

CLEAN WATER ACTION

May 9, 2008

President Paul Pelosi, Jr.
Commission on the Environment
11 Grove Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Re: Item 5 on May 12 Agenda: Draft Resolution Supporting Water Conservation
in San Francisco Apartments**

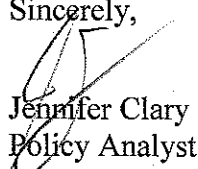
Dear President Pelosi and Commissioners;

Clean Water Action (CWA) is a national organization that works to protect our water resources. In San Francisco, we have worked for several years (in partnership with several environmental organizations) to encourage the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to invest in water conservation as an alternative to diverting more water from the Tuolumne River and our local watersheds. Clean Water Action also has about 1500 San Francisco members.

Regretfully, I am writing to inform you of my organization's opposition to the resolution posted on your current meeting agenda. The Commission is asked to support a specific ordinance that has been introduced at the Board of Supervisors. This legislation, which allows landlords to pass through a portion of rate increases on to their tenants, is not a viable conservation tool. The bill has several flaws, including a problematic allocation of charges to tenants; lack of incentive for landlords to upgrade their fixtures; and a delay in passing charges on to tenants that fails to send the rate signal that typifies a conservation pricing structure.

My organization agrees that legislation will be needed to support aggressive conservation goals; and that multi-unit buildings must be part of a comprehensive program to reduce per capita water use. In fact, the SFPUC is currently convening a stakeholder group (including representation from your Department) to develop such a program. My recommendation to the Commission would be to support an alternative resolution that urges the City through the SFPUC to develop a comprehensive conservation program that addresses all sectors of water users with a goal of meeting Governor Schwarzenegger's call for a 20% reduction in per capita water usage by the year 2020.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Clary
Policy Analyst

CALIFORNIA OFFICE
111 New Montgomery St. Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105
415.369.9160 • 415.369.9180 fax

www.CleanWaterAction.org/ca
cwasf@cleanwater.org

NATIONAL OFFICE
4455 Connecticut Ave. NW Suite A300
Washington, DC 20008
202.895.0420 • 202.895.0438 fax