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Leal shows her zeal for public-power bill

A lot of people were puzzled when Mayor Gavin Newsom canned San Francisco Public Utilities Commission General Manager Susan Leal this year, since no one would say exactly why that political partnership broke up. Word was the mayor was unhappy because Leal was privately slamming him among colleagues at City Hall, that her own commissioners wanted her gone and that she was getting too cozy with zealous public-power advocates.

Well, at least now we know that there was some truth in the rumors.

In an editorial in the Bay Guardian this week, Leal comes out front and center for Proposition H, the latest public-power grab by the one-trick purists who refuse to stop pushing the issue no matter how many times voters just say no to the idea.

Leal said Prop. H will “bring about more accountability and less waste of ratepayer dollars” if passed. She also writes that the current electricity provider in San Francisco, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., “is not responsive to San Franciscans” and The City has little influence over the utility giant.

All of which begs the question: Why wasn’t she saying this when she was in charge of the PUC?