



CASEWARE

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

CUSTOMER

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Annual Operating Budget

\$873 million

CaseWare Powers Financial Reporting for San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) provides vital services to more than 2.6 million residents of the City by the Bay. Relying primarily on hydroelectric, solar, wind and biowaste, the commission is widely considered to be one of the cleanest and greenest in California. It is also one of the largest public utilities in the state with an annual operating budget of \$873 million.

Powering SFPUC's complex and intricate financial reporting tasks is CaseWare Working Papers.

Energy Intensive Report Production

SFPUC has long used hundreds of individual spreadsheets and text documents to meet its reporting needs, a largely manual process requiring frequent adjustments and updates.

It is a testament to the skill and patience of the commission's staff that SFPUC has been producing its own CAFR for several years, and has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting each year since 2010.



Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

To continually deliver reports of this level of quality and completeness, though, required a tremendous effort on the part of Frances Lee, Deputy Chief Financial Officer for SFPUC, and her team.

"It had become extremely burdensome for us," says Lee. "We needed a more efficient method of producing these reports."

Amp Up the Functionality

The Commission researched software solutions that would meet its CAFR reporting needs, and halted that research when it found CaseWare.

"CaseWare met all of our needs and went beyond," explains Lee. "CaseWare has much broader capabilities than just

CHALLENGE

Too much manual and redundant effort was involved in the processes of producing the commission's large and complex annual financial statements.

SOLUTION

CaseWare easily handles the enormous volume of transactions SFPUC generates, automating previously manual tasks.

RESULTS

Report generation time cut significantly. The commission is now producing quarterly financial statements, and is working on producing budget and forecast reports through CaseWare.

"We now have more time to focus our energies on data analysis and process improvement rather than data entry."

Frances Lee
Deputy Chief Financial Officer

About CaseWare International Inc.

Accountants and auditors in practices large and small, in corporations, and government recognize CaseWare International as the premier creator of assurance, reporting and analysis tools. In over 130 countries, the CaseWare family of products helps accounting professionals perform their work more easily and efficiently.

producing our annual financial statements and the CAFR, and that made it an attractive solution to SFPUC. We saw that with CaseWare we could automate our forecasting and budget projection reports and that CaseWare could also assist us in producing quarterly financial statements."

SFPUC engaged a CaseWare Certified Consultant to assist with implementation and training. "They provided the training and worked with us to recreate some of our existing reports which we then used for testing," notes Lee. "We found that the consultant's help was very valuable in getting us up to speed quickly."

Generating Processing Power

CaseWare delivers the processing power and throughput the commission requires.

"We literally process millions of transactions from our three separate enterprises and multiple funds," explains Lee. "CaseWare is robust and powerful enough to break out that data into the appropriate views as well as handling our complex consolidation tasks. Using spreadsheets, we previously had to do much of this manually."

Reporting Time Cut

Lee says that CaseWare has already cut the time her team spends on monthly reporting tasks. "CaseWare saves us a tremendous amount of time — I estimate about 110 hours a year. We now have more time to focus our energies on data analysis and process improvement rather than data entry."

Lee and her team import more than one million transaction records into CaseWare every day, using the data to generate up-to-date reconciliation reports.

The Connector component of CaseWare Working Papers serves to link the financial data to Word® and Excel® documents where the final reports are constructed.

"Our numbers are then updated automatically throughout the documents," Lee says. "It saves us a lot of time working and reworking the spreadsheets."

New Quarterly Data Views

SFPUC is taking advantage of the flexibility and adaptability of the software to prepare additional reports.

"With CaseWare, we will be able to generate our quarterly financials more readily," says Lee. "We are very excited to have that kind of information easily available to us to use in analyses and decision-making."

Capitalizing On Success

SFPUC will transition the entire production of its CAFR to CaseWare during the current year.

"We're looking forward the further efficiencies automating this task will bring," says Lee. "I believe it will save a significant additional amount of time. We also expect that we'll continue to find more new ways to use CaseWare. It represents a huge success for us already."



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