



**San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)
 Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)
 Water Subcommittee**

**MEETING MINUTES
 Tuesday, October 2, 2018
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor Tuolumne Conference Room**

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](#))

Members:

Jennifer Clary (Chair) (D11)	Suki Kott (D2)	Ted Loewenberg (D5)
Matthew Steen (D6)	Jasmine Conrad (D7)	Amy Nagengast (D8)
Nicole Sandkulla (M-Reg'l Water Customers)		

D = SF District, M = Mayoral Appointment

Staff Liaisons: Tracy Zhu and Sabrie Grays

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

Members present at roll call: (5) Clary, Steen, Sandkulla, Loewenberg, Nagengast

Members Absent: (2) Kott**, Conrad

Members of the public: Laura Tam (SPUR), Denise Louie (PUC customer), Dave Warner, Peter Dreikmeier (Tuolumne River Trust), Doug Obegi (NRDC), Marina Binsack (D11 Resident), Amy Zock (SFPUC CAC)

- Approval** of the [July 24, 2018](#) Minutes

Motion was made (Clary) and seconded (Steen) to approve [July 24, 2018](#) minutes

AYES: (6) Clary, Steen, Sandkulla, Loewenberg, Nagengast, Kott

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Conrad

****Member Kott arrived at 5:32pm, quorum maintained.**

- Report from the Chair**

- Chair welcomes committee members, staff, and the public.

London Breed
Mayor

Ike Kwon
President

Vince Courtney
Vice President

Ann Moller Caen
Commissioner

Francesca Vietor
Commissioner

Anson Moran
Commissioner

Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.
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.



4. **Public Comment:** None
5. **Presentation and Discussion:** [Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update](#), Steve Ritchie, Water Enterprise

*** indicates a member arrived after roll call.*

Presentation Topics:

- Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Phase 1 Update Regarding Our Issues
- Presentation Outline
- We Must Plan for Additional Supplies
- How Could We Make Up the Shortfall Created By the WQCP?
- What Are “Realistic” Alternative Supplies?
- What Are Not Included As Additional Supplies
- The Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and the San Joaquin Tributaries
- Lower San Joaquin River WQCP Proposal
- Why does the State Water Board use unimpaired flow?
- What are our specific concerns with this approach?
- The Lower Tuolumne River: A Heavily Modified System
- Why Our Proposal?
- Tuolumne River Management Plan
- Conclusions
- NGO’s October 24, 2018 Letter Request
- Tuolumne River Management Plan flow measures

Discussion Topics:

- *Member Loewenberg* asked *Ritchie* to explain what he meant by transfers not working.
Ritchie responded that a transfer is when water from one agency is transferred to another. For example, SFPUC proposed a transfer of 2 million gallons per day from Modesto Irrigation District to SFPUC but those conversations did not advance.
- *Member Steen* questioned the role of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in all of this.
Ritchie answered that they’ve started developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which determines the baseline conditions that should be placed based on the FERC license.
- *Member Steen* also asked if FERC has all the vacancies filled at the moment.
Ritchie answered that he believes they have a quorum.
- *Member Nagengast* asked what are the SFPUC’s and NGO’s biological goals.
Ritchie answered that they are not exact numbers, but there are concepts that are clear.
- *Member Nagengast* also asked that with his projections in modeling, what is the goal for the salmon population.
Ritchie responded that there is no goal. The reason is because there are too many other factors in the system that will affect them.
- *Chair Clary* questioned *Ritchie*’s proposal, what additional releases does he anticipate that SFPUC will be required to make.
Ritchie answered that it’s different throughout the year and each year. It’s not the total volume of water, it’s when and how it’s used that’s much more important.

Public Comment:

- *Laura Tam* asked if anyone has considered non-supply measures and modeling their effects or impacts, such as pricing reforms or additional conservation measures beyond normal conservation.
Member Sandkulla answered not recently. BAWSCA has gone through that process a few years ago. The plan is to do an aggressive demand and conservation analysis again starting next spring.

6. **Presentation and Discussion: Environmental Perspectives on the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan**, Doug Obegi, Staff Attorney, NRDC

Presentation Topics:

- The Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan and SFPUC
- Historic vs Unimpaired Flows on the Tuolumne River
- Where does the water go today?
- Unimpaired Flows vs. Historic (Actual)
- Salmon declining in the Tuolumne River
- San Joaquin Salmon Escapement
- Juvenile Salmon Survival in the Stanislaus
- Is Flow Important?
- Water Supply Effects of SWRCB Proposal
- SFPUC Level of Service and “Design Drought”
- SFPUC’s Estimated Shortages Vary Based on Water Demand Assumptions
- Increasing Water Supply and Reliability
- SFPUC’s Plans for Water Recycling
- Potential for Regional Water Recycling
- Other Water Supply Opportunities
- Water Supply and Instream Flow During Droughts
- Concluding Thoughts
- Thank you

Discussion Topics:

- *Member Nagengast* asked *Obegi* to expand on the production target of 38,000 salmon, and how he got that number.
Obegi couldn’t tell the committee how the goal was established. He mentioned that if you look at the historical record, that 38,000 salmon is an achievable number, and was seen as a reasonable goal.
- *Member Nagengast* questioned what one SMART objective would be.
Obegi answered that for example, the percentage of eggs that reach the fry stage from October to January should be 78%.
- *Member Loewenberg* inquired what technology or techniques are they using to count the fish.
Obegi responded that it’s changed over time. Back in the post war period they were primarily measuring counting dead fish. In more recent years, they have counted weir on several tributaries, so you actually know how many fish are going upstream and downstream.
- *Member Sandkulla* asked how the State Water Board can ignore the specific studies on that river to inform the thinking about what should be done now.
Obegi answered that we have better data today, but we still have these broad disagreements about basic facts. Part of it is just the nature of the political discourse in America today.
- *Chair Clary* questioned what is a stable level of population that can survive a drought.
Obegi responded that there is no specific number for how to make sure they don’t go extinct entirely, but that’s not the goal. The goal is to get to a much larger population than we have today.

Public Comment:

- *Peter Drekmeier* asked in regard to the SFPUC's Tuolumne River Management Plan, if it were implemented and things weren't working out, is there any fall back plan or a plan b. *Obegi* answered no, not that he's aware of.

7. **Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action: Draft Letter on Lower San Joaquin River Water Quality Control Plan**, Jennifer Clary, Water CAC Chair

- Member Amy Zock who introduced the draft letter explained that she introduced the letter to the Full CAC as a point of discussion. She defers to the decision made by the Water CAC on how to proceed on the matter.

No motion was made.

Public Comment: None

8. **Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action: Draft Resolution Regarding Climate Change Impacts on the Tuolumne River and SFPUC Supply Reliability**, Jennifer Clary, Water CAC Chair

Motion was made (Steen) and seconded (Loewenberg) to further discuss the resolution.

Public Comment:

- Darcie Luce and friends of the San Francisco Estuary expressed support for the proposed resolution regarding climate change impacts on the Tuolumne River and SFPUC supply reliability to be discussed at the evening's CAC meeting (Agenda Item 8).
 - The recommendations in this resolution support and are consistent with the priority actions in the 2014 California Water Action Plan and the 2016 Estuary Blueprint and reflect climate realities of the 21st century. They thank the CAC for their consideration of this resolution.
- Dave Warner provided four handouts detailing three examples of cities and counties reducing water imports and a survey that highlights attitudes toward water conservation, supply management, and distribution. The Palo Alto City Council voted unanimously (9-0) to support the State Water Board's Bay Delta Plan.
- Denise Louie expressed her concern for wanting water savings to go to the environment, not more people, more industry, or farming. She suggested we manage our population numbers and our lifestyles.
- Peter Drekmeier explained why the last hundred years of hydrology repeated would have no impact on water supply except if San Francisco kicks in rationing early.

Motion failed.

9. **Staff Report:** None

10. **Future Agenda Items and Resolutions**

- State of the Regional Water System Report (tentative September/October)
- Annual Water Quality Report
- Living Machine Tour
- Drought resilience: 3 year water supply update

- Water Equity and Homelessness
- State of Local Water Report
- Retail Conservation Report

11. **Announcements/Comments** – The next meeting of the Water Subcommittee will take place December 4, 2018. Check www.sfwater.org/cac for confirmation of the meeting date and agenda.

12. **Adjournment**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

MINUTES