



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

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, January 26, 2021
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

PARTICIPATE VIA BLUEJEANS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE

Meeting URL

<https://bluejeans.com/227144419>

Phone Dial-in

408.317.9253

Meeting ID

227 144 419#

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: Tracy Zhu and Mayara Ruski Augusto Sa
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

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

Members present at roll call: (5) Clary, Sandkulla, Kott, Perszyk, Nagengast

Members Absent: (0)

Staff: Steve Ritchie, Matt Moses

Members of the Public: None

2. **Approval** of the [November 24, 2020](#) Minutes

Motion was made (Sandkulla) and seconded (Nagengast) to approve November 24, 2020 Minutes.

AYES: (5) Clary, Sandkulla, Kott, Perszyk, Nagengast

NOES: (0)

Public Comment: None

3. **Report from the Chair**

- Chair welcomed committee members, staff, and the public
- Announced District 5 member has left the subcommittee

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: Water Enterprise Mid-Cycle Budget Adjustments**, Steven Ritchie, Assistant General Manager, Water Enterprise

Presentation:

- The mid-cycle budget on the operating side had the wholesale customer demand go up as more people are staying home. The demand has been strong as well as the revenues.
- Water Operating Budget Requests: lists fifteen proposals/programs
- Among the proposals, AGM Ritchie highlighted the Water Enterprise Racial Equity Program, Facilities Management Services, maintaining new facilities in the regional water system, and Wildfire Mitigation.
- Wildfire Risk Reduction: additional crew staff.
- Wildfire Mitigation: probably funding to off budget positions.
- Challenge with delinquencies: usually .4% on the retail side for delinquencies, and it has been up to 1.2%. Waiting for bill relief to help residents that cannot afford their water bills.
- Capital: there was realignment on funding for Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant and Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant. Funding from a Sunol project was redirected to Harry Tracy. This was the only change for the next ten-year plan.

- Hetch Hetchy: there was a reduction in funding for the Moccasin Dam long-term improvements that were probably overfunded. The reduction was needed to maintain coverage ratio. The \$25 million reduction in project cost will take effect in FY25-26.
- SFPUC will not be laying off employees.

Discussion:

- **Member Sandkulla** asked about the Racial Equity Program and if the staff to be hired is a senior level person.

AGM Ritchie responded it will probably be an 1824 position, which is a Senior Program Analyst. There is also funding for consulting services.

- **Member Sandkulla** asked about the increase in funding for Climate Change and if the increase is associated to something in particular or if it is funding for the ongoing study.

AGM Ritchie answered the ongoing study is fully funded, but the SFPUC is anticipating follow up work.

- **Member Kott** asked if people that saved assets during the past fire season are included in the budget.

AGM Ritchie answered that they are existing watershed keepers that have been in the budget and will be kept in the budget for a long time.

- **Chair Clary** asked about the four new positions for new facilities maintenance and if the new facilities are not already covered.

AGM Ritchie answered that the SFPUC has been adding facilities to the regional water system and staff to maintain those facilities were needed. The goal is to be well staffed.

- **Chair Clary** offered support if necessary.

AGM Ritchie clarified that the \$1.1 million is for an Education Center in the Bayview Facility and the fifteen Tesla Water Cottages. Managing the leases and facilities might require a contractor to take on that responsibility.

- **Member Nagengast** asked about succession planning and how the budget supports that initiative.

AGM Ritchie explained that it does not necessary support that initiative, but remedies specific holes that have been identified.

- **Member Nagengast** commented she supports the Racial Equity Plan and asked about the people that are retiring and how to fund that with new budget requests and asked about current vacancies.

AGM Ritchie said it is close to 150 vacancies. There is an effort to identify the most critical positions.

- **Member Nagengast** asked about the gap that needs to be filled and its reflection on budget.

AGM Ritchie commented that the plan is to identify the most critical positions and get a backup to those positions.

Public Comment: None

6. **Presentation and Discussion: SFPUC Regional Water System Water Supply and Demand Worksheet**, Steven Ritchie, Assistant General Manager, Water Enterprise; Matt Moses, Engineer, Water Enterprise

Resources:

- [Draft User Guide for SFPUC Water Supply and Demand Worksheet](#)
- [Draft SFPUC Regional Water System Water Supply and Demand Worksheet](#)

Presentation:

- The presentation will be high level overview of the worksheet that describes the water supply planning process.
- The worksheet includes a high-level summary of the water system demand forecast between 2025 and 2040
- The numbers are from the last time the Urban Water Management Plan was updated in 2015
- New numbers will be added in the Spring 2021
- The demand numbers start with the full retail demand for water and then conservation and demands that are met through other retail water supplies are subtracted, which reduce demand on the original water system
- The worksheet is password protected and that prevents most numbers from being changes. The white cells allow the public to change those values and see its impact on demand.
- Spreadsheet Result: comparison of demand projections and the water supplies that can be produced by the Regional Water System.
- Wholesale Projections' Section: start with the total demand projections by the wholesale agencies and subtract the water supplies from other sources, such as groundwater, non-regional water projects, recycled water, and conservation.
- Retail and wholesale demands are added together for the total demand on Regional Water.
- Wholesale section detail has a user selectable choice for the inclusion if the two interruptible customers San Jose and Santa Clara. If the user wants to see what demands look like without these customers, that is possible. This illustrates the effect of San Jose and Santa Clara on the system demands.
- Demand is compared to water supply in terms of yield: there is a firm yield of the system and a yield associated with the rationing policy. The Total System Yield is the combination of the two types of yield, and it is what is compared to Total Demand.
- New Water Supply Projects: alternative water supply projects that can be added to the worksheet. When projects are further along, the yield of each project might be included in the worksheet. The user can play with these options and explore different water supply gaps.
- Potential New Contributions to Tuolumne River: two numbers have been calculated in the worksheet: one reflects the Bay-Delta Plan updated that was adopted by the State Water Board in 2018, and the other value built in the worksheet is a version of the Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement Flow Schedule. The Voluntary Agreement is a work in progress and the value represents the version what was shown to the Commission last summer.
- The user can add the year in which the contributions start. Other projects might affect the water supply.
- The user may request a change to the SFPUC Design Drought Sequence. The users may require running a more detailed water supply

model to estimate the effects of changing the Design Drought Sequence. It includes the Sequence itself and the Rationing Program that is included.

- The Rationing Program assume to be used contributes to yield. The Rationing represents water not delivered that the SFPUC cut back in a planned way. Total yield is the Firm Yield plus the Rationing Policy.
- The user may adjust the Wholesale Supply Assurance: this relates to the interruptible customers.
- The Draft User Guide has Instructions on how to change the values.

Discussion:

- **Member Perszyk** asked who are the potential users, and what is the outreach plan?

AGM Ritchie responded that potential users are anyone. Certainly NGOs, Tuolumne River Trust, wholesale customers, and people that participated in the workshop that took place a couple weeks ago. Everyone was invited to an instructional workshop and materials will be published to our website. The worksheet might be used to respond to questions by the Commissioners.

- **Chair Clary** asked workshop attendees to share their experience.

Member Kott answered that the workshop was very thorough and the written documentation was useful.

- **Member Nagengast** asked if the training will be recorded and published alongside the tool and the User Guide.

Staff Moses answered that training was recorded and can be made available. The training took about an hour. The User Guide describes each section individually and the nuances found therein. Questions can also be emailed.

- **Member Nagengast** asked where the water is from, and what is the link between the yields and Hetch Hetchy.

Staff Moses explained that the firm yield numbers represent total deliveries to the service area from all sources. That is based on a model that is used to simulate the entire Regional Water System, including supplies from Hetch Hetchy and all water sources, such as the Bay Area Reservoirs and Water Sheds, groundwater wells in the Peninsula, instream flow, recapture element in the Alameda Creek System. The firm yield number represent all the sources in the Regional Water System.

- **Member Nagengast** asked about the impact of climate change in the possible yields. The community would benefit from learning about the impact of climate change.

Staff Moses answered that climate change projections are not included. The system model incorporates a drought planning device called a Design Drought, which is based on two historic drought periods. The Design Drought is conservative as a planning tool and it probably captures some decrease in future water supply. However, it is using historical hydrology to plan for the future. The AGM Ritchie mentioned the vulnerability study that the SFPUC is working on and that includes climate change and impacts on water supply. The impact of climate change will probably be included on the next version of the water supply

toll and the worksheet. They agree that that is an important issue to deal with.

