



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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022  
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE**

**Meeting URL**

<https://sfwater.zoom.us/j/89615640860?pwd=SisvQTJiY1RzaHlsRUsyMWZtaTg2QT09>

**Phone Dial-in**

669.219.2599

Find your local number: <https://sfwater.zoom.us/j/kcC8mPIGhP>

**Meeting ID/Passcode**

896 1564 0860 / 277625

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 5:37 pm**

Members present at roll call: (9) García, Kott, Jacuzzi, Sanders, Ochoa, Nagengast, Sandkulla, Williams, and Perszyk

Members Absent: (5) Kight, Algire, Clary, Pinkston, and Pierce

Staff presenters: General Manager Herrera, Alexis Dufour, and Ellen Levin

Members of the Public: Peter Drekeimer

\*Member Pinkston joined at 5:45 pm. Quorum maintained.

### **2. Approve [April 19, 2022 Minutes](#)**

Amendment: Chair García proposed an amendment to remove the name Alice B. Toklas as member of the public that attended the meeting as described in item 1 of the minutes.

Motion was made (Perszyk) and seconded (Nagengast) to approve the April 19, 2022 Minutes as amended.

AYES: (9) García, Kott, Jacuzzi, Sanders, Ochoa, Nagengast, Sandkulla, Williams, and Perszyk

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (5) Kight, Algire, Clary, Pinkston, and Pierce

Public Comment: None

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

- Welcome members, staff, and the public
- Ohlone Tribal Land Acknowledgement - [SF Public Library Acknowledgment](#)
- Water AGM Steve Ritchie provides the Commission with a drought condition update at every meeting. Chair García provided links to the update given on May 10: [recording](#) and [presentation slides](#)
- At last month's meeting the CAC had two members of the public provide comment regarding the California Community Power Joint Powers Authority. Alex Lantsberg, director of Research and Policy for the San Francisco Electric Construction Industry provided some additional information for the members. The Power subcommittee will be adding this to their agenda.

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

- **Peter Drekmeier** commented that he is the Policy Director for the Tuolumne River Trust. Drekmeier commented that the six workshops that the SFPUC held recently worked well because the Tuolumne River Trust was given a panel, they had a live time conversation with the Commissioners and SFPUC staff, and a great deal of information was shared that benefited the Commissioners. Drekmeier commented that this format where he only has two minutes to share is challenging. Drekmeier reminded everyone that he was there to answer questions. He emphasized how everyone was entitled to ask him questions, and he was entitled to answer in addition to the two minutes he was provided. Drekmeier commented that he would make himself available later in the agenda.

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

Motion was made (Kott) and seconded (Sandkulla) to adopt the resolution.

The motion PASSED with the following votes:

AYES: (10) García, Kott, Jacuzzi, Sanders, Ochoa, Nagengast, Sandkulla, Pinkston, Williams, and Perszyk

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (4) Kight, Algire, Clary, and Pierce

Public Comment: None

6. **Presentation and Discussion:** [Long-term Vulnerability Assessment for the Regional Water System](#), Alexis Dufour, Water Resources Engineer in Hydrology and Water System, Water Enterprise

**Chair García** explained that the order of the two presentations were swapped to accommodate calendars/availability.

*Presentation*

- Long-term Vulnerability Assessment for the Regional Water System
- Research Collaboration
- The Goal of the LTVA
- Areas of Vulnerability Assessed
- Climate Change – Large uncertainty in climate projections
- Natural Climate Variability – 500 years of simulation
- Natural Climate Variability + Climate Change
- Climate projections – Some findings
- LTVA Hydrologic Simulation Models
- Hydrology and Water Supply – Some findings
- Demand and Water Supply – Some findings
- IFR and Water supply – Some findings

- Turbidity and TOC – Some findings
- Infrastructure failure narratives
- Infrastructure failures – Some findings
- Finance – Some findings
- What next

#### *Introduction*

- **Member Perszyk** commented that the topic of the LTVA (Long-term Vulnerability Assessment) has been in front of the Water subcommittee previously. Perszyk continued that the LTVA was an assessment of the effects of climate on the water system. Perszyk added the questions that came up during the subcommittee meeting to the chat.

#### *Discussion*

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked why the presentation did not include the percentage of water that is mixed from the local ground.

