



San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Citizens' Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 19, 2023
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor Tuolumne Conference Room

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY OBSERVE AND PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE**

Meeting URL

<https://sfwater.zoom.us/j/82818356053?pwd=ZnlZWVJGTUZWPNlmaE9PT0xsZFVQZz09>

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Meeting ID/Passcode

828 1835 6053 / 475977

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)

Caroline Law (D1)

Suki Kott (D2)

Sally Chen (D3)

Douglas Jacuzzi (D4)

Emily Algire (D5)

Barklee Sanders (D6)

VACANT (D7)

Amy Nagengast (D8)

Steven Lee (D10)

Jennifer Clary (D11)

Maika Pinkston (M-Environmental Org.)

Nicole Sandkulla (M-Regional Water

Customers)

Jodi Soboll (M-Engineering/Financial)

Eliahu Perszyk (M-Large Water User)

Andrea Baker (B-Small Business)

Michelle Pierce (B-Environ. Justice)

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

Staff Liaisons: Lexus Moncrease and Jotti Aulakh

Staff Email for Public Comment: cac@sfwater.org

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order and roll call at 5:34 pm

Members present at roll call: (10) García, Kott, Chen, Jacuzzi, Algire, Sanders, Nagengast, Sandkulla, Soboll, and Baker

Members Absent: (6) Law, Clary, Lee, Pinkston, Perszyk, and Pierce

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

Newsha Ajami
President

Sophie Maxwell
Vice President

Tim Paulson
Commissioner

Tony Rivera
Commissioner

Kate Stacy
Commissioner

Dennis J. Herrera
General Manager



Staff/Presenters: Katie Miller, Ada Zhu, and Leroy Gullette

Members of the Public: Jennifer Clary

2. Approve [August 15, 2023, Minutes](#)

Motion was made (Jacuzzi) and seconded (Baker) to approve the August 15, 2023, Minutes.

AYES: (10) García, Kott, Chen, Jacuzzi, Algire, Sanders, Nagengast, Sandkulla, Soboll, and Baker

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (6) Law, Clary, Lee, Pinkston, Perszyk, and Pierce

Public Comment: None

3. Report from the Chair

- Welcome members, staff, and the public
- Ohlone Tribal Land Acknowledgement

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. Discussion and Presentation: [Emergency Firefighting System Update,](#)

Presentation

- Emergency Firefighting Water System Update
- Emergency Firefighting Water System
- Original EFWS Map
- EFWS Common Components
- ESER 2010 Bond Overview
- EFWS – ESER 2010
- ESER 2014 Bond Overview
- EFWS – ESER 2014
- ESER 2020 Bond Overview
- EFWS – ESER 2020
- EFWS Improvements – ESER 2020
- Potable Emergency Firefighting Water System (PEFWS)
- PEFWS
- Emergency Firefighting Water System Update
- Civil Grand Jury Report – 2018/19
- EFWS Operations

- EFWS Operations 2020-2023 – Fire Suppression
- EFWS Operations 2020-2023 – Development Projects
- EFWS Operations 2020-2023 – Maintenance & Repairs
- EFWS Operations 2020-2023 – Drills & Training
- EFWS Operations 2020-2023 – SFFD & SFPUC MOU

Discussion

- **Member Sandkulla** asked what happens when there is a cross connection.

Staff Miller responded that the chance of a cross connection is low. She commented that the SFPUC will work with Health Services to minimize the disinfection requirements, but it will be on a case-by-case basis because the SFPUC believes it is better to have fire protection rather than not have it.

- **Member Sandkulla** asked how many miles the pipelines would be.

Staff Miller responded that they would be five miles.

- **Member Nagengast** asked what the impacts and benefits of the project are to have a better quantifiable understanding.

Member Jacuzzi responded that much of that information is in the grand jury report.

