



**San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
 Citizens' Advisory Committee**

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, March 16, 2021
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

PARTICIPATE VIA BLUEJEANS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE

Meeting URL

<https://bluejeans.com/241730520>

Phone Dial-in

408.317.9253

Meeting ID

241 730 52#

This meeting is being held by Teleconference Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 and the Sixteenth Supplement to Mayoral Proclamation Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency Dated February 25,2020

During the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) emergency, the San Francisco Public Utilities Citizens Advisory Committee's (SFPUC CAC) regular meeting room, 525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor Tuolumne Conference Room, is closed. CAC Members and SFPUC staff will convene CAC meetings remotely by teleconference. Members of the public are encouraged to submit their public comment on agenda items in advance of the teleconference meeting by emailing comments to cac@sfwater.org. Comments submitted no later than 12 PM Tuesday the day of the meeting will be read into the record by SFPUC CAC Staffing Team members during the teleconference meeting and will be treated as a substitute to providing public comment during the meeting. Persons who submit written public comment in advance on an agenda item or items will not be permitted to also provide public comment on the same agenda item(s) during the meeting.

Mission: The purpose of the SFPUC CAC is to provide recommendations to the SFPUC General Manager, the SFPUC Commission, and the Board of Supervisors regarding the agency's long-term strategic, financial, and capital improvement plans ([Admin. Code Article XV, Sections 5.140 - 5.142](#))

Members:

Anietie Ekanem, Chair (D10)

Marria Evbuoma (D1)
 Suki Kott (D2)
 Steven Kight (D3)
 VACANT (D4)
 Emily Algire (D5)
 Amy Zock (D6)
 VACANT (D7)
 Amy Nagengast (D8)

Moisés García (D9)
 Jennifer Clary (D11)
 Austin Hunter (M-Environmental Org.)
 Nicole Sandkulla (M-Regional Water Customers)
 Mark Tang (M-Engineering/Financial)
 Eliahu Perszyk (M-Large Water User)
 VACANT (B-Small Business)
 VACANT (B-Environmental Justice)

D = District Supervisor appointed, M = Mayor appointed, B = Board President appointed

London N. Breed
 Mayor

Sophie Maxwell
 President

Anson Moran
 Vice President

Tim Paulson
 Commissioner

Ed Harrington
 Commissioner

Newsha Ajami
 Commissioner

Michael Carlin
 Acting
 General Manager

OUR MISSION: To provide our customers with high-quality, efficient and reliable water, power and sewer services in a manner that values environmental and community interests and sustains the resources entrusted to our care.



ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Call to order and roll call at 5:34 pm**

Members present at roll call: (9) Ekanem, Kott, Algire, Zock, García, Clary, Tang, Perszyk, Nagengast

Members absent: (4) Evbuoma, Kight, Hunter, Sandkulla

Staff: John Scarpulla

Members of the Public: Brandon Nelson

2. **Approve [February 16, 2021](#) Minutes**

Amendment: Member Kott proposed an amendment to a comment made by her during the discussion of the Stormwater Branding presentation.

Motion was made (Clary) and seconded (Kott) to approve the amended February 16, 2021 Minutes

AYES: (9) Ekanem, Kott, Algire, Zock, Nagengast, García, Clary, Tang, Perszyk

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (4) Evbuoma, Kight, Hunter, Sandkulla

Public Comment: None

3. **Report from the Chair**

- Welcome members, staff, and the public
- Leadership Development for CAC Officers

Public Comment: None

4. **Public Comment:** Members of the public may address the Committee on matters that are within the Committee's jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda

Public Comment: None

5. **Presentation and Discussion:** [Emergency Firefighting Water System Update](#), John Scarpulla, Local Policy Manager, Policy and Government Affairs, External Affairs

Presentation:

- What is the EFWS?
- Partnership: projects to improve the EFWS
- Today's Topics – Updates on Reports (due on June 30, 2021)
- Refine Neighborhood Analysis
- Neighborhood Firefighting Needs
- Project Background
- Project Team
- Model Overview
- Inputs (earthquakes, building data, tree canopy database, fire stations locations, water sources)
- Analysis for 2020, 2030, 2040, and 2050 (best estimates and some uncertainty)
- Future Deliverables: 2020-2050 Maps (50-acre grid)
- Next Steps: Neighborhood Fire Analysis
- Seawater Pump Station Report
- Regulatory & Permitting
- Areas of Study
- Sea level Rise & Inundation Zones
- Geological and Geotechnical
- Elevation Analysis
- Engineering Factors to Consider
- Pump Station Type
- Next Steps – Seawater Report
- Next Steps – Programmatic

Discussion:

- **Chair Ekanem** commented that the part of the bond funding would go the Westside and that there would additionally piping for specific districts. The Chair then asked where the money for the specific districts is coming from.

