innovative technology research, training, and industry initiatives;
- Participate in pilot studies to test and develop promising emerging technologies;
- Establish clear responsibility for keeping abreast of emerging technologies within each Enterprise and Bureau;
- Document pilot study findings including costs, limiting factors, anticipated short-term and long-term developments, benefits and applicability;
- Include a technology update for each Enterprise and Bureau as part of the capital planning and budget process;
- Incorporate a peer review process for critical technologies; and
- Provide a mechanism for submission of public comment and information requests, along with timely responsiveness and feedback.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its meeting of September 11, 2012.

Donna Wood

Secretary, Public Utilities Commission