

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

**MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, October 17, 2017  
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
525 Golden Gate Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Tuolumne Conference Room**

**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.

**Members:**

<b>Wendy Aragon, Chair (D1)</b>	Jasmine Conrad (D7)	Nicole Sandkulla (M-Reg'l Water Customers)
Suki Kott (D2)	Amy Nagengast (D8)	VACANT (M-Eng./Financial)
Leslie DeTaillandier (D3)	Ernesto Martinez (D9)	Nathaniel Kinsey (M-Lg Water User)
Amy Zock (D4)	Anietie Ekanem (D10)	Owen O'Donnell (B-Small Business)
Ted Loewenberg (D5)	Jennifer Clary (D11)	Misty McKinney (B-Env Justice)
Matthew Steen (D6)	Paige Miller (M-Env.Group)	

M = Mayoral appointment, B = Board President Appointment

Staff Liaisons: Tracy Zhu, Alexandra Johnson

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- Call to order and roll call:** The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm  
  
Members present at roll call: (11) Aragon, Kott, Zock, Loewenberg, Steen, Martinez, Miller, Sandkulla, Kinsey, O'Donnell, McKinney  
  
Members absent at roll call: (5) DeTaillandier, Conrad, Nagengast, Ekanem, Clary  
  
Members of public: (1) Michael Sizemore
- Approve [September 19, 2017](#) Meeting Minutes**  
  
Motion was made by (Loewenberg) and seconded (Sandkulla) to approve the [September 19, 2017](#) meeting minutes.  
  
AYES: (11) Aragon, Kott, Zock, Loewenberg, Steen, Martinez, Miller, Sandkulla, Kinsey, O'Donnell, McKinney  
  
NOES: (0)  
  
ABSENT: (5) DeTaillandier, Conrad, Nagengast, Ekanem, Clary
- Public Comment:** None

**Edwin M. Le**  
Mayor

**Anson Mora**  
President

**Ike Kwo**  
Vice President

**Ann Moller Cae**  
Commissioner

**Francesca Vieto**  
Commissioner

**Vince Courtne**  
Commissioner

**Harlan L. Kelly, J**  
General Manager



4. **Report from the Chair** – Chair Wendy Aragon
- Welcome members of the public and staff
  - Nate Kinsey has been appointed to the Power CAC Chair position.
  - Crocker Amazon Community Farm Opening Celebration has been postponed to November 12, 12-4pm, due to air quality concerns over this past weekend.

Public Comment: None

5. **Staff Report**

- New staff introduced themselves: Todd Elmer, Director of Communications, Tyler Gamble, Deputy Director of Communications and Jay Kairam, Deputy Assistant General Manager of External Affairs.
- Staff informed CAC members that later this year, SFPUC will be reaching out to a number of organizations that members are affiliated with regarding scheduling a presentation on the water and sewer rates in early 2018.
- Staff provided links to the following resources:
  - [Updated Organizational Chart](#)
  - [Community Benefits Policy and Environmental Justice Policy Progress Report](#)
  - [Sewer System Improvement Program Jobs & Contracts Report](#)

Topics of Discussion:

- Member Kott suggested that Groundwater information on the PUC website be more accessible.

Public Comment: None

**Member Ekanem** arrived at 5:36pm, quorum maintained

6. **Presentation and Discussion:** [Programmatic Strategies for Flood Resilience](#), Stefani Harrison, Project Manager, Infrastructure Division

Presentation Topics:

- Core Flooding in Various Design Storms
- 5- Year Design Storm
- History of Collection System Design System
- SFPUC's Level of Service Goal of Stormwater Management
- Meeting Our Level of Service
- Flood Resilience Study Policy Alternatives
- Capital Projects vs. Programmatic Strategies
- Programmatic Strategies for Flood Resilience: Core Flood Risk Area (25-Year Storm)
- Dry Flood Proof: Commercial Example
- Wet Flood Proof: Residential Example
- Example Eligibility Process for Grant Assistance
- Programmatic Strategies for Flood Resilience: Core Flood Risk Area (25-Year Storm)
- Proposed Programmatic Strategies for Flood Resilience
- Programmatic Strategies for Flood Resilience: Notification Area (100-Year Storm)
- Programmatic Strategies for Flood Resilience Citywide
- Next Steps
- Discussion

Topics of Discussion:

