



San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Citizens' Advisory Committee
Wastewater Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor Tuolumne Conference Room

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Meeting URL

<https://sfwater.zoom.us/j/84471696295?pwd=tLHw1lWkKktE68oEht2DpzFclOpuJN.1>

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Meeting ID / Passcode

844 7169 6295 / 273048

Mission: The Wastewater Subcommittee shall review sewage and stormwater collection, treatment, and disposal system replacement, recycling, and other relevant plans, programs, and policies ([Admin. Code Article XV, Sections 5.140 - 5.142](#)).

Members

Amy Nagengast, Chair (D8)	Maika Pinkston (M-Enviro. Org)	Andrea Baker (B-Small Business)
Douglas Jacuzzi (D4)	Moisés García (D9)	Elizabeth Steele
		Teshara (D7)

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

Staff Liaisons: Lexus Moncrease and Lupita Garcia
Staff Email for Public Comment: cac@sfwater.org

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order and roll call at 5:44 pm.

Members Present at roll call: (4) Nagengast, Pinkston, Baker, Jacuzzi

Members Absent: (2) García, Steele Teshara

Public Comment: None

London N. Breed
Mayor

Kate H. Stacy
President

Joshua Arce
Vice President

Avni Jamdar
Commissioner

Steve Leveroni
Commissioner

Dennis J. Herrera
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.



2. Approve [September 10, 2024, Minutes](#)

Motion was made (Baker) and was seconded (Jacuzzi) to approve the September 10, 2024, Minutes.

Members in attendance voted unanimously to approve the September 10, 2024 Minutes.

3. Report from the Chair

- Welcome members, staff, and the public
 - [San Francisco files final brief in SCOTUS case](#)
 - [Public Memo re CCSF v. U.S.E.P.A.](#)
 - [CCSF v. U.S.E.P.A. Oral Argument Audio](#)
 - [U.S. and California take Enforcement action against S.F. for Clean Water Violations](#)
- **Chair Nagengast** informed the Members that there are two litigation cases that the SFPUC is undertaking that pertain to wastewater. She further commented that considering it does involve sensitive information, a full presentation on the cases is not possible so to inform the Members and the public as to what is happening, the Chair's report will include pieces that can be shared. One of the high-profile cases went to the U.S. Supreme Court and was heard in October and it's between the City of San Francisco and the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This is specifically regarding the Oceanside Treatment Plant and the discharge into the Pacific Ocean. The documents discuss how they are allowed to discharge sewage into the ocean. In the documents, there are a few clauses that expand on the arena of what the SFPUC is required to control and ultimately discusses the quality of water that is discharged from the pipe. When the sewage discharges into the Pacific Ocean, what does that concentration look like and the EPA states that the SFPUC and City are responsible for the quality of the Pacific Ocean which is separate than the concentration coming from the pipe. The SFPUC wants the EPA to be more specific with their provisions and the EPA is arguing that their provisions are the general guidelines. A decision from SCOTUS will probably happen around May or June 2025.

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 (*2 minutes per speaker*)

Public Comment: None

- ## 5. Discussion: [Wastewater CAC FY 2024-2025 Priorities](#), Wastewater CAC Chair, Amy Nagengast

- Resources
 - [SFPUC CAC FY 22-23 Annual Report](#)
 - [Wastewater CAC FY22-23 Year in Review](#)

Presentation

- WW CAC: By the Numbers
- FY 23-24 Key Resources
- WW CAC Priorities FY 23-24

- FY 23 – 24 Priority Topic Accountability
- FY 24-25 Priority Discussion
- WW AGM Priorities Discussion

Discussion:

- **Member Pinkston** asked whether the Wastewater CAC will hear about water level rising, especially around the Candlestick area and the environmental impacts it will have.

Chair Nagengast responded that the sea level rise was specifically in response to the Water Board or the State sea-level rise guidance and that the presentation was specifically about the SFPUC's responses to the guidance. She further commented that they were also presented with flood mapping and 100-year flood maps that relate to the sea level rise.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked for clarification regarding the May 2024 meetings and how many topics were presented in May.

