



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

**MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)  
 Tuesday, May 24, 2016  
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**525 Golden Gate Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Tuolumne Conference Room**

**Members:**

**Jennifer Clary (Chair) (D11)**      Suki Kott (D2)      Ted Loewenberg (D5)  
 Kelly Groth (D7)      Nicole Sandkulla (M-Reg'l Water Customers)

B = Board President Appointment, D = SF District, M = Mayoral Appointment

**Staff Liaisons:** Emily Alt and Afrodita Lopez

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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

Members present at roll call: (3) Clary, Sandkulla, Loewenberg  
 Members absent at roll call: (2) Groth, Kott

- 2. Report from the Chair**

- Chair welcomes committee members, staff, and the public

Public comment: none.

- 3. Public Comment:** none.
- 4. Approval** of the [March 22, 2016](#) meeting minutes

Motion was made (Sandkulla) and seconded (Loewenberg) to approve [March 22, 2016](#) minutes with minor edits.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:  
 AYES: ( 3 ) Loewenberg, Clary, Sandkulla  
 NOES: ( 0 )  
 ABSENT: ( 2 )

Public comment: none

Member Kott arrived at: 5:38 pm

- 5. Presentation and Discussion:** [Public Health Goals Report, 3-year Update](#), Andrew DeGraca, Water Quality Division Director

**Edwin M. Lee**  
Mayor  
**Francesca Vietor**  
President  
**Anson Moran**  
Vice President  
**Ann Moller Caen**  
Commissioner  
**Vince Courtney**  
Commissioner  
**Ike Kwon**  
Commissioner  
**Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.**  
General Manager



Reference documents and websites:

- [Draft – San Francisco Water System 2016 Public Health Goals Report](#)
- [www.sfwater.org/lead](http://www.sfwater.org/lead)
- [www.sfwater.org/qualitymatters](http://www.sfwater.org/qualitymatters)

Presentation Covered:

- Triennial Update for Public Health Goals (PGHs)
- PHG Rule Summary
  - PHG report is to inform consumers about the quality of their drinking water in relation to ideal health-protective levels\*
  - Law mandates triennial PHG evaluation
  - PHGs
- MCLs/Operational Targets vs. PHGs/MCLGs
- 2016 PHG Summary
  - All 2013-2015 results below MCLs
  - Contaminants above PHGs or MCLGs
  - Chromium VI
  - Total Coliforms
  - Lead
- Historical Programs on Reducing Lead
  - Lead component replacement
  - Public outreach and education
  - Legislative Action
- Optimized Corrosion Control & Monitoring Efforts
  - Corrosion control treatment
  - Comprehensive lead sampling program
- Additional Action on Lead Reduction-Fittings and Joints
  - Some minor fittings and joints in older parts of system may be or have some lead material
  - Re-initiate Service Renewal program to further investigate and replace any remaining lead material
  - A leaded component is quickly replaced when found
- Additional Actions on Lead Reduction-Service Lines
  - Unknown service line material
  - Working on a plan to determine unknown material
  - Should have a plan by Fall 2016
  - May take up to 7 years to identify and replace all service line of unknown or galvanized material
- PHG Future Actions and Recommendations

Topics of discussion:

Chair Clary:

Q: Where did you find that? (in regards to Chromium VIQ)

A: Calaveras and in ground water

Q: When you did bottle stations of schools, did you do lead testing?

A: Did not do it in the past. But, we are now testing all new stations

Q: How do you select sites? (in regards to lead sampling program)

A: It's a tiered system and we target buildings built before 1990

Q: How does it work for rental buildings?

A: SFPUC choses which houses meet the criteria

Q: Do you use the same houses each time you test?

A: Yes. It is difficult to retain people

Q: Why do you use the same houses? Why don't you test new ones?

Q: How often do you find lead in the water to be a problem?

A: Not often. It is hard to find problem areas.

Q: Did you do the service line survey because of legislation?

A: No. We were going to do it anyways because it is good practice.