**Staff Dufour** responded that they do simulate the groundwater and the Westside Basin if that is what Jacuzzi was referring to. Staff Dufour added that they also simulated the benefits of the San Francisco groundwater, so it was included in the system model.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented that he only saw the upcountry numbers in the presentation, and he did not see how they were mixing in. Jacuzzi then asked what the SFPUC's projection for percentage of use was for that groundwater.

**Staff Dufour** responded that the presentations focused on the most important messages of the report because of the time limitation. Staff Dufour commented that the report is available and that he would not be able to answer Jacuzzi's question specifically about how much groundwater was being used in different climate scenarios.

**Member Jacuzzi** commented that his organization Westside Water Resources had done calculations on groundwater. Jacuzzi added that the 16 inches of rain they had up until January 1<sup>st</sup>, which were thumbnail calculations based on a target of three acres in the outer sunset rooftops alone, would have provided over 15,000 households with their annual water needs in the City. Jacuzzi commented that he did not see any of that calculation in the presentation.

**Staff Dufour** responded that the vulnerability assessment was the first step to address what could break the system. Staff Dufour commented that once the vulnerabilities were found, the solution and the adaptation measures were implemented. Staff Dufour explained that what Jacuzzi had described was an adaptation measure that could be taken and added into the modeling tools to evaluate its benefits. Staff Dufour commented that they were presenting a vulnerability assessment and not the mitigations for these vulnerabilities or the level of concerns for these vulnerabilities. Staff Dufour commented that the risk was the combination of an event that has a certain probability of occurrence that it will happen combined with the impact that it has. Staff Dufour commented that so far, they have only looked at the impacts.

**Member Jacuzzi** responded that he understood the goal of the presentation.

**Member Sandkulla** commented that this was a complex study that she is now pleased to have as it took a long time to finish it. Sandkulla mentioned that she saw the vulnerability analysis as a tool to examine and understand their vulnerability and test where their adaptations are. Sandkulla then asked when they could expect to see the use of this tool in the things that were mentioned in the “What next?” slide.

**Staff Levin** responded that the first thing they needed to do was get the tools in their possession. Levin commented that this was a collaboration that was done under the direction of the Water Research Foundation. Levin commented that they are moving the tools over to a cloud-based platform so that they can use them as these model runs require an enormous amount of data that the SFPUC’s servers and systems cannot handle. Levin commented that there were some improvements that needed to happen to some of the tools, as Dufour had mentioned the hydrologic simulation. Levin explained that they ended up with simulations that were not expressing the dry periods as dry as they are historically. Levin continued that the plan is to calibrate the tools a little bit better. Levin commented that they will need consultants to support them, and their consultant contract expired in February, so they are waiting until they get another contract in place.

- **Member Sandkulla** commented that the long-term alternative water supply work has a deadline to provide a report to the Commission a year from June. Sandkulla also asked whether staff will be able to use this information to support that report and those decisions by the Commission.

**Staff Levin** responded that that is their goal, and first and foremost is being able to use those tools to evaluate those water supply projects.

- **Member Perszyk** posted the questions/recommendations posed during the subcommittee meeting to the chat. Perszyk added that he would focus on drought conditions. Perszyk asked if the precipitation increase was known and commented that in the last couple of years when they have been in drought conditions, there has been less water in state rivers and less water than the 1976 and 1977 drought, which was due to increased ambient temperatures. Perszyk asked if staff considers whether an increase in temperature will increase evaporation, which will reduce the amount of water they have in the system.

**Staff Dufour** responded that they do look at the effect of evaporation, and as the temperature goes up, evaporation goes up. Staff Dufour commented that they look at both the evaporation over the reservoirs as well as evapotranspiration, which is what happens in the land. Staff Dufour commented that increased temperature shows a reduction with runoff in east bay and peninsula watershed because more of the water has been taken by the evapotranspiration process. Staff Dufour explained that it is different in the upcountry area because the upcountry area is rocky, has limited vegetation, and it is a water limited system. Staff Dufour added that even if the temperature increased,

there was not more evapotranspiration that could happen with the current vegetation cover.

- **Member Perszyk** commented that one of the principal strategies that he sees for drought years is water transfers from other agencies. Perszyk then asked if there is a risk of a lack of availability of water transfers as a strategy to supply the system if the drought is severe.