- **Staff Miller** commented that planning work had been done starting with the 2010 ESER (Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response) bond funding where the SFPUC brought in fire and pipeline experts and built models. She commented that the SFPUC's fire expert also works with insurance companies to determine risk valuation.

Staff Gullette responded that the SFPUC has not done a specific risk analysis for a business, and the valuation done in the reports is based on replacing structures.

- **Member Nagengast** commented that the presentation did not cover how the investment in an EFWS (Emergency Firefighting Water System) would benefit people living in San Francisco.

Staff Miller responded that the SFPUC divided the City into fire response areas based on the areas that the 50 fire stations respond to. She commented that they did a fire propagation study to determine the City's firefighting capability and found that the areas that had the EFWS were able to put the fires out 100% whereas the western and southern parts of San Francisco were not 100% covered because the EFWS was only built in the older part of the City. Staff Miller added that the SFPUC is also working on the potable water system to make it more seismically reliable and noted that there is 1,200 miles of potable pipe that is in different stages and materials over the last 100 years. She commented that the SFPUC believes that one of the benefits would be that the insurance companies may relax their fire insurance rates knowing that the EFWS exists.

- **Member Soboll** asked how the SFPUC determines which areas are higher risk and whether the plans address this.

Staff Gulette responded that the model being developed looks at earthquakes on both the San Andreas and Hayward faults, it includes data from fire propagation, it looks at wind direction, and the pipelines on the model are laid in various ways. He commented that they subject the model to an earthquake and then do a hydraulic analysis to find out where the leaks and breaks are, which is a process that is done repeatedly.

- **Member Soboll** asked why the map shows that the SFPUC is building more in a certain area of San Francisco.

Staff Gulette responded that it was because those areas (the western and southern parts of San Francisco) have no service.

- **Staff Miller** commented that the SFPUC is starting on the western side because Lake Merced is there, which has an almost unlimited supply of water.
- **Member Soboll** asked if the areas that do not currently have the EFWS have more fire stations.

Staff Gulette responded that they do not.

- **Member Sanders** asked if the EFWS included Treasure Island (TI) and whether the bonds were being used to improve the firefighting system there.

Staff Miller responded that the developer paid for a new water system on TI with new water tanks, a new chlorine facility, seismically reliable pipelines, and there will be EFWS pipelines going in two directions. She noted this new system will operate off the potable tanks, but there will be a fireboat to hook up and act as a pump station.

- **Member Sanders** asked if that system was currently in use on TI or whether it was still being built.

Staff Gulette responded that the water system was done, but other components, such as the manifolds, were not yet complete.

- **Member Sanders** asked if there was a back up system in place to fight fires if the power were to go out on TI.

Staff Miller responded that the water flows by gravity, so if there is water in the tanks, it would be fine. She commented that the backup option would be to refill the tanks from the city side.

Staff Gulette responded that the saltwater pump station runs on diesel, so they do not need backup power.

- **Member Kott** asked how long it takes for a fire boat to reach TI.

Staff Miller responded that it would take about ten minutes.

- **Member Sandkulla** commented that it is important to keep the messaging around what the SFPUC is buying and how that benefits everyone.
- **Member Chen** asked if there were inter-agency conversations happening about the digging that will take place because this is a long-term project and there could be overlap with other projects.

Staff Miller responded that the SFPUC consistently communicates with other agencies to better coordinate projects and save money but occasionally there are mishaps with poor contractors or certain materials being delayed that can cause timing issues. She commented that one obstacle has been PG&E because they are not a City agency, so they do not work well with the SFPUC.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if there was a secondary overlay of smaller pipes.

Staff Miller responded that the center of the City is almost too dense, and there is more likelihood of failure with that many pipes. She commented that the SFPUC will continue the good planning studies to better understand realistic fire demands and focus on resilient building.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked which budget the hose tenders are being purchased through.

Staff Miller responded that the hose tenders cannot use bond funding because they are moveable parts, so the fire department is using their budget for that.

- **Member Soboll** asked whether an existing system would address wildfires for the neighborhoods that face that threat.

Staff Miller responded that the low-pressure system should be sufficient for that.

- **Member Baker** asked when the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was renewed.

Staff Miller responded that it was brand new in 2015, so this was the first time that it was renewed. She commented that it will not likely be renewed unless there is a change.

- **Member Algire** commented that she was displaced by the fire on Octavia Blvd and was appreciative of the backup system because the fire could have been so much worse.

- **Member Nagengast** asked how the SFPUC is planning to ensure that the new EFWS is properly staffed and operated considering that the SFPUC is facing staffing challenges.

Staff Miller responded that she is trying to budget positions at the beginning of a project to ensure that they are in the budget, but it is an issue that she plans to focus on.

- **Member Soboll** asked how the SFPUC was addressing leaks in the system.

Staff Miller responded that they have resolved almost all the leaks.

Public Comment:

- **Jennifer Clary** asked how the SFPUC will enhance protections for southern neighborhoods that will not receive EFWS upgrades for more than two decades and whether more information, such as the 50-year planning study, could be posted on the SFPUC's website.

Staff Miller responded that the SFPUC will post the 50-year planning study on the website. She commented that there was a strong push to have the pipelines installed in the western part of San Francisco, so they are continuing to work with the fire department on operational response for the southern part of San Francisco.

- **Jennifer Clary** commented that this is not good for residents who live in the southern part of San Francisco.

Staff Miller responded that it depends on how big the earthquake is and noted that there is protection in non-earthquake conditions. She commented that there are plans to install a new saltwater pump station at Hunters Point, which the SFPUC is trying to get the developers to help fund.

- **Jennifer Clary** asked if the SFPUC considered wildfires a threat to those neighborhoods.

Staff Miller responded that the SFPUC has only looked at post seismic earthquakes and have not looked at wildfires.

6. Discussion: Full CAC FY 2022-2023 Priorities, Moisés García, Full CAC Chair

- This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Public Comment: None

7. Staff Report

- Reminder that Staff Moncrease will now be the sole point of contact for both CAC and public records related inquires. She asked that CAC members use the NextRequest platform to submit any future public records requests rather than email her directly.
- Reminder to confirm attendance in advance to ensure quorum and avoid unnecessary travel to the SFPUC.

Public Comment: None

8. SFPUC Communications

- [Water and Wastewater Customer Assistance Policies](#)
- [Social Impact Partnership Program Rules and Regulations](#)
- [Quarter Budget Report, Q3](#)
- [Quarterly Audit and Performance Review Report, Q3](#)
- Water Enterprise
 - [Water Supply Conditions Update \(June 5, 2023\)](#)
 - [Alternative Water Supply Program Quarterly Update, Q2](#)
 - [CIP Quarterly Update Q3](#)
 - [Water Pipeline Assessment, Q1 & Q2](#)
- Wastewater Enterprise
 - [WSIP Quarterly Update Q3](#)
 - [CIP Quarterly Report, Q2](#)
- Power Enterprise
 - [Annual Power Risk Management Plan 2022 Update](#)
 - [CleanPowerSF Report, Q2](#)
 - [PG&E Interconnection Report, Q3](#)

Public Comment: None

9. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

- [CAC Advance Calendar](#)
- Great Highway Closure Resolution
- TI Resolution
- 10-year Capital Improvement Plan Update
- Bond Funding Update
- Water, Power, Wastewater 101
- Battery Storage Project Update – *tentatively for the Power Subcommittee*
- Affordability Update

Public Comment: None

10. Announcements/Comments Please visit www.sfpuc.org/cac for confirmation of the next scheduled meeting, agenda, and materials.

- **Member Sandkulla** commented that October 1st is the start of the new water year because that is when the winter season starts, which is when the planning and monitoring begins.

Public Comment: None

11. Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm