SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

London N. Breed
Mayor

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 26, 2021
1:30 P.M.
(Approved November 9, 2021)

This meeting was held by Teleconference Pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20 and the Twelfth 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 Commission’s (SFPUC) regular meeting room, City Hall, Room 400, is closed. Commissioners and SFPUC staff will convene Commission meetings remotely by teleconference.

Commissioners
Anson Moran, President
Newsha Ajami, Vice President
Sophie Maxwell
Tim Paulson
Ed Harrington

Michael Carlin
Acting General Manager

Donna Hood
Secretary
1. **Call to Order**  
President Moran called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

2. **Roll Call**  
Present: Moran, Ajami, Maxwell, Paulson, and Harrington

3. **Approval of the Minutes of October 12, 2021**

   **Public Comment**
   - Ali Altaha discussed the federal filing against former General Manager Harlan Kelly.

   *On motion to approve the Minutes of October 12, 2021*
   *Ayes: Moran, Ajami, Maxwell, Paulson, and Harrington*

4. **General Public Comment**
   - Eileen Boken discussed her visits to the University Mound, Merced Manor and Sunset Reservoirs and indicated University Mound and Merced Manor have no solar panels. She stated Sunset Reservoir has panels that were not part of the seismic retrofit and asked if panels were added due to advocacy. She noted San Francisco’s designation as an urban heat island and discussed a related article. She noted the need for desal plants.
   - Dave Warner expressed disappointment that the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Water Resources (DWR) have dropped discussion related to the Voluntary Agreement (VA). He stated it is a failure and poor reflection for the SFPUC and questioned discussions and actions that took place.
   - Denise Louie, Center for Biological Diversity, stated she was surprised that PG&E is discussing the bio-diversity crisis. She stated that the SFPUC needs to reach out regarding planting local native plants and express its support for biological diversity.
   - Peter Drekmeier, Policy Director, Tuolumne River Trust, discussed the California EPA and DWR decision to end VA discussions. He stated there has been no action on the Bay Delta Plan. He noted the low numbers of salmon spawning on the Tuolumne. He stated the Non-Governmental Organizations want to see the SFPUC with a reliable water supply and he offered to work with the SFPUC on solutions. He indicated a judge vacated the Trump Administration 401 Rule.
   - David Pilpel discussed vaccine impacts on staff and the upcoming in-office work requirement. He noted some staff who have been working remotely will leave city service due to this requirement. He stated mandating return-to-onsite work is unnecessary for those who are successful and productive with remote work. He thanked acting General Manager Carlin for his work and efforts during the past 11 months.
   - Ali Altaha discussed the federal event that took place last week. He discussed the LED light contract and the LBE certification for the contractor.
5. Communications
   a) Advance Calendar
   b) Correspondence Log
   c) Annual Report on the Low Carbon Fuel Standard Credit Sales Fund
   d) Crystal Springs Cross Country Course Update
      Commissioner Harrington requested clarification regarding the staff letter that indicated if an agreement can’t be met with the College of San Mateo (CSM) regarding the cross-country permit, that it will be revoked. He noted the many emails the Commission received on the subject.

      Steve Ritchie, Assistant General Manager (AGM) Water, stated that the cross-country course has had long-standing use and does not appear in the Watershed Management Plan. He state that the CSM has been informed by the SFPUC and have been made aware that they need to work with the stakeholders (greater community and cross country members), as the issues are not related to the SFPUC Watershed, but are that of the local neighborhood.

      Commissioner Harrington noted there are many interested parties and that not everyone can be satisfied. He indicated that most of the correspondence received reflected support for the cross-country course. He stated he does not want the permit revoked based on a few complaints and that if revocation is considered, it needs to be brought back to the Commission for a full discussion.

      In response to a question from Vice President (VP) Ajami as to how the SFPUC is involved, AGM Ritchie indicated the SFPUC is the landowner. She concurred with Commissioner Harrington and asked that the permit not be revoked without Commission discussion.