**Staff Dufour** responded that that was a possibility. Staff Dufour commented that a drought in California would affect most of these watersheds. Staff Dufour commented that adding a transfer is not necessarily decoupling the sources and explained that they are not decoupling from the drop necessarily.

Public Comment:

- **Peter Drekmeier** commented that he first wanted to make sure that everyone received the letter that he had sent that morning. Drekmeier also commented that he respects Staff Dufour and thinks he is smart, honest, and intellectually curious. Drekmeier commented that he guessed that Staff Dufour had looked at the things that he had recommended and was told not to talk about them, not to share information, and not to respond to their request because Staff Dufour used to be good at responding to requests. Drekmeier commented that this was political. Drekmeier commented that the things that the Tuolumne River Trust pointed out would have been helpful to look at current demand, and it would have been helpful to look at an instream impaired flow and not have to calculate, for example, what 15% is and do extra work. Drekmeier commented that the Commissioners could benefit from that. Drekmeier commented that there was a return period for previous droughts, so he asked why they could not do one for the design drought because it was a simple calculation of design drought minus one year. Drekmeier commented that they provided their calculations for earlier runoff, and it would be simple for the SFPUC to look at the data, shift it three weeks earlier, look at the Raker Act cutoffs and provide their assessments on what the Tuolumne River Trust was right and wrong on. Drekmeier commented that these were simple requests, but nothing was happening. Drekmeier commented that the Long-term Vulnerability Assessment was full of good news that they would not run out of water and they could meet the unimpaired flows of the Bay Delta Plan. Drekmeier commented that the Commissioners will not do anything until they are told by their staff that the information is correct, and they are too polite to put pressure on staff. Drekmeier commented that it was not an elected body, they do not face the voters, and they have not learned to say when they need certain information. Drekmeier appreciated the CAC asking for a response to his letters. Drekmeier commented that if history repeated itself, they probably would not get responses, or it will take months. Drekmeier commented that the CAC would start to see the pattern and might get frustrated like the Tuolumne River Trust has been and put some more pressure on the SFPUC. Drekmeier then asked GM Herrera to unchain Staff Dufour to allow him to work with the Tuolumne River Trust on real solutions.

7. **Presentation and Discussion: Accountability Measures**, Dennis Herrera, General Manager, SFPUC

*Presentation*

**GM Herrera** commented that he appreciated the opportunity to discuss transparency and accountability with the CAC. GM Herrera has a track record of standing up for accountability and transparency in his previous role as City Attorney. The problems that the SFPUC faced were the result of ethical lapses from a few at the highest level of leadership. This does not reflect what he has seen in terms of the professionalism of the people that he has met over the course of his six months as General Manager. GM Herrera has been incredibly impressed by the ethics, professionalism, and seriousness of purpose by which the SFPUC employees take their responsibilities. GM Herrera commented that he made clear his expectation that everyone holds themselves to the highest ethical standard, and that includes himself. GM Herrera commented that leadership would strive to live up the level of ethics and accountability and staff appreciated and welcomed that approach. GM Herrera added that the focus has been on the Social Impact Partnership Program and its administration. The way the program was run previously was not up to the standards that San Franciscans and their ratepayers deserved, which was shown by the recent independent audit done by the Controller's office. When the audit findings were released in 2021, the SFPUC was committed to update the program to provide transparency, accountability, and results. The SFPUC agreed with all the audit recommendations and will be fully implementing the seven recommendations this year. Under GM Herrera's leadership, no one at the SFPUC will tell contractors which organizations to make commitments to or how much to give them, and this program will be a model of integrity with effective oversight. For those that are unaware of how the program functions, GM Herrera could provide a brief overview of it. The Social Impact Partnership Program was launched in 2011 to invite private sector firms working on SFPUC projects to be a good neighbor to the communities affected by the SFPUC's service operations. As part of the solicitation process for certain SFPUC contracts, firms responding to the request for proposals were able to pledge social impact partnership commitments to local impacted communities. Those commitments would then be weighted as part of the overall proposal that each firm would make. If selected for the contract, the firm would be responsible for delivering a social impact partnership commitment as proposed. The firm would deliver their pledge commitments over the lifetime of the contract. The premise of the SIP (Social Impact Program) is sound. It is a good thing when companies, as part of their proposal for a publicly advertised contract, commit to supporting communities that are affected by the SFPUC's operations or constructions. The problem identified by the audit was in the implementation. When implementing such a program, the SFPUC needs to make sure that it is done in a way that it is transparent and with impeccable stewardship. The independent auditor did not find any fraud at all or similar wrongdoing by SFPUC staff. The Controller's auditor recommended that the SFPUC continue the Social Impact Partnership Program but implementing seven recommendations to ensure the City of San Francisco is receiving the best value from the Social Impact Partnership Committee. As GM Herrera commented earlier, he is committed to implementing all seven of these recommendations in 2022. Coming to the SFPUC, he asked staff to put fresh eyes on the Social Impact Partnership Program, and they saw things that they wanted to improve immediately. The audit even noted that some of the recommendations included the SFPUC's suggestions that they have already begun to implement. GM Herrera continued that he wanted a program that was

