



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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, April 19, 2022  
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE**

**Meeting URL**

<https://sfwater.zoom.us/j/86165529642?pwd=SWpGM0xlclVoaFBIUXI2dEVVNTd3UT09>

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669.219.2599

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**Meeting ID/Passcode**

861 6552 9642 / 002419

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](mailto: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:**

**Moisés García, Chair (D9)**

VACANT (D1)

Suki Kott (D2)

Steven Kight (D3)

Douglas Jacuzzi (D4)

Emily Algire (D5)

Barklee Sanders (D6)

Joshua Ochoa (D7)

Amy Nagengast (D8)

VACANT (D10)

Jennifer Clary (D11)

Maika Pinkston (M-Environmental Org.)

Nicole Sandkulla (M-Regional Water Customers)

Marisa Williams (M-Engineering/Financial)

Eliahu Perszyk (M-Large Water User)

VACANT (B-Small Business)

Michelle Pierce (B-Environ. Justice)

**London N. Breed**  
 Mayor

**Anson Moran**  
 President

**Newsha Ajami**  
 Vice President

**Sophie Maxwell**  
 Commissioner

**Tim Paulson**  
 Commissioner

**Dennis J. Herrera**  
 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.



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

Staff Liaisons: Mayara Ruski Augusto Sa and Jobanjot Aulakh

Staff Email for Public Comment: [cac@sfwater.org](mailto:cac@sfwater.org)

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **1. Call to order and roll call at 5:42 pm**

Members present at roll call: (9) García, Jacuzzi, Algire, Sanders, Nagengast, Clary, Pinkston, Williams, and Perszyk

Members Absent: (5) Kott, Kight, Ochoa, Sandkulla, and Pierce

Staff: Jennifer Ly, Rickie Cleere, Blair Randall, and Metzali Andrade, Ronnie Versher

Members of the Public: Alex Lantsberg, Melissa Yu, and Jessica W.

\*Member Kott joined at 5:44 pm. Quorum maintained.

\*\*Member Ochoa joined at 6:25 pm. Quorum maintained.

### **2. Approve [March 15, 2022 Minutes](#)**

Motion was made (Perszyk) and seconded (Algire) to approve the March 15, 2022 Minutes as amended.

AYES: (10) García, Kott, Jacuzzi, Algire, Sanders, Nagengast, Clary, Pinkston, Williams, and Perszyk

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (4) Kight, Ochoa, Sandkulla, and Pierce

Public Comment: None

### **3. Report from the Chair**

- Welcome members, staff, and the public
- Ohlone Tribal Land Acknowledgement - [SF Public Library Acknowledgment](#)

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

- **Alex Lantsberg** commented that he is the Research and Advocacy Director for the San Francisco Electrical Construction Industry, and he was a past member of the CAC from 2004 to 2016 where he was a Chair of the Full CAC as well as the Wastewater Subcommittee.

Lantsberg wanted to bring labor environmental and environmental justice concerns regarding the California Community Power (CCA) Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to the attention of the CAC. He wanted to ask for the CAC's support in having CleanPowerSF take a leadership role in establishing strong transparency, EJ (Environmental Justice), and labor policies for the entire Joint Powers Authority. SFECI (San Francisco Electrical Construction Industry) and their colleagues in labor climate advocacy and environmental justice organizations across the state have been working for nearly a year and a half to persuade California Community Power, which is run by the General Managers of the 11 California Community Powers that make up the Joint Powers Authority, to adopt a set of strong policies for labor, climate, and environmental justice. Unfortunately, they have not been entirely successful. While they have made tremendous progress with the JPA Board adopting this set of interim policies for its first two projects, the Board has refused to make these policies permanent preferring to consider these questions in an ad hoc project by project basis and tie its permanent policy to the lowest standards of any of its individual members. Lantsberg was especially disappointed to report to the CAC that CleanPowerSF's General Manager, Barbara Hale, voted against the motion to adopt strong transparency environmental justice and labor policies for the entire JPA despite the SFPUC having instructed her to do so in its February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 resolution to approve joining the JPA. Lantsberg recognized today was not the day to discuss this issue in depth, but he hopes it can be placed in the upcoming Power Subcommittee agenda to discuss it and bring it up to the Full CAC as a resolution.

- **Melissa Yu** commented that she was with the Sierra Club and was there to echo what Lantsberg had mentioned. They have advocated for years for a CCA that would focus not only on clean energy but also on generating equitable community benefits. The Sierra Club would like the support of the CAC to urge the California Community Board, also known as the mega JPA with its 11 CCAs on the Board, to adopt a stronger environmental justice labor and environmental policy for all projects moving forward to avoid doing this work piecemeal. It has been frustrating having to advocate for transparency as well because having local community control is the reason why they fought so hard to have a CCA exist in the first place. They hope this can be agendized for the next meeting so they can have a more detailed conversation.
- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if the Power Subcommittee will parse out the pros and cons of the issue that was just raised to allow the remaining Committee members to better understand the pros and cons and how the CAC should respond to that.

**Chair García** responded affirmatively. He will also obtain information for members, but as this item was not on the agenda tonight, the member cannot discuss it.

5. **Discussion and Possible Action:** [Resolution Making Findings to Allow Teleconferenced Meetings Under California Government Code Section 54953\(e\)](#)

Motion was made (Jacuzzi) and seconded (Nagengast) to adopt the resolution.

The motion PASSED with the following votes:

AYES: (10) García, Kott, Jacuzzi, Algire, Sanders, Nagengast, Clary, Pinkston, Williams, and Perszyk

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (4) Kight, Ochoa, Sandkulla, and Pierce

Public Comment: None

**6. Presentation and Discussion: [Environmental Justice and Land Use Introduction](#)**, Jennifer Ly, Environmental Justice and Land Use Manager; Rickie Cleere, Environmental Justice and Land Use Analyst, External Affairs

*Presentation*

- Environmental Justice and Land Use Introduction
- Agenda
- Environmental Justice Refresher
- SFPUC Mission
- EJ + Community Benefits Policies
- Environmental Justice at SFPUC
- Clip of Land Acknowledgment
- Redlining 1930s
- Environmental Justice and Low-Income Areas in San Francisco
- Southeast Treatment Plant and Industrial Sites
- BDFP EJ Analysis, 2017
- BVHP Community Benefits
- EJ and Land Use Priorities
- Environmental Justice Priorities
- Current EJ Work
- Land Use Priorities
- Community Benefits Secondary Land Uses
- 1550 Evans Education Building Secondary Land Use Activation Brainstorm
- Thank you

*Discussion*

- **Member Sanders** asked if non-profits, businesses, and residents on Treasure Island would be eligible for any of the grants that were discussed. Treasure Island is a development zone, and this usually makes it ineligible for grants.

**Staff Ly** responded that the grants she discussed were specific to urban agriculture. They did review some environmental documents related to Treasure Island, and they have identified the need to better understand environmental justice impacts because there is the physical development project which is the wastewater facility. The SFPUC is looking for ways to support environmental justice on Treasure Island and have connected with some of their internal staff regarding the power outages that have been happening on the island. It is something they are interested in supporting from the environmental justice perspective. The specific grant opportunities that Staff Ly mentioned were specific to urban agriculture, but they are interested in learning more regarding Treasure Island.

**Staff Sanders** commented that he was a part of the EJ (Environmental Justice) group for Treasure Island. Sanders commented that one of the slides mentioned how all SFPUC customers had equal access to clean, reliable power. Sanders also commented that Staff Ly had said “citizens of San Francisco” and that this is nuanced because the SFPUC does not serve Treasure Island fully because it is under redevelopment.

**Staff Ly** responded that Sanders’ comment was noted.

- **Member Clary** asked if staff could discuss developing buffer zones or plantings between the Southeast Plant and homes.

**Staff Ly** responded that this was mentioned in the biosolids digester facilities project environmental justice report. The report contained many recommendations about various things such as plantings, pedestrian improvements, and lighting improvements. This is something they need to follow up on because Staff Ly can see why it was outside the jurisdiction of Community Benefits in a way, but it is identified as a follow up to the report. It is something they need to circle back with other departments who work on the physical development surrounding the facility. Staff Ly saw that as a mitigation to the Center itself, many physical improvements and operational things were done to help ensure that the community is better protected from construction. One such example was truck idling, which was worked in as part of the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) process. There were things that had to be done onsite for construction and the Community Benefits team followed up with the Environmental Justice Report’s recommendations for the facility. They will need to follow up to address the buffer zones post construction. It is complicated because it is part of another city department’s jurisdiction. They will follow up to see that the residential areas are better protected through a buffer.