Staff Scarpulla answered that the City-wide Action Plan will show that most of the new piping is in the South and Southeast sectors (Districts 7, 8, 10, 11). The plan will focus on these areas because that is where there is a big lack of EFWS infrastructure. There is no money that has been set aside to implement those piping projects; that will be in the City-wide Plan. The bond funding was limited to the Westside project, North and Northeast projects. The SFPUC and SFFD will put together an infrastructure plan and the Office of Capital Planning and Resilience will put together a funding plan to pay for these pipelines. EFWS projects are funded by general obligation bonds, and not SFPUC rates dollars. The Board wants the plan and the funding plans to pay for the plan.

Chair Ekanem commented that the fact that it will be planned but not funded is concerning.

- **Member Clary** asked what the color coding means in the "Refine Neighborhood Analysis" map.

Staff Scarpulla answered that the less protected neighborhoods are shown is light blue. The map shows the firefighting needs and SFPUC's ability to meet those needs with its water system after a 7.9 earthquake. The numbers show the percentage number that the SFPUC's water system would be able to meet in firefighting needs. Staff asked to not focus on the numbers because they change depending on the scenario.

- **Member Clary** asked if there will be a public comment period and how long it will be after the June 30 reports are finished.

Staff Scarpulla answered that there will be no public comment period to the reports, but that public comments are expected when the results are presented to the Board and CAC.

- **Member Clary** asked if the reports will be drafts or final reports.

Staff Scarpulla answered that the final reports will be submitted to the Board.

- **Member Clary** commented that this means that the CAC will not be able to provide input and ask for changes if the report is finalized.

Staff Scarpulla answered that a draft report can be submitted to the CAC.

- **Member Clary** commented that earthquakes are mapped and asked if wildfire concerns are part of the modeling as well.

Staff Scarpulla explained that wildfires were not included in the previous map. However, the new model will include the parks and areas that are susceptible to wildfires.

- **Member Nagengast** asked which input is the most important and that has the greatest impact at this moment.

Staff Scarpulla answered that it is not possible to rank the input by relevance. Each neighborhood has specific characteristics that shift the most relevant input. It varies according to the neighborhood. A major fact is the available EFWS in the area and the ability to meet the water demand.

Member Nagengast commented that it is a question to ask the engineers. Understanding the uncertainty factors is important to making a database decision later.

6. Presentation and Discussion: SFPUC Racial Equity Overview

Presenters

- Masood Ordikhani, AGM, External Affairs
- Justine Hinderliter, Chief People Officer, Human Resources Services
- Tracy Zhu, Social Impact Partnership Manager, External Affairs

Resources

- [Office of Racial Equity](#)
- [SFPUC Racial Justice Resolution](#)
- [SFPUC Racial Equity Action Plan required by Office of Racial Equity](#)

Presentation:

- Indigenous Land Acknowledgement
- Racial Equity Overview: Office of Racial Equity (ORE): SFPUC Racial Equity Action Plans, and SFPUC Commission: Racial Justice Resolution
- Planning & Engagement Process
- 7 ORE Racial Equity Action Plan Pillars
- Enterprise & Bureau Draft Plans
- SFPUC Racial Justice Resolution

Discussion:

- **Chair Ekanem** asked how much hiring is done by the SFPUC versus the City/County of SF and who does the actual hiring.

AGM Ordikhani answered that most of the hiring is done by the SFPUC. However, even done hiring is done by the SFPUC, the Department of Human Resources issues requirements, guidelines, and parameters that impact the SFPUC. It is a collective effort.

- **Chair Ekanem** asked where people are falling off and if there is a plan to measure that from a hiring perspective.