transparent, accountable, and built upon a framework of impeccable stewardship. The direction from the Commission and from him to staff is clear, which is what they are requiring of the program. They are updating and managing the program with these values at the forefront. In the following months, the CAC will see the following in concurrence with the audit recommendations: a publicly posted Social Impact Partnership performance dashboard on the SFPUC website detailing the commitments pledged to and delivered by every firm, a compliance tracker detailing the progress of each firm in terms of delivering the Social Impact Partnership commitments they pledged to and a list of all the nonprofits that have received commitments including the details of those commitments. The CAC will also see a policy and procedures handbook that will be publicly posted on the SFPUC website that will contain the program's policies and procedures including those related to the oversight, management of the program, and the guidance provided to external parties. The CAC will see clear and enforceable penalties for firms who do not deliver on the Social Impact Partnership commitments proposed and as stated in the contract. Legislation will be implemented and passed by the Board of Supervisors authorizing and memorializing the Social Impact Partnership Program rules and regulations. GM Herrera commented that he would also be happy to have SIP program staff come back to this body in the future to provide an update on the implementation of the audit recommendations. GM Herrera believes that transparency and accountability will ensure the public's confidence and trust in the program and the overall credibility and ethical reputation of the SFPUC.

#### *Discussion*

- **Chair García** commented that he read the report that came out and that the SFPUC cannot do anything to ameliorate the previous contracts that have closed or are in still in motion. Chair García then asked if these efforts were more for future contracts.

**GM Herrera** responded that this was a fair statement regarding closed contracts. However, the GM added that options are still available for ongoing contracts. GM Herrera added that this could also be considered should contractors bid in the future.

- **Chair García** asked if additional staffing was hired to work on this.

**GM Herrera** responded that this effort does not require new staff. GM Herrera commented that the SFPUC worked closely with the Controller's Office and the City Attorney's Office to ensure accountability and transparency.

- **Chair García** commented that it is hard to find information on the SFPUC website, and that a system similar to Legistar would help track and search for contracts and resolutions.

**GM Herrera** responded that this was not something that had been brought to his attention before, but it was something that he could have staff look into.

- **Member Kott** commented that she recalled somebody presenting to the CAC on the SFPUC upgrading their software for tracking contracts.



**Member Sandkulla** responded that the presentations was about the internal process for the tracking of contracts and not an external one.

**Member Kott** suggested scheduling an update to the CAC on that.

**Staff Alt** commented that they moved to a new city-wide system called PeopleSoft. Staff Alt also commented that they have SFbid (external) and SOLIS (internal + contractors).

Public Comment:

- **Peter Drekmeier** acknowledged that GM Herrera had met with the Tuolumne River Trust three times, which he appreciated. Drekmeier commented that the Tuolumne River Trust was still holding some optimism that GM Herrera could change some of the negative culture at the SFPUC, which may take a little while. Drekmeier commented that withholding information, not engaging, and not responding to requests from the Commissioners themselves was problematic. Drekmeier hoped that GM Herrera could make this a top priority and appreciated what he said about ethics because for Drekmeier, this was an ethics issue as well.

## 8. Staff Report

The CAC will continue to meet remotely until further notice

Public Comment: None

## 9. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

- Affordability and Assistance Programs – *tentatively* June
- Water Equity and Water Access for Homeless – *tentatively* June
- 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.

Public Comment: None

#### 11. Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.