



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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 24, 2023  
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE**

**Meeting URL**

<https://sfwater.zoom.us/j/82681034347?pwd=K0wzTzB6U0NQZWRiaXo2OFhUclRaQT09>

**Phone Dial-in**

669 219 2599

Find your local number: <https://sfwater.zoom.us/j/82681034347?pwd=K0wzTzB6U0NQZWRiaXo2OFhUclRaQT09>

**Meeting ID / Passcode**

826 8103 4347 / 907834

**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@sfwater.org](mailto:cac@sfwater.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:**

<b>Jennifer Clary (Chair) (D11)</b>	Suki Kott (D2)	Amy Nagengast (D8)
Nicole Sandkulla (M-Reg'l Water Customers)	Eliahu Perszyk (M-Large Water User)	Douglas Jacuzzi (D4)

D = District Supervisor appointed, M = Mayor Appointed, B = Board President appointed

**Staff Liaisons:** Mayara Ruski Augusto Sa, Lexus Moncrease, and Jotti Aulakh  
 Staff Email for Public Comment: [cac@sfwater.org](mailto:cac@sfwater.org)

**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.

**London N. Breed**  
 Mayor

**Anson Moran**  
 President

**Newsha Ajami**  
 Vice President

**Sophie Maxwell**  
 Commissioner

**Tim Paulson**  
 Commissioner

**Ed Harrington**  
 Commissioner

**Dennis J. Herrera**  
 General Manager



## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Members present at roll call: (4) Clary, Perszyk, Nagengast, and Sandkulla

Members Absent: (2) Kott and Jacuzzi

Staff/Presenters: Katie Miller, Paula Kehoe, Manisha Kothari, Betsy L. Rhodes, Julie Ortiz, Cyndy Comerford, and Taylor Nokhoudian

Members of the Public: Thomas Andrews

### 2. Approval of the [November 22, 2022](#), Minutes

Motion was made (Nagengast) and seconded (Perszyk) to approve the November 22, 2022 Minutes.

AYES: (4) Clary, Perszyk, Nagengast, and Sandkulla

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Kott and Jacuzzi

Public Comment: None

### 3. Report from the Chair

- Chair welcomes committee members, staff, and the public
- Reminder for Water CAC members to review the water supply workshops from last year
- Concerns about return to in-person meetings regarding quorum

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 Capital Programs Update](#), Katie Miller, SFPUC Water Infrastructure Capital Program Director

#### *Presentation*

- SFPUC Water Capital Programs Update
- Outline
- San Francisco Regional Water System
- Three Water Regions – Major Assets
- SFPUC Water Capital Budget
- SFPUC Water Capital Programs
- Hetch Hetchy Capital Improvement Program
- HCIP Program Status (as of September 2022)

- Mountain Tunnel Improvement Project (as of September 2022)
- 2022-2026 Mountain Tunnel Outages
- Mountain Tunnel Improvements – Flow Control Facility and Bypass Tunnel
- Mountain Tunnel Improvements Project – New Priest Adit and Bulkhead
- Mountain Tunnel Improvement Project – Access Road Improvements
- San Joaquin Pipelines (SJPL) Valve and Safe Entry Improvement (as of September 2022)
- Water Enterprise Capital Improvement Program
- WECIP Program Status (as of September 2022)
- Regional WECIP Projects (as of September 2022)
- Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP) Ozone (as of September 2022)
- Sunol Long Term Improvements, Alameda Creek Watershed Center (Contract B) (as of September 2022)
- Alameda Creek Watershed Center
- Alameda Creek Watershed Center – Landscaping and Details
- Southern Skyline Blvd Ridge Trail Extension (as of September 2022)
- Turner Dam and Reservoir Improvements and San Andreas Dam Facility Improvements (as of September 2022)
- Local WECIP Projects (as of September 2022)
- San Francisco Westside Recycled Water (as of September 2022)
- Local Water Conveyance/Distribution System – Water Main Replacement (as of September 2022)
- Emergency Firefighting Water System (EFWS) Pipelines (as of September 2022)
- Water System Improvement Program
- WSIP Regional Program Status
- Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project (as of September 2022)
- Alameda Creek Recapture Project (as of September 2022)

#### *Discussion*

- **Member Sandkulla** asked if things were removed and if major changes were seen in the year-to-year comparison from a project perspective regarding the last two year CIP (Capital Improvement Program) update.

**Staff Miller** responded that the projects have become more expensive as they developed over the years. Staff Miller noted that the SFPUC has added a couple of new projects, but their core projects are the same with some funding reduction to a few of the projects. She added that the funding was placed in a category to be completed in the next ten years, which included projects such as the regional groundwater treatment, the second trail project on the Southern Skyline, and the Sunol Valley water treatment plant long-term improvements. Staff Miller commented that the SFPUC still intends to do those projects, but they are in early planning. She noted that the SFPUC's idea was to get the projects through planning to determine what the real costs were and determine how to obtain the construction funding. Staff Miller added that the dam related projects will have much higher budgets. She commented that the SFPUC is aware of bigger future costs, but they wanted to focus on the projects that are on track. Staff Miller noted that there has been a great deal of work done to spend funding

that has already been appropriated but had not been spent, so the SFPUC will repurpose that money into projects that need it. She explained that this is why their ask for the next fiscal year is lower than what they are planning to spend.

- **Member Sandkulla** commented that this has occurred the last two times and that , and the last time it happened, General Manager Herrera committed to start a strike team to produce answers as to where there are difficulties in delivering capital projects. Sandkulla asked if that effort had informed where the capital program budget is moving forward.

**Staff Miller** responded that the strike team is digging deep into the processes and procedures and is comprised of over 20 people from different departments including finance, the enterprises, and infrastructure. She commented that the focus is on deliverability and the challenge to spend the money that they ask for, and they have short-term goals that will inform their next budget process. Staff Miller noted that she is in a governance and standards group, which is developing a roadmap for implementing the CIP, that will produce a budget efficiently and document their decision making. She added that there will be short-term improvements as well as a three-to-five-year continuous improvement process because it is critical to maintain the assets the SFPUC already owns and meet their long-term water sustainability goals.

- **Member Perszyk** asked what the steps were to determine the full potential scope of the San Francisco Purified Water Project regarding how many MGD (Million Gallons per Day) could be delivered and budget allocation for the project.

**Staff Kothari** responded that the capital budget has just planning money for that project. She commented that the SFPUC produced the Purified Water Study that considered both the maximum potential and the starting point and considering 2 MGD of production for potable water on the Westside and the East Side for the first phase of the project. Staff Kothari added they are also looking at 1.2 MGD of purified water potentially as a side stream for non-potable water to meet the existing demands on the East Side. She noted that the SFPUC must still do some additional technical analyses as well as look into the operational needs of such a project, and the needed outreach planning. Staff Kothari commented that they are still in the planning process and do not have any large dollar amounts for design or construction currently in the capital budget.

- **Chair Clary** commented that the SFPUC was installing cathodic protection on their groundwater wells, which is an issue that has come up over the years and asked if it was standard practice for their groundwater.

**Staff Miller** responded that the SFPUC installed passive cathodic protection on their pipelines and do not install active cathodic protection unless they know that they are in a super corrosive environment. She commented that passive can be installed with the system and includes a cathode and an anode, which has a bank in the ground to send the current to, or it has corrosion protection on the pipeline with a coating and lining system. Staff Miller added that active protection is when a current is sent through the system, so the groundwater wells did have passive protection. She noted that they

missed how corrosive the waters were because they did not receive any reports on the basin being highly corrosive and now know that some of the other regional customers have experienced corrosion. Staff Miller commented that it is hard to know about potential corrosion until the groundwater wells are installed, and pumping begins.

Public Comment: None

**6. Presentation and Discussion: [Climate Action Plan, Water Supply Chapter Briefing](#), Taylor Nokhoudian, SFPUC Water Conservation Administrator**

Presentation

- San Francisco Climate Action Plan – 2022 Water Supply Chapter Briefing
- Agenda
- San Francisco’s Climate Action Plan
- Agenda
- Purpose
- 2021 Climate Action Plan
- Summary of Climate Action Goals
- Climate Action Plan: Lenses
- Stakeholder Engagement
- San Francisco’s Climate Action Plan 2021
- Top Climate Solutions to get to Net-Zero Emissions
- Chapter 9 of the Environment Code: Future Climate Action Goals
- 2023 Updated Climate Action Plan
- Water Supply Sector Overview
- Challenges to Water and Sanitation Services
- Need for a New Approach to Address Challenges: OneWater
- Diversifying San Francisco’s Water Supplies
- Water Supply Goals
- Water Supply Strategies Overview
- Strategy 1: Invest and Implement Demand Management Programs
- Conservation Plan
- Active & Planned Program Measures
- Estimated Water Savings
- Strategy 2: Invest and Implement Supply Augmentation Programs
- Taking Advantage of High-Quality Local Groundwater
- Recycled Water: Producing Fit for Purpose Water
- Onsite Water Reuse Program
- Alternative Supply Planning Program
- Strategy 3: Invest and Implement Innovative Programs To Reduce Use and Develop New Supplies
- Expanded Leak Detection
- Brewery Process Water Reuse
- Incorporating Wastewater Heat Recovery with Onsite Water Reuse
- Atmospheric Water Generation
- San Francisco Purified Water
- Next Steps

## *Discussion*

- **Member Perszyk** asked if there were any results for the atmospheric water project regarding water production.

**Staff Nokhoudian** responded that the SFPUC has been gathering data since June 2022 and they have seen that the botanical garden panel has produced on average between 8 and 24 gallons of water per month while the panel at hummingbird farm has produced on average 11 to 18 gallons of water per month.

- **Member Perszyk** commented that the Water Subcommittee has discussed how to integrate green infrastructure projects and stormwater management with groundwater supply through infiltration. He asked what the SFPUC thought about augmenting those projects to have multiple benefits such as more carbon sequestration through nature, managing stormwater, and augmenting groundwater supply.

**Staff Kehoe** responded that regarding the Westside groundwater basin, which is where groundwater is being pumped to blend with the SFPUC's surface water supplies, any kind of recharge to the groundwater is good. She commented that they are not actively undergoing any kind of recharge to the groundwater basin. Staff Kehoe added that the water is flowing out to the ocean, and the SFPUC is currently pumping at a slow rate to not exceed the sustainable yield for the groundwater basin. She noted that they are monitoring the quality and quantity of the groundwater basin through their adaptive management approach. Staff Kehoe commented that the SFPUC does not foresee the need to do active groundwater recharge due to the historical use of the groundwater basin at Golden Gate Park and the San Francisco Zoo, but any kind of recharge through infiltration would be a benefit to the groundwater basin.

- **Chair Clary** commented that she is not sure what the purpose of the water supply chapter is in the CAP (Climate Action Plan) and asked if the SFPUC was trying to make their water supply carbon neutral, addressing climate adaptation, or both.

**Presenter Comerford** responded that the original intent with the CAP was a greenhouse reduction plan, which the SFPUC wanted to expand to secure a long-term water supply for the future. She commented that with the addition of the water supply sector, there are new goals around water supply and water conservation, which will expand the charge of the CAP to include the water goals.

- **Chair Clary** asked how there could be a climate neutral water supply when the SFPUC is investing heavily into alternative water supplies.

**Staff Kothari** responded that the SFPUC is not trying to be carbon neutral because they are instead investing into new water supplies to meet their needs while being mindful of the climate impacts. She commented that they want to take advantage of opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with new supplies, but those are supplemental goals. Staff Kothari added that there are also co-benefits when thinking about diversity, equity, and workforce

development, which are all opportunities to think about climate impacts when adding new supplies.

**Staff Kehoe** responded that water use efficiency and water conservation are always the SFPUC's management strategy, which has led their Innovations Program to reduce water consumption, but they do not believe this strategy can solve everything when it comes to water needs. She commented that this is why they have to develop new water supplies, but energy consumption is part of the feasibility and understanding of the projects as the SFPUC moves forward.

- **Chair Clary** asked if the SFPUC will have an overall accounting of their carbon footprint moving forward to not increase it.

**Staff Kehoe** responded that the SFPUC has not developed an accounting method at this point.

**Presenter Comerford** responded that the San Francisco Department of the Environment does account for all the greenhouse gas emissions within San Francisco as well as the airport, which is a collaboration between the SFPUC Power Enterprise and the San Francisco Department of the Environment, to release an annual report of all the department emissions.

Public Comment: None

## 7. Staff Report

- Reminder that District 1, District 10, and the Engineering/Finance seats are vacant
- Reminder that the CAC will return to in-person meetings starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Public Comment: None

## 8. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

### *Standing Subjects*

- Groundwater
- Water Quality

### *Specific Subjects*

- Annual Groundwater Update
- Learn more about sea level rise leading to release of pollution from groundwater basin
- Affordability - *confirmed for the Full CAC*
- Green Infrastructure - *tentatively WW Topic*
- Integrating Tribal Leaders into SFPUC Land Management Decisions
- State Board Water Rights
- Water Enterprise Environmental Stewardship Policy Implementation Report
- Debate about Bay Delta – Member Sandkulla suggested everyone watch the February 5, 2021, Commission workshop about the Voluntary Agreement

- COVID and Long-term Affordability Program
- Implementation of the Bay Delta Plan Flow Requirement
- 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
- Drought resilience: 3-year water supply update
- Water Equity and Homelessness
- State of Local Water Report
- Retail Conservation Report
- Emergency Firefighting Water System Update
- Natural Resources and Land Management Division Update
- Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant tour

Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up

- Resolution in Support of a Resilient Water Supply [adopted August 17, 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 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](#)

Public Comment: None

- 9. Announcements/Comments** Please visit [www.sfpuc.org/cac](http://www.sfpuc.org/cac) for final confirmation of the next scheduled meeting, agenda and materials.

Public Comment: None

**10. Adjournment**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.