



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

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, April 27, 2021
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

PARTICIPATE VIA BLUEJEANS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE

Meeting URL

<https://bluejeans.com/914095976>

Phone Dial-in

[408.317.9253](tel:408.317.9253)

Meeting ID

914 095 976#

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@sfgwater.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:

Jennifer Clary (Chair) (D11)	Suki Kott (D2)	Amy Nagengast (D8)
Nicole Sandkulla (M-Reg'l Water Customers)	Eliahu Perszyk (M-Large Water User)	

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

London N. Breed
Mayor

Sophie Maxwell
President

Anson Moran
Vice President

Tim Paulson
Commissioner

Ed Harrington
Commissioner

Newsha Ajami
Commissioner

Michael Carlin
Acting
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.



ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Members present at roll call: (3) Kott, Perszyk, Nagengast

Members Absent: (2) Clary**, Sandkulla

Staff: Julie Ortiz; Kelvin Galvin; Betsy L. Rhodes; Sarah Triolo; Manisha Kothari; Paula Kehoe

Members of the Public: Lara Egbeola

** Jennifer Clary joined at 5:50pm

2. Approval of the [March 23, 2021](#) Minutes

Motion was made (Kott) and seconded (Perszyk) to approve the March 23, 2021 Minutes.

AYES: (4) Clary, Kott, Perszyk, Nagengast

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Sandkulla

Public Comment: None

3. Report from the Chair

- Chair welcomes committee members, staff, and the public
- Brief discussion about SFPUC's General Manager Nomination

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: [SFPUC 2020 Retail Conservation Plan](#), Julie Ortiz, Water Conservation Manager, Water Enterprise

Resources:

- [SFPUC 2020 Retail Conservation Plan](#)

Presentation:

- Conservation Program Overview
- Residential Per Capita Water Use: single family, multi family, combined
- Key Points About Active Measures
- Conservation Planning Process: adjusted yearly

- Conservation Measure Evaluation: list of criteria
- Conservation Plan: prepared every 5 years. It supplements the demand management measure section of the Urban Water Management Plan
- Describes program, water, savings and cost
- Conservation Highlights 2010-2020
- Active & Planned Program Measures
- Estimated Water Savings: active and passive savings
- Multi Family & HOA Water Savings: the SFPUC found that the water savings are possible, mostly through maintaining plumbing, fixtures, appliances, irrigation, fixing leaks, replacing old fixtures and equipment
- Water Loss: SFPUC submits a water loss audit to the State annually.
- SFPUC Water Loss Reduction Efforts

Discussion:

- **Member Nagengast** asked is there is a good summary of the efficacy of all the programs listed, and efficacy might be considered as cost-effectiveness, right investments, etc. Also asked about distributions of the uptake of the measures across San Francisco.

Staff Ortiz responded that there are several criteria to evaluate the measures and it depends on what criteria is being considered. If the standard is water savings, some programs will have achieved more savings than others. However, other programs might have other benefits. For instance, the laundry to landscape grey water program had research benefits. Other measures have high customer satisfaction and popularity with customers and consumers. There is no single measure and the benefits vary. The plan has tables that show the cost of savings. For instance, the rain barrels look expensive for acre-foot savings, but the program does not cost as much. Even though it does not create much savings, it is still beneficial. In regard to distribution, the Commission asked for a map, and it showed that the SFPUC had programs all over the city, residential and commercial neighborhoods.

Member Nagengast commented that she agrees with the system's holistic perspective. Some programs will be stronger and more expensive, and it affects the tradeoffs. Reporting the metrics based on district/location would likely support the longevity of the program.

- **Member Perszyk** commented that some measures might save energy as well and reduce emissions.

Staff Ortiz answered that there is room to better communicate that. Individual measures are highlighted with customers such as hot water saving, but there is room to expand on that.

- **Chair Clary** mentioned that she was happy to hear that the programs are not being disproportionately used in different neighborhoods.

Public Comment: None

6. Presentation and Discussion: Follow up to SFPUC Draft 2020 Urban Water Management Plan Presentation at Full CAC, Sarah Triolo, Water Resources Specialist, Water Enterprise

Resources:

- [SFPUC's Draft 2020 Urban Water Management Plan presentation from the Full CAC Meeting on April 20, 2021](#)
- [SFPUC's Draft 2020 Urban Water Management Plan Follow Up Presentation](#)
- SFPUC Urban Water Management Plan website: www.sfpuc.org/uwmp
- [Draft 2020 Urban Water Management Plan](#)

Presentation:

- UWMP Context
- UWMP & City Planning
- Summary of Planning Needs for Alternative Water Supply Programs
- Alternative Water Supply Planning Priorities
- Regional Alternative Water Supply Potential
- Alternative Water Supply Program Roadmap
- Previous Presentation

Key Points:

- UWMP Context: state required document with specific guidelines — not a commitment, but a guiding document
- Used to inform water supply assessments (WSA) over next 5 years; WSA are included in CEQA — work with the Planning Department to do the assessments
- Alternative Water Supply Program: San Jose and Santa Clara have additional demand than historically; 98 additional mgd needs in drought years vs normal/wet years
- Alternative Water Supply Priorities:
 - Obligations: offset instream flow needs and meet existing obligation to existing permanent customers
 - Policy decision: make current interruptible customers permanent and meet increased demand (San Jose and Santa Clara)
- Regional alternative water supply potential: about 25 mgp potential supply from regional alternative water supplies: Daly City recycled water expansion (initial CEQA has been done), ACWD-USD Purified water (with Alameda, early planning), Crystal Springs purified water (work with other water agencies), Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion (increasing storage in existing reservoir) — Bay Area brackish water desalination, Calaveras Reservoir expansion (increasing storage in existing reservoir; only PUC)
- 2020: Alternative Water Supply Program (research and analysis); 2023: alternative water supply plan (CEQA and design); 2028: alternative water supply decisions (dry year supplies; San Jose and Santa Clara status)→ implementation is 2030-2045

Discussion:

- **Member Persyzk** asked if there is another water supply projects if the Bay-Delta Plan is not implemented or half implemented.

Staff Kothari responded that the SFPUC is looking for additional opportunities, but not as detailed. Other projects include the Santa Clara Valley Water District is considering an expansion and SFPUC is looking into establishing a partnership for that project, working with San Jose and Santa Clara to identify any additional reuse projects in their service area. San Jose has a lot of reuse capability. The SFPUC is open to other projects. In San Francisco, the SFPUC will explore purified water and potable reuse. The SFPUC is thinking about other opportunities to maximize water supply. There are other projects attached to the Bay-Delta

Plan, such as groundwater banking and inter-basin collaborations to increase water supply.

Member Persyzk commented that there is a significant risk of water shortage and cost if some version of the Bay-Delta Plan is implemented.

Staff Kothari responded that the SFPUC is considering all feasible options while also negotiating the Bay-Delta Plan.

- **Chair Clary** asked what the feasibility is of increasing our water resources. Chair Clary commented that the Bay-Delta seems reasonable, but we need to quit taking water away from nature while it still recovering from the drought. All options require to find more water, instead of using the water we have, such as recycling water. Asked for more direct potable use.

Staff Kothari responded that maximizing reuse includes direct potable reuse. The projects looking into bringing water to Crystal Springs and the City projects all look at direct potable reuse. One impediment is that regulations are still under development and expected in 2023. We are trying to understand how they will affect some of the projects. The City has only so much more irrigation or non-potable use that can be done under the proposed regulatory framework.

Chair Clary commented that everyone is talking about adding more water to their system and is not going to happen. The numbers are less reliable than using the existent water supply.

- **Chair Clary** commented that the SFPUC is closer than other agencies when it comes to estimations. There is a need to be cautious and conservative when predicting future water demand but being too conservative might result in pricing water incorrectly. Avoiding a drought surcharge if not necessary is important. Chair Clary asked if there is a plan to do voluntary conservation.

Staff Ortiz responded that there is a calling for voluntary reduction in irrigation use. A notice will be sent to irrigation customers next week. Increased messaging to all customers will follow, particularly with outdoor use.

- **Chair Clary** asked if the SFPUC is making conservation goals because it has not recovered from the last drought.

Staff Ortiz responded that there has been a residential increase, although commercial use is down. The goal is to balance the message and avoid economic strain and hardship. Customers that have room for opportunity are welcome to address and fix leaks without sacrificial cutbacks.

- **Chair Clary** asked if conservation is being required from the wholesale agencies/BAWSCA.

Staff Triolo answered that it would only be required if a water shortage is declared and that will not happen this year.

Public Comment: None.

7. Staff Report

Nothing to report other than a reminder about empty seats.

8. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

Standing Subjects

- Groundwater
- Water Quality

Specific Subjects

- State Board Water Rights - *tentatively June 2021*
- Annual Water Quality Report - *tentatively June/July 2021*
- Climate Change – report update – *tentatively June 2021*
- Debate about Bay Delta – Member Sandkulla suggested everyone watch the February 5, 2021 Commission workshop about the Voluntary Agreement
- Affordability
- Racial Equity Plan Water Enterprise
- Natural Resources and Land Management Division Update
- COVID and Long-term Affordability Program
- Impact of Climate Change on Water Supply
- 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
- Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant tour – *tentatively Fall 2021*

Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up

- 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](#)

**Member Nagengast signed off at 6:54pm.

9. **Announcements/Comments** The next meeting for the Water CAC will be on June 22, 2021 Water Subcommittee. Please visit www.sfpuc.org/cac for final confirmation of the next scheduled meeting, agenda and materials.

10. Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.