CPO Hinderliter answered that the SFPUC is trying to address this with hiring data infrastructure. Currently, hiring involves different processes, different forms, disparate systems. The systems have no data analytics and it is hard to identify when problems happen, as there is no progression of a single recruitment process. The SFPUC will understand this data once we have the systems that cover the entire process.

- **Member Nagengast** thanked staff for the many hours dedicated to this effort and asked how the CAC can help in this effort going forward to ensure that these changes are implemented.

AGM Ordikhani appreciated the offered support. AGM Ordikhani suggested providing public comment in support of the plan when it goes to the Board, as well as engaging with the Supervisors to garner support. AGM Ordikhani also said that the responsibility is on PUC staff to not make this a one-time conversation, as well as ensure community accountability.

- **Member Tang** thanked the staff for their effort and time dedicated to the Racial Equity Plan. Member Tang recommended identifying and handling the pressure points and asked if there is a way for the CAC to keep track of the plan's rollout, if any reports will be released, and how can the CAC provide feedback when appropriate.

AGM Ordikhani responded that he agrees that it is necessary to focus on pressure points. There will be mandatory reporting and there are two mandates that require a quarterly update.

Staff Zhu added that each enterprise and bureau created their own plan and the CAC can follow up with the AGMs.

- **Member Algire** asked what pressure points or pushback this initiative is receiving now and what are the most significant barriers currently.

CPO Hinderliter answered that the budget hurdle is upcoming. Resourcing the work in a real way is critical. The Racial Equity Leads are only nine people and it would be helpful to have more people to have this as their core work. Therefore, the budget is probably the biggest barrier. There needs to be a city-wide effort to understand where policy, practice, or exploration is required. Deciding how should the civil service rules look in 2021 and if they need to change or not. CPO Hinderliter suggested that the City should adopt a more adaptable and fluid approach. It would be a huge undertaking, but critical to simplify the hiring process.

- **Chair Ekanem** echoed the members appreciation for the Racial Equity leads. Chair Ekanem asked about accountability and invited the Subcommittee Chairs to consider agendaizing each Enterprise's Racial Equity Plan every six months. Chair Ekanem also invited the members to think about drafting a resolution supporting the budget allocation.

AGM Ordikhani thanked the Chair for the suggestions. AGM Ordikhani suggested being mindful of the people that would attend to present every six months. AGM Ordikhani said that drafting a resolution is a great idea.

Public Comment: None.

7. Staff report

- SFPUC moves to www.sfpuc.org
- Reminder for CAC seats seeking members
 - District 4
 - District 6
 - District 7
 - Small Business Seat appointed by Board of Supervisors' President
 - Environmental Justice Seat appointed by Board of Supervisors' President

Public Comment: None.

8. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

- Urban Water Management Plan – *April*
- Emergency Firefighting Water System Update – *tentatively July*
- Agency-wide Planning & Policy on Climate Change & Adaptation
- Interagency Working Group on Sea Level Rise
- Contracting Process
- Education Resolution
- PUC Properties and City Department Partnerships
- Water Equity and Water Access for Homeless
- Workforce Programs
- Water Rights and Raker Act
- Water Use and Parks
- Flooding Protection
- Water Quality Report
- Green New Deal
- Micro Hydroelectric Power
- Prop A Bond Funding
- Commissioner Visits

Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up

- Water Resolution in Support of Interim Emergency Rate Assistance Program and Revised Community Assistance Program [adopted July 21, 2020](#)
- Resolution in Support of a Skilled and Diverse Utility Workforce [adopted February 19, 2019](#)
- Resolution Honoring the Life, Activism, and Contributions of Dr. Espanola Jackson to the Local Community [adopted on April 19, 2016](#)
- Resolution on Balboa Reservoir [adopted March 15, 2016](#)

Public Comment: None.

9. **Announcements/Comments** The next FULL CAC meeting will be on April 20, 2021. Visit www.sfpuc.org/cac for confirmation of the next scheduled meeting, agenda and materials. The Urban Water Management Plan has been sent to all CAC members via email. Member Clary announced that she would

send a link to a presentation made elsewhere that would give insight into the Urban Water Management Plan.

Public Comment: None.

10. Adjournment

Motion was made (Clary) and seconded (García) to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM