



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

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, September 28, 2021
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

PARTICIPATE VIA BLUEJEANS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE

Meeting URL

<https://bluejeans.com/996668957/6289>

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[408.317.9253](tel:408.317.9253)

Meeting ID/Passcode

996 668 957 # / 6289

Mission: The Water Subcommittee reviews water supply system reliability, water conservation, recycling, regional cooperation efforts and other relevant plans and policies. ([Admin Code 5.140-142](#))

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@sfgwater.org. Comments submitted no later than 12 PM 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.

Members:

Jennifer Clary (Chair) (D11)	Suki Kott (D2)	Amy Nagengast (D8)
Nicole Sandkulla (M-Reg'l Water Customers)	Eliahu Perszyk (M-Large Water User)	

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@sfgwater.org

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 5:32pm

Members present at roll call: (4) Clary, Kott, Perszyk, Nagengast

Members Absent: (1) Sandkulla

Members of the Public: None

2. Approval of the [July 27, 2021](#) Minutes

Motion was made (Perszyk) and seconded (Nagengast) to approve the amended July 27, 2021 Minutes.

AYES: (4) Clary, Kott, Perszyk, Nagengast

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Sandkulla

Public Comment: None

3. Report from the Chair

- Chair welcomes committee members, staff, and the public
- The Resolution in Support of a Resilient Water Supply, adopted at the Full CAC meeting, was delivered to the Commission

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. Issue: [SFPUC Water Capital Programs Update](#), Katie Miller, Water Capital Programs Director, Infrastructure Division

Action: Understand the Water Enterprise capital program and what key changes have been made.

1. Are there any new projects since the last update of the 10-year Capital plan?
2. Have any projects been removed from the 10-year Capital plan?
3. Have any projects increased in cost by more than 10% in the last year?

Presentation

- Outline
- SFPUC Water Capital Budget
- SFPUC Water Capital Programs
- Water System Improvement Program
- WSIP Regional Program Status

- WSIP Projects – Completed and New
- WSIP Project Budget and Schedule Changes
- Calaveras Dam Replacement Project
- Alameda Creek Recapture Program
- Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery
- Hetch Hetchy Capital Improvement Program
- Hetch Hetchy Water 10-Year CIP
- HCIP Program Status (as of June 2021)
- HCIP Projects – Completed and New
- HCIP Project Budget and Schedule Changes
- Mountain Tunnel Improvements
- San Joaquin Pipelines (SJPL) Valve and Safe Entry Improvements
- Water Enterprise Capital Improvement Program
- SFPUC Water Enterprise CIP
- WECIP Program Status (2021 WECIP as of June 2021)
- WECIP Projects – Completed and New
- WECIP Project Budget and Schedule Changes
- Regional WECIP Projects (June 2021) - status
- Sunol Long Term Improvements
- Southern Skyline Blvd Ridge Trail Extension
- Local WECIP Projects (June 2021)
- Local Water Conveyance/Distribution System – Water Main Replacement
- Emergency Firefighting Water System (EFWS) Pipelines
- College Hill Reservoir Outlet
- San Francisco Groundwater Supply
- San Francisco Westside Recycled Water
- Questions

Discussion

- **Member Nagengast** commented that the presentation was comprehensive and well laid out. Member Nagengast commented that many of the projects were built on levels of service goals or motivations for why they went forward and asked if there is a data approach to understand the impacts of these projects.

Staff Miller replied that this is a very interesting question. The Revenue Bond Oversight Committee (RBOC) was discussing a performance audit, which is a similar question. The quarterly reports contain project descriptions that include the objective of each individual project. Other than that, there is no comprehensive report that describes how each of the projects fulfill levels of service goals. The budgeting process does include “scores”. Projects are prioritized based on the value that they contribute and the risk of failure and the consequence of failure, as well as regulatory compliance. A scoring criterion is used to help prioritize the projects. These might be included in the package submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

Member Nagengast commented that is important to have a connection between the rate increase and the benefits to the customers. It is also important to track performance and progress and be transparent about it.

- **Chair Clary** commented that she understands the need to use debt to fund the renewal and replacement program and she would like to understand if the SFPUC is doing 100% debt funded renewal and replacement or if the some funding comes from the annual budget. Chair mentioned that relying on debt alone makes her uncomfortable.

Staff Miller replied that she is not completely sure of the answer to that because she is not over the R&R projects. From her former experience working within water enterprise in the local water program, she believes the majority of renewal and replacement is not debt funded, and most of it is revenue funded. Some of it may be debt funded from time to time as needed or as appropriate.

- **Chair Clary** commented that the wastewater enterprise used emergency work orders as their level of service decades ago. Chair Clary then asked what the SFPUC's percentage of time spent on emergency repairs rather than scheduled repairs is. She also asked if that is tracked to understand if emergency over time repairs in the distribution system are being reduced.

Staff Miller replied that the distribution division did try to use that as a metric to look at the time and the money being spent on emergency repairs versus the investment on capital improvements. That was one of the ways used in 2011 to justify increasing the main replacement program to the level that it is now and to prevent failures. The idea is to find the ideal balance between emergency repairs and replacement of aging infrastructure.

- **Chair Clary** commented that she was not familiar with the Lake Merced water level restoration project and the this was already at sustainable levels. Chair Clary asked what decision has been made on that.

Staff Miller replied that she believes that SFPUC is still working with Daly City as they will be constructing a treatment facility for storm water overflow that will be diverted into Lake Merced. Staff Miller believes they are about to go under construction and that the idea is to divert storm water into Lake Merced.

- **Chair Clary** asked if the goal of the project is to restore lake levels or is it to address the storm water issues that caused damage years ago.

Staff Miller replied that it is looking at that as well as helping with the flooding. It entails flood relief as well as better use of the water rather than just discharging it out into the ocean.

- **Chair Clary** commented that she is in favor of it. Chair Clary mentioned that it was a spectacular presentation.

Member Kott added that the slides were great.

Staff Miller replied that she appreciates the opportunity to share with the CAC. The SFPUC is doing fantastic work even through COVID.

Public Comment: None

6. **Issue:** [Emergency Firefighting Water System Update](#), John Scarpulla, Director of Strategic Initiatives, External Affairs

Action: Track implementation of the EFWS capital program to boost fire protection in all neighborhoods of San Francisco

Resources:

- [EFWS Seawater Supply Pre-Feasibility Study](#)
- [SPA Report re Fire Following Earthquake Water Requirements Study](#)

Presentation

- What is the EFWS?
- Original EFWS Map – red dots are hydrants/pipelines and blue dots are cisterns
- Westside Potable EFWS Updates – under construction
- Civil Grand Jury Recommendations
- Citywide Plan – due 12/31
- Demands
- Water Supply Sources
- Preliminary Draft Potential Pipelines
- Next Steps – Programmatic
- Questions?

Discussion

- **Member Perszyk** asked what the criteria are to decide which locations get priority for the draft segments.

Staff Scarpulla replied that the citywide may not get to the level presented. The first phase covers the Sunset, the Richmond, and the West Side and that is funded. It is expected that interested stakeholders will want to discuss what pipes are next. There will be a balance of engineering, firefighters, and politics involved. There will be a lot of input on how to prioritize the next pipes. From an engineering and firefighting approach, an argument can be made that it is necessary to start with the areas with the lowest amount of high-pressure water right now. This approach would support starting with districts 7, 11, and 10. However, this is a political project which affects the approach.

- **Member Perszyk** commented that he understands that it is political process, but it would be helpful to have objective and clear.

Staff Scarpulla agreed. He added that the plan will be presented without politics and based on the facts of the engineering. It will consider the existing coverage, types of building materials that were used, and fire risks.

- **Member Nagengast** asked what can be expected in the EFWS action plan. Nagengast asked if there are going to be any performance criteria included to help navigate away from the political side of the project.