**Member Clary** responded that community benefits are great, but they should augment, not replace, mitigation of impacts. It would be great to know who is responsible and how the SFPUC is coordinating with them.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented that he is curious about the money that has yet to be spent. Jacuzzi asked if there has been outreach to higher prioritize environmental justice areas or zones and how can an individual get to it.

**Staff Ly** responded that regarding the urban agricultural funds, there were three secondary land use sites that all needed some amount of work. Staff Ly came into this role and has been figuring out the history of those agreements and how those sites came to be. Traditionally, they have been urban agricultural sites. They are starting with the three sites and making sure they are flourishing while combining that with their look of environmental justice city-wide. They are trying to better address environmental justice impacts from a policy perspective going into the future. Regarding the specific sites, it is not just one grant. Staff Ly can share grants that the SFPUC’s watershed division has that people can apply for and added they want to encourage

people to apply for those. For the SFPUC's urban agricultural budget, the work has been about supporting their existing sites and making sure they are flourishing.

**Staff Cleere** commented that part of their work to update their equitable engagement guidelines will include finding better ways to reach environmental justice communities through their grant programs and encouraging them to apply to allow them to benefit more. Overall, they will try to identify how they can improve their outreach to environmental justice communities and how they can be included in the processes and programs going forward. They look forward to developing that more fully so that it can be implemented and piloted in other projects such as the green infrastructure grant program and other activities.

**Member Pinkston** commented that it would be so kind to include Black Communities in the beautification and ensure they are a part of the process and not displaced by the redevelopers. She would also love to be a part of the cleanup and food security.

**Member Jacuzzi** asked what the means of outreach are. Specifically, Jacuzzi asked if the SFPUC goes directly to group representatives, how SFPUC is getting to these people, and what are the means of outreach. He explained that he gets asked often about how to find more information as the SFPUC website is a black hole of information

**Staff Ly** responded that the equitable engagement guidelines are going to be a resource for staff for various grant programs that can be shared with the CAC. There are many grants that are available but are administered by other divisions. Staff Cleere mentioned the green infrastructure grant as an example. The SFPUC wants to get the word out about the types of grants that are available, and staff can come back with information about grant opportunities. Community Benefits is working with the people within the SFPUC who administer the grants to help support them and ensure that the engagement is more equitable. The expectation is that the guidelines would be used more by people who are planning projects, construction projects, and have regulatory requirements that they need to reach for outreach. The SFPUC also has another type of grants, such as the institutional green infrastructure grant, which is typically used by schools. The goal is to make sure that schools located in environmental justice communities are applying and not just schools that are already well resourced and not located in an environmental justice community. Those are some examples, but overall, Community Benefits does not administer those specific grant programs. They hope that their equitable engagement work supports the different divisions who administers that work to reach out to the people who need it the most. They will follow up with more grant opportunities and see what they can do to help support compiling them because the SFPUC website is expansive.

**Member Jacuzzi** suggested that whoever oversees the outreach portion gets the message that the environmental justice areas and people within those communities need direction on where to look for information and even if they need help to access these funds.

**Staff Alt** commented that maybe they can have the Equity and Community Engagement Communications team come to a future meeting to speak more about the different outreach avenues/processes.

**Chair García** responded that it was a great idea.

- **Member Algire** commented that it sounds like staff is just starting to deepen relationships with the indigenous tribes along the areas where the SFPUC owns land, which is great. Chair García has been doing some great work with starting land acknowledgements within the CAC. Algire heard staff mention land acknowledgements and wanted to express her interest in learning more about it as these relationships deepen and as work starts to get done around that. As a land-owning organization, there can be a great deal that can be done with that acknowledgement to start a relationship and potentially joining the larger phenomenon of land back. It is always complicated but Algire wanted to open that up and state it out loud especially for her fellow CAC members.
- **Member Pinkston** asked staff to provide a link to the grants because Pinkston has a non-profit called From the Heart located in Bayview Hunter's Point and has a partnership with the India Basin Park and the APRI (A. Philip Randolph Institute) and Pinkston would like to apply for these grants so that she can help the community.

**Staff Ly** provided the link <https://sfpuc.org/programs/grants>. She commented that they can also provide more detailed responses through Staff Sa and Staff Alt, but the link to the website should be a good starting point. They can also provide more detailed responses in writing after this meeting.

