

# West of Twin Peaks Central Council

P. O. Box 27112 • San Francisco, CA 94127

June 13, 2008

The Honorable Chris Daly  
Chair  
Rules Committee  
1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, California 94102-4689

## **RE: Independent Ratepayer Advocate for San Francisco**

Dear Supervisor Daly:

The West of Twin Peaks Central Council (WOTPCC), which represents 17 neighborhood organizations and over 10,000 homeowners in the West of Twin Peaks area of San Francisco.

Since July, homeowners have disproportionately absorbed the exorbitant water rate increase exact on property only without a fair, public hearing to voice objections to a \$70 million tax. It is under these inequitable and unfair circumstances to homeowners and families that we support the creation of an independent ratepayer office in San Francisco.

If possible, we believe the legislation should be strengthened even further to ensure that future utility service rate increases be examined from the perspective of the ratepayer. The existing law only allows 30 days for rejection, and in the instance of the most recent increase, ratepayers were denied a hearing at the Board of Supervisors to raise serious concerns about the allowable costs embedded in the rate increase.

The State of California has an independent ratepayer advocate and this legislation moves San Francisco one step closer to that good government model.

We support the independent ratepayer advocate legislation before you today.

Sincerely,

Denise LaPointe  
President

Cc: Supervisor Ammiano  
Supervisor Dufty  
Supervisor Alioto-Per  
Supervisor Elsbernd

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Balboa Terrace • Forest Hill • Forest Knolls • Greater West Portal  
Ingleside Terraces • Lakeshore Acres • Lakeside Property Owners • Merced Manor • Midtown Terrace  
Miraloma Park • Monterey Heights • Pinelake Park • St. Francis Homes • Sherwood Forest  
Twin Peaks Improvement • Westwood Highlands • Westwood Park**