      Tim Ramirez, Natural Resources and Lands Management Manager, responded to a question from President Moran regarding the permit, stating that the revocable permit was issued in 2002, with no end date. He stated the city has the discretion to revoke the permit for any reason. Mr. Ramirez stated that during the past year work has been done with CSM and that there is no agreement regarding the current operation and associated issues. He noted the existing use and reporting must be properly reflected in the permit.

      President Moran requested information on the events that are scheduled at the site. He reiterated that most of the issues are between the CSM and the neighborhood and are not SFPUC-related issues.

      VP Ajami discussed her personal experiences attending the cross-country events.

      President Moran noted that this is an update only and not an action item.

   e) Quarterly Report on Contracts Awarded by the General Manager Pursuant to Delegated Authority
f) Streetlight Program Update
g) Water Supply Conditions Update

Public Comment
- Unidentified speaker spoke to item 5d and expressed her support for cross-country. She stated by her count the number of spectators has increased with 9,000 athletes and 11,000 spectators this year. She stated that college and city officials have not addressed the issue and that there is a clause in the contract that the College must mitigate impact.

- Unidentified speaker spoke to item 5d and indicated that the Belmont Heights Civic Improvement Association (BHCIA) is not an official homeowner’s association. She stated most of the neighbors do not believe there is an issue and are supportive of the course and the races. She stated that spectators and participants are not parking illegally.

- Amanda Stanton spoke to item 5d and stated she is a Belmont resident but does live not adjacent to course. She stated she uses the course on a regular basis and that it is important to runners, walkers, and student athletes. She stated that neighborhood issues are not watershed issues. She noted those who use the course follow rules and are respectful and she request that it remain open. She stated all parking is done legally.

- Unidentified speaker spoke to item 5d and stated the current course opened in 1971 after CEQA but no CEQA analysis was conducted. She indicated the new permit was issued with no CEQA analysis.

- Jordan Grimes spoke to item 5d and stated he grew up in San Mateo and ran cross country on the course. He expressed the importance of the course to cross-country runners. He asked that the permit not be revoked.

- Thaddeus Block, Belmont, spoke to item 5d and thanked Commission for recognizing the need to be thoughtful on the issue. He stated there is overall support for keeping the course. He noted it not a watershed issue. He indicated it is a small group that are raising issues with incorrect data and their views do not reflect those of the larger community.

- Clint Freeman, Belmont Heights, spoke to item 5d and stated he lives close to the course and is not a “victim” and has not been adversely impacted by the runners, parking, or traffic. He stated that he pays dues to BHCIA, but they do not represent his views. He requested that the course remain open.

- Ali Altaha spoke to item 5e and stated it is a way to hide informal contracts. He discussed PRO.0201(E), a Department of Justice press release, and the awarding of contracts.

- Josh Walker spoke to item 5d and thanked the Commission for their work. He requested that the cross-country course remain open. He stated the BHCIA does not speak for him and that the course in an important resource.

- Unidentified speaker spoke to item 5d and expressed support for keeping the cross-country course open and requested that capacity be increased. He stated the BHCIA does not speak for him and his opinion has never been sought.

- Charles Stone, Mayor, City of Belmont, spoke as a private citizen on item 5d, and expressed support for the course and discussed his running on the course as a student athlete. He thanked the Commission and other parties for their support of the course. He stated the BHCIA is not a traditional HOA but is a neighborhood
group and that current leadership do not speak for the neighborhood, Belmont, or the cross-country community. He stated the Community College District worked to bridge the gap between stakeholders and came up with a reduced race schedule as comprise. He asked that the August 25th Community College District meeting be viewed.

- David Pilpel spoke to item 5g and stated he would like to have water supply discussed, especially after the storm event, to receive information on upcountry snowpack and reservoirs.
- Peter Drekmeier, Tuolumne River Trust, ask about improvements to the water supply from the recent storm event. He stated the curtailment order was listed prior to the storm and any update would be appreciated.
- Katie (inaudible), Belmont resident, spoke to item 5d and echoed callers who expressed support for keeping the cross-country course open. She stated there are a few vocal individuals who claim there are neighborhood problems but that they do not speak for most and that they don’t provide evidence for the numbers they are presenting. She stated the police have received very few calls regarding issues.

Commissioner Harrington requested that the Water Supply Conditions be moved to the General Manager Report if there are drought conditions.

AGM Ritchie provided an update as to the recent storm and stated that there was 7.8 inches of rain at Cherry Reservoir, 5.3 inches at Hetchy, 3.7 inches at Moccasin, noting the equivalent acre-feet.

Commissioner Maxwell thanked the field crews for their work during the storm.

VP Ajami thanked staff for their work. She requested that information be provided as a percent rather than in acre-feet for a clearer understanding as to volume.

6. Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) Update

Nicole Sandkulla, BAWSCA CEO, indicated her presentation would focus on providing insights regarding drought allocations and potential impacts of drought on BAWSCA agencies and their customers. She reviewed three key points (1) Regional Water System Tier 1 and Tier 2 drought allocation plans determine drought water supply allocations, (2) Residential per capita water use for the BAWSCA agencies is at historical lows, and (3) Other water supplies used by BAWSCA agencies are also significantly impacted by the current drought.

She continued with a discussion of the following: (1) San Francisco retail and wholesale customers share available water supply during a drought per the Water Supply Agreement; (2) Tier 1 Plan results in different retail and wholesale required cutbacks (required system-wide water use reduction at 10%, 15%, and 20%); (3) Tier 2 Plan determines allocation of the regional water supply (RSW) among wholesale customers. Wholesale customers adopted the Tier 2 Plan in 2001 and again in 2009. The BAWSCA Board will consider action on the Tier 2 Plan at their meeting of November 18, 2021; (4) Tier 2 Plan results in a range of required cutbacks among BAWSCA agencies;
(5) Gross and residential per capita water use in BAWSCA region has declined since 1975; (6) BAWSCA member agencies average daily residential water use in FY2019-20 was at historic lows for a non-drought year; (7) Comparing two years shows impact of local action on average daily residential water use (gallons per capita per day (gpcd)); (8) Eighty percent of residents use an average of 65 gpcd or less (FY2019-20); (9) BAWSCA agencies rely on other supplies to meet roughly one-third of their water customer needs; (10) RWS supply critically important now as most other supplies are also severely impacted by the current drought; (11) BAWSCA agencies have concerns with the reliability of other supply sources due to drought and other conditions; and (12) BAWSCA region is taking action to reduce overall water use.

CEO Sandkulla concluded with mention that Tier 1 and 2 Drought Allocation Plans result in required cutbacks for BAWSCA agencies; residential per capita water use for the BAWSCA agencies is at its historical lows; other water supplies used by BAWSCA agencies are also significantly impacted by the current drought; and BAWSCA agencies are committed to achieving necessary reductions, but it won’t be easy.

VP Ajami thanked CEO Sandkulla for the presentation and for BAWSCA’s efforts to address the drought.

Public Comment
- Francisco DaCosta questioned the amount of water used by technology companies and computer firms and stated that BAWSCA’s data doesn’t include their use of clean drinking water.
- David Pilpel thanked Ms. Sandkulla for the information. He expressed his interest in continued discussions regarding drought restriction and demand reductions and asked what else can be done on the supply side.

Acting GM Carlin thanked the Commission for recognizing the staff that worked tirelessly during the recent storm.

a) Annual Policy and Government Affairs Update
Megan Scott, Acting Director of Policy and Government Affairs discussed the role of the Government Affairs team and thanked staff for their work. She recognized the staff and lobbyist that the team works with.

Ms. Scott outlined two top priorities of their work: (1) Infrastructure Funding: (a) Federal: advocating for the inclusion of SFPUC funding priorities in the ongoing negotiations around the federal infrastructure and budget reconciliation bills and the annual appropriations process; and (b) State: advocating for funding to support SFPUC priorities by lobbying for dedicated project funding, general programmatic funding, and funding criteria that benefits SFPUC projects; and (2) Ratepayer Relief: (a) Federal: team helped lead a cross-sector California coalition of water stakeholders from the utility industry, environmental justice and equity groups, and environmental organizations to advocate for ratepayer relief for low-income and/or COVID-impacted ratepayers; and (b) State: advocating for additional ratepayer relief.
in coalition with partners to secure nearly $2B in ratepayer relief in the state budget ($993.5M for energy ratepayers and $985M for water and wastewater ratepayers). VP Ajami noted that water isn’t metered at the unit level and indicated that has been a problem area with funding for assistance programs. She stated that better metering and data gathering is needed, and that unit metering needs to be considered when retrofitting older buildings.

Commissioner Paulson thanked Ms. Scott for her presentation. He asked for a general assessment as to how well the agency is doing on receiving equitable assistance. Acting GM Carlin stated that the agency is making sure they are eligible for all programs and that the agency has been successful in obtaining low interest federal loans and are getting fair share for SFPUC customers.

Public Comment
• Francisco DaCosta stated that there are good workers at the SFPUC. He asked how the system was tested during the storm. He stated that data is needed.

b) Report on Recent San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Activities, Events and Announcements
None.

Commissioner Harrington thanked Mr. Carlin for his work while serving as acting GM. He recognized Mr. Carlin for taking an active role to manage the SFPUC. He expressed his appreciation for Mr. Carlin’s ability and willingness to work with the Commission and that he welcomed the engagement.

Mr. Carlin noted it was a team effort by his colleagues at the SFPUC.

VP Ajami echoed Commissioner Harrington’s comments and expressed appreciation for Mr. Carlin’s work and leadership.

Commissioner Maxwell thanked Mr. Carlin for his assistance during her presidency and stated that he made things happen.

President Moran stated that Mr. Carlin focused on the job when things were going crazy, which makes him a true professional. He noted Mr. Carlin’s willingness to recognize the entire organization for their work.

8. New Commission Business
President Moran stated that he provided the Commission Secretary with a resolution for consideration at the next meeting, creating a record of the Commission’s priorities for the new GM. He stated the draft resolution is intended to capture the sense of Commission and incorporate comments made into a form that represents a clear statement as to priorities for the GM. He stated at the next meeting all views can be considered. He indicated a copy can be provide by the Commission Secretary upon request.
VP Ajami requested that an update regarding the Voluntary Agreement be scheduled.

Public Comment
- Ali Altaha provided comments regarding the Commissioner’s acknowledgement of Mr. Carlin’s service as acting GM. He discussed the promotion of Mr. Ordikhani.

President Moran noted Mr. Altaha’s violation of the Commission’s request for civil discourse and stated he did not appreciate the comments made.

- Francisco DaCosta stated that certain SFPUC employees are corrupt. He discussed the Community Benefits program and contract bidding.
- Dave Warner stated he was offended by the earlier caller. He stated although he has been critical of Mr. Carlin, he found him to be responsive. He expressed appreciation for the stakeholder meetings and thanked Mr. Carlin for his service.

President Moran stated that items will not be removed from the Consent Calendar via an email or memo requests and that all requests to remove Consent Calendar items must be made during the meeting when the item is called.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR
a) Approve the terms and conditions of and authorize the General Manager to execute an eight-year revocable license to BG Sunnyvale LLC to use approximately 18,295 square feet of SFPUC Parcel No. 173 located adjacent to the property at 785 N. Mary Avenue in Sunnyvale, California (License Area) for vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress, parking, and landscaping on the License Area for an annual use fee of $44,400, subject to three-percent annual increases. (Resolution 21-0159)

b) Approve Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. CS-396, Engineering Services Pilarcitos Dam and Reservoir Improvements Project, with URS Corporation, to continue Engineering Services under the agreement through the forecasted end of the project planning phase; and authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 1, increasing the agreement amount by $1,500,000 and extending the agreement duration by two years and six months, for a total not-to-exceed agreement amount of $4,500,000 and a total duration of nine years and six months, to complete the planning phase for the proposed project. (Resolution 21-0160)

c) Approve an increase of 124 consecutive calendar days to the contract duration contingency for Contract No. WW-677, Various Locations Sewer Replacement No. 6, with Precision Engineering, Inc.; and authorize the General Manager to approve future modifications to the contract for a total contract duration of up to 564 consecutive calendar days with no change to contract amount. (Resolution 21-0161)

d) Accept work performed by Michael O’Shaughnessy Construction, Inc. for Contract No. WW-678, Various Locations Sewer Replacement No. 7; approve Modification
No. 3 (Final), decreasing the contract amount by $173,630, for a total contract amount of $2,403,593, with no change to the agreement duration; and authorize final payment to the contractor. (Resolution 21-0162)

e) Approve the plans and specifications and award Contract No. WW-715, As-Needed Spot Sewer Replacement No. 43 to Flores Construction Company, Inc., to replace sections of existing sewer piping, on an as-needed basis, at locations to be determined throughout the City of San Francisco. (Resolution 21-0163)

Public Comment
• Ali Altaha spoke to item 9b and discussed an August 17, 2021 quarterly report addressing the project with a request for a 50% increase in the contract planning phase.
• Francisco DaCosta stated that times are difficult due to the pandemic and that if there was empathy infrastructure and community benefits would have been addressed. He discussed the Commission’s approval of change orders and the Sewer System Improvement Program’s cost increases.
• David Pilpel acknowledged President Moran’s comments regarding removing items from the Consent Calendar and expressed support. He noted his backing of the rights of the public to provide comment but stated discretion is needed and he voiced concern with previous comments. He referenced the Good Government Guide’s section related to public comment on Consent items.

On motion to approve the Consent Calendar items 9a through 9e:
Ayes: Moran, Ajami, Maxwell, Paulson, and Harrington

10. Discussion and possible action to authorize (1) the Issuance of up to $390 million of the 2021 Series AB Wastewater Revenue Notes, and (2) the issuance of up to $380 million of the 2021 Series AB Wastewater Revenue Bonds. The Commission resolution will approve the sale of (1) the 2021 Series AB Wastewater Revenue Notes with an aggregate par amount not-to-exceed $390 million as follows: 2021 Sub-Series A (SSIP - Green Notes) and 2021 Sub-Series B (SSIP - Green Notes), and the sale of (2) the 2021 Series AB Wastewater Revenue Bonds with an aggregate par amount not-to-exceed $380 million as follows: 2021 Sub-Series A (SSIP - Green Bonds) and Sub-Series B (Non-SSIP), and approve the form of, and authorize the execution and delivery of, related documents; and authorize the General Manager to sell the 2021 Series AB Wastewater Revenue Notes and the 2021 Series AB Wastewater Revenue Bonds in one or more series on either a competitive or negotiated basis as the General Manager determines, within the parameters of the Commission’s adopted “Debt Management Policies & Procedures,” is in the best financial interest of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; in the case of a competitive sale, delegate to the General Manager authorization to award each transaction to the highest bidder (lowest cost), or in the case of a negotiated sale, delegate to the General Manager authorization to competitively select an underwriter and execute a bond purchase contract. (Resolution 21-0164)

Richard Morales, Debt Services Manager, began with an overview of: (1) 2021 Series AB Wastewater Revenue Notes: up to $390M in par amount; Notes are low-cost,
short-term debt instrument; are the first in a series of Revenue Notes issuances; provide interim funding for the Sewer System Improvement Program Biosolids and Headworks Projects at lower cost in advance of Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan funding; and was included in the FY2021-22 Capital Financing Plan that was presented to the Commission on October 12, 2021; and (2) 2021 Series AB Wastewater Revenue Bonds Overview: up to 380M par amount; refunds outstanding Commercial Paper issued to interim fund Wastewater Enterprise Capital Program; and was included in the FY2021-22 Capital Financing Plan that was presented to the Commission on October 12, 2021.

Mr. Morales noted the structure for: (1) Revenue Notes: three-year maturity (Sub-Series A); four-year maturity (Sub-Series B); senior lien, fixed rate; tax exempt; no debt service reserve fund; and capitalized interest; and (2) Revenue Bonds: Thirty-year maturity; senior lien, fixed rate; tax-exempt; no debt service reserve fund; and capitalized interest.

He reviewed the finance plan and stated the notes and bonds are to be sold at or about the same time, are pursuant to the same Preliminary Official Statement (POS), are sold competitively, have an expected bid opening in mid-November, and an expected closing at the end of November.

Mr. Morales noted the key transaction documents provided to the Commission: POS, 12th and 13th Supplemental Indentures, Official Notices of Sale, and Continuing Disclosure Certificate. He reviewed disclosure questions and answers and reviewed the recommended Commission action.

Mr. Morales responded to a question from Commissioner Maxwell as to why low-cost short-term debt is generally common but is uncommon to the SFPUC, stating that interim funding for construction programs is generally funded by Commercial Paper. He stated the projects are large, interest rates are low, and staff wants to maintain capacity in the Commercial Paper program for other projects.

Mr. Morales respond to a question from VP Ajami as to why Headworks is under the “green category”. He provided historical information for the program and noted that the project provides green benefits. Brief discussion ensued on green bonds and interest versus regular bonds. Commissioner Ajami requested that data be provided on who is purchasing green bonds versus regular bonds.

Commissioner Harrington thanked Mr. Morales for the presentation. He stated “green bonds” is a marketing issue and that a bond is a bond. He agreed with VP Ajami that people want to buy green bonds and that data on who is buying green bonds would be good to have. Commissioner Harrington indicated the resolution template indicates “competitive” or “negotiated”, even when it is competitive and questioned why that is the case. He stated fraud in the bond industry is usually results from a “negotiated” sale. He requested that the reference to “negotiated” be removed from the template. Mr. Morales noted the reason for the inclusion of the language, which allows for flexibility. Commissioner Harrington requested that removal be considered and that if a
competitive sale is changed to negotiated that the Commission be informed.

Commissioner Harrington questioned the true interest cost percentage of 3.08%.

In response to a question from Commissioner Maxwell, Mr. Morales stated that "market dislocation" is if there is a cataclysmic event such as war or stock market crash.

Mr. Morales and AGM Sandler responded to a question from VP Ajami regarding the different maturity rates on the notes and bonds.

Public Comment
- Francisco DaCosta discussed the favoring of green bonds. He discussed the Sewer System Improvement Project’s increase in costs and stated that the biosolids project is not on track.

On motion to approve item 10:
Ayes: Moran, Ajami, Maxwell, Paulson, and Harrington

11. Public comment on matters to be addressed during Closed Session
- Francisco DaCosta asked that the Commission be fair. He asked who speaks for the salmon and discussed the recent rains and the ability to release water to benefit the salmon.
- Nicole Sandkulla, BASWCA, provided a response to a message from Governor Newsom's Secretaries of the Environmental Protection Agency and Natural Resources Agency about a Voluntary Agreement to Improve Fish and Wildlife Conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta.

12. Motion on whether to assert the attorney-client privilege regarding the matters listed below as Conference with Legal Counsel

On motion to assert the attorney-client privilege:
Ayes: Moran, Ajami, Maxwell, Paulson, and Harrington

The Commission entered Closed Session at 4:21 PM.

Present in Closed Session:
Commissioners Moran, Ajami, Maxwell, Paulson and Harrington; Michael Carlin, Acting General Manager; Sheryl Bregman, Deputy City Attorney; Nicholas Whipps, Deputy City Attorney; Steve Ritchie, Assistant General Manager, Water Enterprise; Eric Sandler, Assistant General Manager, Business Services and CFO; Ellen Levin, Deputy Manager, Water Enterprise; Tyrone Jue, Chief of Staff; Donna Hood, Commission Secretary; and Lee Sayao, SFPUC IT.

13. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54965.9 (d)(1) and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10 (d)(1) Existing Litigation
San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, et al v. California State Water Resources Control Board  
Tuolumne Superior Court Case No. CV62094/Date Filed: January 10, 2019  
Coordinated as State Water Board Cases by order filed May 13, 2019 in Sacramento Superior Court, JCCP No. 5013

Commission exited Closed Session at 5:11 PM.

14. Announcement following Closed Session
   President Moran announced there was no reportable action taken.

15. Motion regarding whether to disclose the discussions during Closed Session pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a)
   On motion not to disclose discussions during Closed Session:
   Ayes: Moran, Ajami, Maxwell, Paulson, and Harrington

16. Adjournment
   President Moran adjourned the meeting at 5:12 PM.