- Member Loewenberg scrutinized the flooding program's funding model, claiming the benefits were shared by non-ratepayers. Stefani justified the funding by referring to the Flood Resilience Study, presented to the CAC in 2016, which illustrated that property damage is the greatest economic impact of flooding, so the benefit of reducing flooding is primarily for property owners i.e. ratepayers.
- The committee asked where the funding for the grants come from. Stefani informed its source to be from the Wastewater Operating Budget.
- The committee asked if property owners are aware if they are in a flooding zone and the cost of a valve installation. Stefani informed that these flooding maps are not currently finalized, but once done, the agency seeks to make the maps publicly available. Due to flooding in the recent years, property owners are aware of the risk. The unit cost for an installed valve is roughly \$2500, but the cost can vary widely from site to site depending on the plumbing configuration and interior finish materials.
- The committee referred to a past Rate Study presentation to the CAC and asked if the agency will recover some of its costs from charging customers for their stormwater contribution that burdens the sewer system i.e. parking lots. Stefani clarified that there is still a Stormwater fee planned for future rates.
- The committee asked whether flood maps would require property owners to have insurance similar to federal requirements in FEMA flood plains. Stefani informed that FEMA's federal status can use mortgage approval as a trigger to require flood insurance in flood prone areas, but PUC has no such trigger. However, individual lenders could require flood insurance using the flood maps. Flood insurance in areas that are not designated as FEMA flood zones is relatively inexpensive.
- The committee asked how applying for backflow prevention device for HOAs would work. Stefani clarified that it is per property owner e.g. in an apartment building, the landlord of the property would be responsible. In a condo, each property owner would be responsible for applying for funding for a backflow prevention device, and for a communal space the HOA would apply.
- The committee expressed concern for low income areas e.g. Islas Creek, that would not be able to afford flooding insurance. Stefani reassured that equity is being integrated into all aspects of flood resilience programs. The Mayor specifically inquired about using the Utility User Fee to fund flood insurance premiums for low income.
- Member O'Donnell scrutinized the presentation for not including incentives to divert stormwater from the system i.e. rain catchment systems and impermeable sidewalks. He suggested that the agency improve its rain catchment system incentives. Stefani informed that the presentation was intentionally focused on flooding and suggested attending the WWE Committee meeting in November for an in depth presentation on the collection system and stormwater management. Green Infrastructure can manage stormwater well in a small storm, but can be very costly to design for storms large enough to cause flooding.

Public Comment: None

**Member Martinez** left at 6:13pm, quorum maintained

7. **Presentation and Discussion:** [Legislative Update](#), Emily Lam, Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs, External Affairs Division

Presentation Topics:

- Policy and Government Affairs Update
- Top Bills in Each Enterprise
- Power Projects
- Thank You!

Topics of Discussion:

- Chair Aragon asked what steps are needed for publicly owned power. Emily explained that the interconnection operation is a costly issue even just for municipal owned building to be powered by the agency.
  - The committee pointed out that the Interconnection Operations are affecting ambulance deployment.
- Member Kinsey asked what the policy resolution would be to resolve the interconnection operation challenges. Emily informed there is limited information. Vacancies on FERC and thus inaction at FERC have meant the agency is operating under a lot of uncertainty. However public support is a good start.
- Member Sandkulla requested more information on the interconnection operation, ideally a more in depth presentation, so that the committee can learn how to better support the PUC.

Public Comment:

- Michael Sizemore asked if the agency is considering deploying off-grid solutions and if there were any public comment on SB-649 regarding a delay in renewable energy plans. He also suggested that the presentation include the impacts of the interconnection operations on Treasure Island.

**8. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions**

- Rates, Budget and 10 Year Financial Budget Planning Update (*tentative*)
- Training on advancing the work of the utility through an equity lens – Chair Aragon (*tentative*)
- Strategic Plan Update
- Climate Change
- Land Management Framework Policy Update
- Compliance with Prop 218
- Contracting Process
- Communications/Customer Experience on Website
- Water Equity and Water Access for Homeless
- Resolution in support of SSIP CityWorks Interns' recommendations
- Biannual Elections

Topics of Discussion:

- Member Sandkulla suggested that to contact staff to provide a presentation on Climate Change.
- Member Zock volunteered to take the lead on coordinating a pot-luck for the December meeting.

Public Comment: None

**9. Announcements/Comments** – The next meeting for the Full CAC will be on November 21.

**10. Adjournment**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

MINUTES