AGM Ritchie mentioned that the decrease of precipitation might be able to be used to show measurable effects.

- **Chair Clary** asked if that is how climate planning works.

AGM Ritchie answered that there all a lot of elements that go into climate planning and that would be one very simple version of that.

- **Chair Clary** asked if this tool has been presented to the Commission.

AGM Ritchie answered positively and explained that there were training sessions in groups of two. It was presented in summary fashion. The presentation was done in the workshop.

- **Chair Clary** commented that one driver is the tool that the Tuolumne River Trust put together and that is was considered insufficient. It does not feel like the numbers have a meaning. Since we have a storage dependent system, it would be more interesting to understand the storage level which different levels of conservation and other measures are triggered. The basic numbers are not the same with every water year. A better understanding of how the numbers change depending on the water year make a lot more sense. The shorthand we are using does not make sense anymore.

AGM Ritchie answered that storage levels are usually considered too confusing, but that he likes them.

- **Chair Clary** commented she did not say that, and she does not think storage levels are confusing. Chair Clary suggested basing the numbers on storage level and how long the storage levels would last during a drought. It is misleading to based it on a year instead of storage levels. This also helps people to understand their personal sacrifice.

AGM Ritchie answered that rationing levels are included in the planning drought, but it is a planning drought in which all other information is considered. In the 2013 period, we did not reach our rationing trigger but started to reduce demand to be prudent. Our design drought numbers got overtaken by the State's regulations.

Staff Moses offered to answer follow-up questions by emailing questions to Worksheet@sfgwater.org or to him and the AGM directly.

- **Chair Clary** asked if direct potable reuse is in the list of Alternative Water Supply Projects, and if that is the Crystal Springs Purified Water.

Staff Moses answered positively. Crystal Springs Purified Water is indirect potable.

AGM Ritchie said that the retail side has a direct potable project.

Staff Moses explained that the project called ACWD/USD Purified Water could have a direct potable water element. The Union Sanitary District (USD) is in the East Bay and our Bay Division pipeline runs through.

AGM Ritchie stated that the worksheet expressly includes purified water. It is also possible to add a revised version in the white box.

- **Chair Clary** mentioned that the CAC has toured the pilot project. It included a presentation about the New Water project in Singapore.

Public Comment: None

7. Staff Report

- Staff Sa asked the Subcommittee members about the interest in shifting the March meeting to April to learn about the Urban Water Management Plan & Alternative Water Supplies during the public comment period. The public comment period will be from April 5th to May 5th. The Commission will hear the item on April 13th and is not expected to act until June.
- Chair Clary explained that more time to analyze the UWMP after release is preferred, so the first week of April is probably not an option. Chair Clary suggested the UWMP be presented to the Full CAC on April 20, and the Water Subcommittee would hold a special meeting on April 27, 2021, to further discuss the plan.
- Water CAC members agreed that the UWMP should be presented to the Full CAC on April 20, 2021, and the Water Subcommittee could hold a special meeting on April 27, 2021, to further discuss the UWMP and provide input and feedback.
- Member Nagengast highlighted that the presentation should compare the 2015 UWMP and the current one to better understand what has changed.
- Water CAC members also agreed to keep the March 23, 2021 meeting.

Public Comment: None

8. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

Standing Subjects

- Ground Water
- Water Quality
- Emergency Firefighting Water System and the Bond Funded Program – *tentatively March 16 Full CAC Meeting*

Specific Subjects

- Urban Water Management Plan & Alternative Water Supplies – *tentatively April 20 Full CAC Meeting and follow-up discussion Water Subcommittee meeting on April 27*
- Groundwater Project - *tentatively March 2021*
- Annual Water Quality Report - *tentatively Spring 2021*
- Debate about Bay Delta – Member Sandkulla suggested everyone watch the February 5, 2021 Commission workshop about the Voluntary Agreement.
- Climate Change – report update
- Affordability
- Racial Equity Plan Water Enterprise
- Natural Resources and Land Management Division Update
- 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 due to BAWSCA in September 2020
- 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 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](#)

8. **Announcements/Comments** – The next meetings for the Water CAC will be on March 23, 2021 and April 27, 2021. Please visit www.sfwater.org/cac for final confirmation of the next scheduled meeting, agenda and materials.

9. **Adjournment**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.