Member Loewenberg:

Q: When you are talking about how difficult it is to recruit new sites for lead testing, is it easier now because of the Flint, Michigan incident?

A: Yes. There should be more interest now. We are trying to do a pilot program with the housing authority to identify and test 200 sites.

Q: How much does it cost a customer to have lead testing?

A: \$25

Q: How long does it take to test for lead?

A: It usually takes 1-2 weeks. The SFPUC drops off bottles, the resident fills them up and returns them, the SFPUC then does the testing. The PUC tries to be efficient and waits to test until the batch is full. If they are really pushing it, they could do 100 tests per day.

Member Sandkulla:

Q: Have you seen different results in the water in regards to contaminants because of the drought?

A: We haven't tested for anything that would show that. Hospitals are becoming more concerned about contaminants in the water and are being proactive about it.

Chair Clary:

Q: How do you test for that [legionella]?

A: It is difficult to test for it because there was no baseline test. There is a concern with low flow and decreased demand. There has been discussion around whether there should be mandatory flushing. If there was a mandatory flush, it would only be a low percentage of overall usage.

Q: Is algae in the reservoirs a concern?

A: Yes, especially because of the low water level

Public comment: none.

6. **Presentation and Discussion: [Contaminants of Emerging Concern](#), 3-year Update for Drinking Water**, Andrzej Wilczak, Senior Sanitary Engineer

Reference document and websites:

- [Preliminary Technical Memo - Screening and Recommended Actions for Contaminants of Emerging Concern \(CECs\) in SFPUC Drinking Water: 2016 Update](#)
- [CEC 2016 Update Executive Summary](#)

Outline of topics covered:

- Background
- Changes since 2013 review
- Proposed 2016 CEC priorities and work plan
- Schedule

- Questions

Topics covered:

- Background: CEC drivers
  - Increasing of CEC's
  - Advances in analytical detection
  - Limited health effect information
  - Increased public awareness/concerns
  - CECs are important to utilities
- Background: CEC approach
  - Goals and objectives
  - In 2011 WQD developed a CEC approach
  - In 2013 WQD update CEC priorities and recommended actions
- CEC Approach for drinking water
- 3 General Types of contaminants in 12 CEC groups
  - Naturally-Occurring Contaminants
  - Manmade contaminants
  - Treatment/Distribution By-Products
- Changes since 2013 Review
  - Included recent literature and regulatory developments (2013-2016)
  - Included recent WQD investigations (2013-2016)
  - Included future groundwater and emergency surface water source
  - Changes in priorities
  - Other priorities are similar to 2013 review
- Recent WQD investigations
  - From 2013 to 2016 WQD conducted
- Proposed 2016 CEC priorities
  - High priorities
  - Medium priorities
  - Low priorities
- Microbial Waterborne Pathogens
  - Examples: Legionella, enteroviruses
  - Priority: High
  - Justification: Health significance in general
  - Recommended actions
- DBPs (Nitrosamines)
  - N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA)
  - Priority: Medium
  - Justification:
  - Recommended actions
- Low Priority Groups
- Schedule
- Nanomaterials Summary of screening evaluation
- Proposed change to 6-yr CEC Cycle 2016-2022
  - CEC evaluation and update will serve as an input to WQ strategic Plan conducted at the same time
  - Need longer time period to conduct studies
- Proposed CEC Cycle Schedule, cont.
  - Information about emerging contaminants needs to be presented in context, which takes time to develop
  - Anything urgent will be update by WQD as needed
  - May 2016- Submit draft priorities and recommendations and solicit feedback from CAC
  - June 2016 – Submit draft 2016 cycle priorities and recommendations to commission
  - August/September 2016-Solicit Commission feedback at 2016 PHG hearing
  - September 2016 to August 2022- Implement approved recommendations

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- Anything urgent will be updated by WQD as needed
- May 2016 –Submit draft priorities and recommendations and solicit feedback from CAC
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- September 2016 to August 2022-implement approved recommendations

Topics of discussion:

Chair Clary:

Q: Can you explain disinfectant byproducts for anyone who may not know?