Public Comment: None

7. **Presentation and Discussion:** [Education Programs Update](#), Blair Randall, Arts and Education Program Manager; Metzali Andrade, College Hill Learning Garden Program Manager, Community Benefits

*Presentation*

- Update: Community Benefits Education Programs
- Agenda
- Doing our part to foster the next generation of environmental stewards.
- Big Ideas, Big Idea 1, Big Idea 2
- SFPUC's Big Ideas Integrated Project Based Learning at John O'Connell High School
- John O'Connell High School Students at Camp Mather and Hetch Hetchy
- Teachers in Training at the Bayview Science Institute
- Quote from Amy Berry, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Malcolm X Academy
- Water and Wastewater Educational Content for Young Children
- The SFPUC's College Hill Learning Garden
- Welcome to College Hill Learning Garden
- Education Overview: The Urban Stewards Program

- Fieldtrips to the SFPUC's College Hill Learning Garden have resumed
- Thank You

#### *Discussion*

- **Member Sanders** commented that he had a question regarding power outages on Treasure Island and how some of these community benefits were either eligible or not eligible for the island. He brought this up because there were eight outages in 2020 alone, which is roughly an outage every two weeks, but there have been 453 outages over 25 years. He was wondering whether any of these Community Benefits Programs had any eligibility for the island to stabilize the grid or provide other reasons.

**Staff Randall** responded that he could not speak to the power outages because his area of responsibility is arts and education, so he can answer questions about that. However, regarding their students and families, there are educational programs that the Community Benefits team offers. When they launched those programs, they had limited resources because it was just Staff Randall supporting educational programs for all the communities that the SFPUC served or impacted. The approach they took was to first create online educational opportunities for students and families whether they were in the SFPUC's service area or not. Second, they started piloting, trialing, and experimenting with deeper in-person investments in specific schools. That is how they landed on in-person educational investments largely surrounding the Bayview such as elementary schools in the Bayview and John McConnell High School. That is where they began focusing their in-person education and then began creating online educational and investment tools for all families and students. As they figure out what is really working, they can expand it to areas outside of the City and County such as Treasure Island or areas east of San Francisco. This trialing period is important because the SFPUC has some valuable learnings from these first educational investments. A simple but complex goal is getting children to understand that where their water comes from. This can allow them to dive into a number of complex and interesting literacy questions and lessons. The best way to engage students around SFPUC concepts is to deeply engage their teachers so that their teachers deeply know water, power, and sewer operations to share that with their students. They have found that a teacher externship is one of the most important things that the SFPUC does. They are currently looking at how they can expand the teacher externship opportunity to teachers outside of the City and County of San Francisco.

**Member Sanders** responded that it partially did. Much of the outreach that has been done within the community of Treasure Island was through One Treasure Island. Sanders was wondering if the SFPUC had done any educational programs with One Treasure Island or other nonprofits that operate on Treasure Island.

**Staff Randall** responded that not to his knowledge.

**Member Clary** commented that Treasure Island is a part of San Francisco.



- **Member Jacuzzi** asked whether the College Hill Learning Garden was large enough and located in a way that was accessible to students from across the City. Jacuzzi also asked if College Hill Learning Garden is large enough to accommodate one school year and how many students can it hold.

**Staff Blair** responded that it is not a large garden, but it is an impactful garden. The entire garden was purposely built as a teaching garden. Each piece of infrastructure contains lessons that the SFPUC hopes to teach about SFPUC water, power, and sewer operations. They started with an aspirational goal for the number of students, and since the garden has started, they have been trying to figure out the number of students they can serve because the garden is not that old. Pre-pandemic they were reliably serving 1,500 students per year with free field trips, which is the goal. There is a question around having a student come once or having a student come multiple times. The data might look more impressive if one student came and then another student came or one classroom and then another classroom. The SFPUC, though, has been going for deeper investments and deeper engagements so that a single classroom will come multiple times allowing them to absorb more of the varied lessons being taught there.

**Staff Andrade** commented that while they mainly serve students within a walking distance, they have had schools come from all over the City. She has had students come from the Inner Sunset and from the Marina, but they have predominantly come from Bernal Heights, Bayview, and Mission District. While the garden can comfortably serve around 20 students at a time, it can host around 30 to 40 students. The main concern about hosting large numbers of students in one visit is staffing capacity. Currently, Staff Andrade has been doing her best to serve as many students as possible with the support of chaperones and teachers as well.

**Member Jacuzzi** responded that he may be contacting Staff Andrade privately to find out more and share some ideas.

- **Chair García** asked Staff Andrade to remind CAC members where College Hill Learning garden is located.

**Staff Andrade** responded that the College Hill Learning Garden is located on Elsie Street in Bernal Heights. It is close to the College Hill Reservoir by Holly Park, which is the oldest reservoir in the City.

- **Chair García** commented that he was excited to hear that the Hetch Hetchy tours will be reopening. He was curious if those will be open to the members of the public beyond SFUSD (San Francisco Unified School District) students.

**Staff Randall** responded that they are trying to follow County guidelines and prioritize students in those operations. While a field trip is taking place, the gates are closed to the public. Once the SFPUC feels comfortable with staff and inviting members of the public in, they will begin doing that because it is a high priority for the Community Benefits team that neighbors can come to the College Hill Community Garden and experience it. It is a fantastic place to be and is not just a

wonderful resource for the neighbors but the entire City and County of San Francisco.

**Staff Alt** commented that they may need to reach out to Water/Communications on the update of for Hetch Hetchy Community Tours.

**Staff Andrade** commented that Staff Randall was spot on because they are prioritizing students at the garden and hope that as capacity is expanded, they can open their doors to community members as well. Staff Andrade asked if Chair García's question was about the College Hill Learning Garden or Camp Mather.

**Chair García** responded that it was a roundabout way of letting members on this Subcommittee know that there have been overnight trips to Hetch Hetchy, which he would highly recommend to folks when they reopen. They are a wonderful way to see the infrastructure of all the pipes that go down the Peninsula, across the Bay, throughout California's coastal range, and up to Hetch Hetchy. It is a great opportunity for CAC members to learn about the system themselves when they have a chance to do so.

**Staff Randall** commented that they should reach out to Communications regarding the tours. If a member of the public would like to go, the site is open to walk across the dam and reservoir.

Public Comment: None

#### 8. Staff Report

- The CAC will continue to meet remotely until further notice.
- It is normal practice for the SFPUC to invite CAC members on the community tours to Hetch Hetchy. Once the tours resume, Staff Alt or Staff Sa will extend an invitation.

Public Comment: None

#### 9. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

- Corruption and Accountability Measures – *tentatively* May
- Long-term Vulnerability Assessment – *tentatively* May
- Affordability and Assistance Programs – *tentatively* June
- Water Equity and Water Access for Homeless – *tentatively* June
- Hiring Practices
- Succession Planning – HR Practices
- Lake Merced
- Treasure Island Power and Outages
- Racial Equity – Composition of the Management Team
- Power Rate Increases
- Commissioners Visit
- Drought and Bay Delta Discussion
- CleanPowerSF and Hetch Hetchy Power Study Rates
- 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
- 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
- SECFC/CAC Joint Meeting

Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up

- Resolution for Continued Support and Budget for SFPUC Racial Equity Plan and Community Benefits [adopted on September 21, 2021](#)
- Resolution in Support of a Resilient Water Supply [adopted August 17, 2021](#)
- Resolution in Support of SB 612 Electrical Corporations and other Load-Serving Entities [adopted on July 20, 2021](#)
- Resolution in Supporting of the Transition of CleanPowerSF Residential Customers to Time-of-Use Rates [adopted on July 20, 2021](#)
- Resolution in Support of the Southern Skyline Boulevard Ridge Trail Extension project [adopted April 20, 2021](#)
- Resolution in Support of Interim Emergency Rate Assistance Program and Revised Community Assistance Program [adopted on 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

10. **Announcements/Comments** Please visit [www.sfpuc.org/cac](http://www.sfpuc.org/cac) for confirmation of the next scheduled meeting, agenda, and materials.

- **Member Douglas** brought up the Lake Merced West issue and how there is more space still available that could be used as a future learning site. He will update the CAC on any related public meetings.
- **Chair García** commented that there will be an Ocean Beach Project update on April 20, 2022.
- **Chair García** commented that the SFPUC Power Rate Study will be wrapping up next month. Nagengast has attended all the meetings and knows more about this.
- **Member Nagengast** commented that the Rate Fairness Board meeting is on April 20, 2022 where they will finalize some of the rates. There will be some big changes for City departments and citizens who are part of CleanPowerSF. The report will go to the Commission on May 10, 2022, and all the rates will be implemented July 1, 2022.
- **Chair García** commented that because of the timeline, the Power Subcommittee would not be able to see the report and the rates to

have a resolution go forward. The May 10, 2022 meeting will be circulated for CAC members if they want to provide public comments.

Public Comment: None

## **11. Adjournment**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.