Staff Scarpulla replied that there will be a demand. We need to meet these firefighting demands based on a model of a 7.8 earthquake. Some areas are closer to meeting their demand than other areas. This action plan is going to have demands, pipelines, and water sources to meet those demands. There will be a map with water sources connected to these pipelines, and it is based on these demands that need to be met throughout the City.

- **Member Kott** commented that she did not see a link to the slides in the agenda.

Chair Clary commented that the presentation slides were sent via email.

- **Chair Clary** commented that the CAC did not receive the June 30th reports mentioned earlier. Chair Clary asked staff to send links to those reports.

Staff Scarpulla replied that he will share the report with the CAC.

- **Chair Clary** asked what will be produced by the end of the year: a final report with recommendations, a study, or a draft?

Staff Scarpulla replied that the Civil Grand Jury calls for a citywide plan. The BLA (Budget Legislative Analyst) is working on a funding source's report as is the Office of Resilience and Capital Planning. The recommendations of the Civil Grand Jury have multiple parties linked to it. The plan should cover recommendations on pipelines, water sources, and funding sources.

- **Chair Clary** commented that she wants to reinforce what her colleagues have said, which is that she trusts there will be objective criteria for determining what needs to happen. Otherwise, it will be hard for people to not just push for their neighborhood first.

Staff Scarpulla replied affirmatively. He thinks they had success when they worked with the supervisors, the Commission, and the CAC around the West Side Project. The Sunset and Richmond had no pipelines, so that is where they started. There are other neighborhoods that have a half mile pipeline and these neighborhoods can be next.

- **Chair Clary** commented that it seems like the plan is very focused on residential protection and that there is not much coverage in industrial areas, such as Bayview.

Staff Scarpulla replied that he does not have that granularity. The preliminary draft is just a potential draft. We will have a better idea in November or December.

- **Chair Clary** commented that she is looking at Bayshore and trying to understand that.
- **Chair Clary** commented that being a resident of District 11 and wanting to represent Member Ekanem who had similar concerns about District 10, the CAC will be looking very closely at the proposals for how this will happen and when. Chair Clary pointed out that the area between District 10 and 11 has had a couple of grass fires over the last couple years. Maybe that is not an earthquake issue, but this is still one of the few areas that is prone to grass fires in San Francisco.

Staff Scarpulla replied that the plan does not include the low-pressure system. All the hydrants are available for fighting something like a grass fire. This system is meant for post-seismic where the low-pressure system potentially is not functioning. When the neighborhood demands were done this time, parks were included. This round includes fire demands at McLaren Park and Golden Gate Park. We are taking into consideration the possibility of grassfires, especially in large parks. There are also gas lines that could cause a fire at Golden Gate Park, McLaren Park, or other vegetated areas.

- **Member Perszyk** commented that he thinks a lot of progress has been made since he last heard about this project.

Staff Scarpulla replied that the interest from the CAC has been one of the key drivers. Hopefully within the next three months or so, a more developed map, including water sources, might be presented to the CAC.

- **Chair Clary** asked if plans need to be presented to the CAC before being submitted.

Staff Scarpulla replied that the presentation prior to the submittal is not written into the ordinance. It requires just ongoing engagement with the CAC. A December update is possible.

- **Chair Clary** commented that it is unclear if the subcommittee will meet on November 21. Chair Clary will let Full CAC Chair Ekanem know that the plan will be available in December. If the presentation is scheduled for January instead of December, the CAC could review the plan then and have more specific questions.

Staff Scarpulla replied affirmatively.

- **Chair Clary** asked whether this is going to be heard at the Committee level by the Board of Supervisors in January or February.