Chair Nagengast responded that one presentation may have been in March, and there were 3 presentations in the May meeting and that we can confirm.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented that as a priority he would like to have green infrastructure listed and that this comes from the May 2024 meeting where Stormwater and Flood Resilience in Folsom Area was discussed and a personal conversation with an organization regarding the flooding in the area. He further commented that the SFPUC has a pipe plan for the area, however, it is unclear whether funding has been identified at this time and with the engineering plan, if timing works out, there can be a push for green infrastructure on the piping project for the area.

Chair Nagengast responded that we can ask the project team where they are or even review what could be a possibility.

Green Infrastructure was added to the Priority list for FY24-25.

Member Baker mentioned that Candlestick development just got approved and infrastructure will be a big point of discussion and is curious to learn more about the SFPUC infrastructure process and learning about how these projects impact the community and how are rate payers impacted due to the spending of these projects.

Chair Nagengast responded that there is a turnover process where developers need to build it to SFPUC's standards.

Member Jacuzzi commented that on small and mid-scale projects that he has been involved with outside of San Francisco as a developer, there are different methods for who it might get paid for and a lot of the times it is paid with a bond, they also use parcels that end up being paid by property taxes within the boundaries of development. He further commented Engineers do have to propose and there is some back and forth with the engineers, developers and municipality until an agreement is reached that meets standards. It is rare, but a general

assessment bond can pay for a private investment, but it must be passed by a Board or something similar.

- **Member Pinkston** commented that she has concerns over the new building considering the rise of sea-levels in that geographic area.

Member Baker added that they will need to build with the sea-level rise in mind because that will be a key topic of discussion for the foreseeable future.

- **Member Pinkston** asked about the quality of water in the area considering there are signs that state “Do not fish, do not crab”, etc.

Member Jacuzzi commented that the interesting part of this is that Bay water quality is better than it was 8 years ago when sea grass would not grow. It’s gotten better considering that there are only 2% of historic wetlands to help keep it clean.

Member Pinkston asked if there is the possibility of putting dams in the area considering that people will be leaving in the area.

Member Jacuzzi stated that this is why they are here and doing their part to move the needle in the direction that it needs to be to get better water quality.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented that in relation to the Folsom flooding and sea-level rise, these go hand-in-hand because the Folsom area historically was a tidal marsh. Around Guerrero and 15th there was a boat dock, and all of these serve as interconnecting points west of Ocean Beach. What is the main infrastructure in place so that we live with this?

Chair Nagengast acknowledged the comment and emphasized that the main themes so far have been on infrastructure, nutrient removal and sewer flows and how it relates to sea-level rise.

Discharge Removal added to the Priority list for FY24-25, and beneath that lists “Sewer Overflows” as a subtopic for Priority number 2.

- **Member Baker** commented that they appreciate Assistant General Manager (AGM) Prather has listed his priorities for this year and asked if he shared his priorities from last year and what was accomplished? Were any of last year’s priorities moved to this year?

Chair Nagengast responded that the Wastewater CAC took some of AGM Prather’s priorities and made headway on those such as flooding, nutrient removal, and sea level rise.

- **Member Baker** pointed out that SFPUC staffing was not listed on the priorities and staffing has been an issue for the SFPUC for the past 5 years.

Chair Nagengast agreed that this should be a priority, but it may have not been on the listed presentation and is even likely a further breakdown of the listed vacancies in the Wastewater Enterprise at the SFPUC to know what certain classifications are experiencing more vacancies.

Member Baker stated that the SFPUC is one of the largest agencies, if not the largest within the City and County so they would hire many people however, in District 10, that has a high unemployment rate, there are conversations about opportunities that may exist for these folks suggests to AGM Prather that action be taken for these individuals especially considering they deal with the environmental impacts of a Wastewater Treatment Facility in their community.

Chair Nagengast responded that she sees it as one level below and is interested to know what is considered a vacancy.

Member Baker commented when there is a 25% vacancy within the SFPUC, what kind of service are they provided. When compared to a small business, a 25% vacancy signifies there is a lot that is not getting done.

Member Jacuzzi further commented that 25% vacancy in one year means there is excess revenue that can go to a job training program.

Chair Nagengast suggested that this may not be a one-size fits all solution considering the type of job that would be training for whether a desk job or in the field.

- **Chair Nagengast** asked if there were any other priorities the group would like to share. There are two additional priorities from AGM Prather's list that may be added to the CAC Wastewater Priority list.

Member Baker asked if we did the two legal cases, would those be considered together or separate.

Chair Nagengast responded that the SFPUC is going to be limited in what it is allowed to share with the Wastewater CAC, and it will be up to members to learn and read what is going on. There can be an ask for presentations on the key facts that lead to the cases.

Member Jacuzzi mentioned that there could be the topics behind the permit and emergency trigger use that is by just reducing the amount of water that goes into the combined system. If we look at the numbers, it's the rainfall over a given period of time. It is not difficult to quantify how much green infrastructure is needed to eliminate the overflows all together, but we can push and write resolutions that ask for more infrastructure, so the systems do not overflow. With the pass of proposition K, the City has more leeway because the beach where the SFPUC discharges is eligible for federal aid.

- **Chair Nagengast** commented that the litigation could fit under the sewer flow priority and reminded that some of these priorities, like staffing will be discussed with the Full CAC but can also be tweaked to

be discussed specifically within the Wastewater CAC like what is the status on stationary engineers, collection systems and Wastewater 1820 classification.

Member Baker commented that it would also be helpful to know what training programs the SFPUC has and what has been running and operating for the last 10 to 15 years and what the success rate has been.

- **Chair Nagengast** commented that for wording on the written priorities, it should read “Staffing and Vacancy Trends” to ultimately understand the 25% vacancy.

“Staffing and Vacancy Trends” added as priority number 3 on the Wastewater FY24-25 Priority list. Under Priority 3 lists four subtopic which include “What types of positions/fields are vacant? Why?”, “Training & career programs”, “Asset Management Team” and “Capital Project Transition & Operations”.

Chair Nagengast stated to remove “Discharge removal” and “Discharge Stewardship” would be sufficient.

Discharge Removal on the Priority list was removed and updated to Discharge Stewardship.

Public Comment: None

6. Staff report

- Next Tuesday, there will be a full CAC where AGM Steve Ritchie will be presenting Water 101 and will be discussing the full CAC priorities.
- Next Wastewater CAC Committee meeting is in January 14, 2025.

Public Comment: None

7. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up

- Resolution in Support of SFPUC Class A Biosolids Local Distribution Program [adopted August 21, 2018](#)
- Resolution in Support of Cityworks Interns Recommendations [adopted on November 21, 2017](#)
- Resolution in Support of Equitable Green Infrastructure Implementation throughout the Southeast Sector of San Francisco and throughout the City [adopted on June 20, 2017](#)
- Resolution Urging SFPUC Commission to Initiate Planning and Environmental Review for Building a New Community Center at Third and Evans and to Direct Staff to Develop an Interim Greenhouse Environmental and Workforce Development Program [adopted on October 18, 2016](#)
- Resolution Supporting the SFPUC to Conduct Robust Community Engagement to Determine the Community's Preference for Remodeling Southeast Community Facility at 1800 Oakdale or Building a New Community Center at 1550 Evans [adopted on January 19, 2016](#)

Public Comment: None

8. **Announcements/Comments** Visit www.sfpuc.org/cac for final confirmation of the next meeting date.

Public Comment: None

9. **Adjournment at 6:58 pm**

For more information concerning the agendas, minutes, and meeting information, please visit www.sfwater.org/cac. For more information concerning the CAC, please contact by email at cac@sfwater.org or by calling (415) 517-8465.

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