A: As you add disinfectants, you create byproducts, usually biological but could also be manmade. EX: Chlorine

Q: Are you monitoring groundwater?

A: We are monitoring for pharmaceuticals and industrial and commercial chemicals. There is limited monitoring. Not concerned with hormones of leachates in groundwater.

Q: Do we participate in studies? Are there large studies happening in the water world?

A: I am not aware of any large studies happening right now. I haven't seen a nation-wide utilities study.

Q: How do you coordinate with the Wastewater Enterprise with CDD?

A: There are discussions we have together, but we each have different roles. Wastewater has different risks associated to this.

Q: Have you thought about how recycled water will be monitored?

A: We haven't had a detailed discussion about this yet because it is not as much of a concern because it is not drinking water.

Member Sandkulla:

Q: What role should the PUC play or not in recycled water and larger legislation?

Comment: I am concerned that testing every six year may be too long

Staff:

Takeaways: The PUC should stick to the 3 year testing cycle instead of switching to 6 years. The PUC should start thinking about and planning on how we approach recycled water testing.

Public comment: none.

7. **Presentation and Discussion: [Water Quality Strategic Plan](#), 6-year Update**, Andrzej Wilczak, Senior Sanitary Engineer

Reference documents:

- [DRAFT Executive Summary - SFPUC Water Quality Strategic Plan 2016](#)
- [DRAFT Preliminary Report - SFPUC Water Quality Strategic Plan 2016](#)

Presentation Covered:

- Water Quality Strategic Plan (WQSP) Discussion
  - 2016 WQSP Update
  - Questions/Contact Information
- Water Quality Strategic Plan
  - Goals and objectives
  - History
  - WQ planning process
- Strategic Plan Critical input
  - Stakeholders and Expert Panel Members
- Examples of Work Completed
  - Enhancing On-Going Activities
  - New Projects
- WQSP Expert Panel: 9 Focus Areas
  - Refinement of Water Quality Planning Focus Areas
- WQSP Recommendations: Highlights from Combined Inputs
  - Regulatory Compliance
  - Public Health and Emerging Contaminants
  - Source and Treated Water Quality
  - Distribution System Water Quality
  - Technological Advances
  - Water Quality at the tap
  - Customer Communication and Satisfaction
  - Sustainability
  - Extreme Events

Topics of discussion:

Chair Clary:

Q: What are the partnership for safe water guidelines?

A: It is best management/best practices. Examples: Maintaining disinfectant, maintaining pressure, main breaks...etc. Nation-wide guidelines.

Member Loewenberg:

Q: Have you done customer satisfaction surveys?

A: Not regularly done. There was recently a JD powers water utility survey published. Looking at the big picture, the SFPUC does pretty well, but we are not going to pay \$30K to get all the details.

Q: Are there improvements in detection by computer? Spectrographs? Other technology?

A: Technology is always improving, more automation, more remote sensing. Technology in terms of treatment is increasing (example: UV), maybe improving in lighting. It is hard to decide what to explore as technology is always improving, but some are not cost effective and may be out of date in a few years. We are always looking at new technology for monitoring.

Member Loewenberg:

Suggestion: Provide a list of where to drop of pharmaceuticals in bill mailings – the same way we send currents. Ted would like the SFPUC to work with SFE to make this happen.

Member Sandkulla

Request: Check if Water Quality reports are sent to wholesale customers.

Public comment: none.

## 8. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

- August: Automatic metering/submetering and how it works with my account. –they might want to make this an action item i.e. resolution

- September: Update on Stewardship policy—increasing access to Peninsula, Anne Caen is also interested in this and asked to be briefed on it at the last commission meeting
- Later or in September too: Update on Recycled water especially plans for the East side.

Public comment: none.

9. **Staff Update:** none.

Public comment: none.

10. **Announcements/Comments** – The next regularly rescheduled meeting of the Water Subcommittee will take place on Tuesday, August 23, 2016..

Public comment: none.

#### **11. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.