Staff Scarpulla replied that is what it usually is. The Board of Supervisors will probably want a preview like this presentation and a more detailed presentation after the plan is concluded

Public Comment: None

7. Staff Report

- The Commission approved Dennis Herrera's contract and he is scheduled to start on November 1st
- Full CAC Chair Ekanem will be presenting the CAC Annual Report to the Commission on October 12th

Public Comment: None

Questions

- **Member Nagengast** commented that she saw an email that Chair Clary sent about the CAC Water Priorities.

Chair Clary replied that the priorities will be discussed in future meetings

- **Staff Sa** commented that the Annual Report final report needs to be submitted by October 4th, which is next Monday. The water priorities will be the ones as discussed during the Full CAC meeting.

Public Comment: None

8. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

Members briefly discussed future agenda items that reflect their priorities for FY 2021-2022.

- **Chair Clary** commented that the Bay Delta Plan and the Voluntary Settlement Agreement were covered by last month's Resolution. She would like to add Drought and Water Conservation as a priority as well.
- **Member Perszyk** suggested agendaizing the climate change report when it is concluded.

Chair Clary agreed.

- **Chair Clary** commented that last week's Water Board meeting had presentations from Water Board Staff, Department of Water Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Office of Emergency Services to explain what is going on with the drought. The SFPUC is not being sufficiently serious about the real problem. Other parts of the state are completely running out of water, fishes are dying because the water temperatures are too warm, and the flows are too low. Chair Clary then asked how to push the SPUC to be more visible in discussing drought and the impacts of drought and invited members to schedule a meeting to discuss long-term water supply.

Member Nagengast asked whether Chair Clary is thinking more of educating constituents about drought that is not in our backyard or implementing projects or policies.

Chair Clary commented that there is a 15% conservation goal that the Governor proposed several months ago, and it is not easily found on the website. It would be good to understand what the SFPUC is doing, and how customers are being informed about the need to conserve.

Member Nagengast commented that she was thinking if she has been contacted about conservation and if SFPUC is doing anything.

Chair Clary replied that she does not think the SFPUC is communicating it in an appropriate or responsible manner.

- **Member Perszyk** asked whether such a communication would be tied into diversification.

Chair Clary commented that people need to be informed about the need to diversify our water supply.

Chair Clary suggested adding an update from the Natural Resources Division. The CAC usually gets an update on the Environmental Stewardship Program and Public Access.

- **Member Perszyk** suggested something about integrating tribal leaders into land management.

Chair Clary commented that she thinks that is a great idea.

Standing Subjects

- Groundwater
- Water Quality

Specific Subjects

- Budget Drought and COVID Impacts – *tentatively November*
- Racial Equity Plan Water Enterprise – *tentatively November*
- Emergency Firefighting Water System Update – *tentatively January*

- Drought and Conservation
- Climate Change Report
- Natural Resources and Land Management Division Update
- Integrating Tribal Leaders into SFPUC Land Management Decisions
- State Board Water Rights
- Debate about Bay Delta – Member Sandkulla suggested everyone watch the February 5, 2021 Commission workshop about the Voluntary Agreement
- Affordability
- COVID and Long-term Affordability Program
- Impact of Climate Change on Water Supply
- Hetch Hetchy Water and Power Division Update
- State Policy and Programs on Affordability or Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA)
- Bay Delta Plan and voluntary settlement agreement
- Legislative Update
- State of the Regional Water System Report – Bi-annual report
- Drought resilience: 3-year water supply update
- Water Equity and Homelessness
- State of Local Water Report
- Retail Conservation Report
- Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant tour – *tentatively Fall 2021*

Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up

- 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 July 21, 2020](#)
- Resolution in Support of Improved Communications Related to the San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project [adopted August 21, 2018](#)
- Resolution in Supporting Stewardship and Public Access in the Redeveloped Lake Merced West Property [adopted in March 15, 2016](#)
- Resolution on Impacts of Drought on System Maintenance and Improvements [adopted January 19, 2016](#)

Public Comment: None

9. **Announcements/Comments** Please visit www.sfpuc.org/cac for final confirmation of the next scheduled meeting, agenda and materials.

10. **Adjournment**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.