



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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024  
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
 525 Golden Gate Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Tuolumne Conference Room**

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**Meeting URL**

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**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:**

<b>Moisés García, Chair (D9)</b>	VACANT (D10)
Cal Law (D1)	Jennifer Clary (D11)
Suki Kott (D2)	Maika Pinkston (M-Environmental Org.)
Sally Chen (D3)	Nicole Sandkulla (M-Regional Water Customers)
Douglas Jacuzzi (D4)	Jodi Soboll (M-Engineering/Financial)
Scott Brown (D5)	Eliahu Perszyk (M-Large Water User)
Barklee Sanders (D6)	Andrea Baker (B-Small Business)
Elizabeth Steele Teshara (D7)	Michelle Pierce (B-Environ. Justice)
Amy Nagengast (D8)	

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

Staff Liaisons: Lexus Moncrease  
 Staff Email for Public Comment: [cac@sfwater.org](mailto:cac@sfwater.org)

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Members present at roll call: Law, Kott, Chen, Jacuzzi, Brown, Sanders, Steele Teshara, Nagengast, Clary, Soboll, Perszyk,

Members absent: García, Pinkston, Sandkulla, Baker, 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.



2. **Approve [September 17, 2024, Minutes](#)**

Motion was made (Clary) and seconded (Nagengast) to approve the September 17, 2024 minutes. Approved without objection.

Public Comment: None

3. **Report from the Chair**

- Vice Chair Perszyk chaired the meeting
- 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. **Presentation and Discussion: [Emergency Firefighting Water System Update](#)**, Josh Andresen, PE, LEED AP Senior Project Manager, SFPUC Infrastructure Division

*Presentation:*

Background – Get to know your Hydrants

Background – Low-Pressure Hydrants Map

Background Emergency Firefighting Water System Map

Background – 2050 Planning Study Improvement Concepts

Background – Potable Emergency Firefighting Water System

Overview – Westside Potable Emergency Firefighting Water System and Fireboat Manifolds

Westside Potable Emergency Firefighting Water System

PEFWS Schedule

CEQA, Public Communications and Outreach for PEFWS

*Discussion:*

- **Member Clary** asked if the infrastructure on low-pressure hydrants has been updated since the PUC inherited maintenance of the Emergency Water System and if the pipes were dated between 1906 and 1930.

**Staff Miller** responded that Linear Asset Management Program (LAMP) is currently in place to replace all 1,200 miles of the linear potable system pipes. The SFPUC is trying to replace the pipes at 12 miles per year and being strategic to replace the pipes that will give the SFPUC the most value, i.e., if a pipe has had a lot of breaks and showing signs of wear so the City has the ability to transport emergency and potable water throughout following an earthquake.

- **Member Soboll** asked if San Francisco had redundant lines for potable water.

**Staff Miller** responded that the city is very redundant for potable water and the best map to show the different representations of the updates the SFPUC is making is the Geographical Information System (GIS) which shows the pressure zones. There are currently approximately 13 pressure zones in San Francisco and while the water is held in these zones, there are divide gates that when opened can bring water from one zone to another.

- **Member Sanders** asked to clarify if what is presented on the slide for the Map of Treasure Island all the low-pressure hydrants? He also reminded staff to please include Treasure Island on map when discussing the City as it is part of San Francisco.

**Staff Andresen** responded that the map is not zoomed out enough to show the infrastructure in its entirety. The point was to show the low-pressure hydrants as a support system; however, these are not used as the main system for emergency firefighting. In future meetings, they will be including Treasure Island on the maps.

- **Member Nagengast** asked if Staff could clarify if a Firefighting System exists on Treasure Island.

**Staff Miller** responded that as part of the development agreements, the City and County must put a system on Treasure Island. Currently, it is just a low-pressure system that can act like a high-pressure system. There are seismically reliable brand-new tanks and pipes that come across the causeway to Treasure Island and new high-strength hydrants that are also being brought, however, this system is not fully built out.

**Member Nagengast** asked when the system in Treasure Island is expected to be functional.

**Staff Miller** responded that the tanks and pipes are complete but is not sure if the entire distribution system is built out yet as the developers are doing it as they work on development projects. There is also the ferry boat port and manifold being built. A ferry boat will be able to come in and pressurize the manifold like a pump station. Staff will be looking internally for more detailed updates to share with CAC members.

- **Members Sanders** asked how do the fire boat and manifolds work.

**Staff Andresen** responded that the boats have a place where they can pull up, connect, and pump additional water into the system.

- **Member Clary** asked if they have one on Treasure Island

**Staff Andresen** responded affirmatively.

- **Member Brown** asked if low-pressure systems are ever used in firefighting.

**Staff Andresen** mentioned that they are normally used in firefighting and if a care or house were to catch on fire, they would use the low-pressure system to extinguish.

- **Vice Chair Perszyk** asked for clarification on why the infrastructure of the emergency firefighting water system is the way it is.

**Staff Andresen** responded that back in the 1850s and early 1900s, the system failed, and the Fire Department did not have enough water to stop fires. After the 1906 earthquake, a new, robust system was built that can withstand earthquakes.

**Staff Miller** added that the Fire Department uses the high-pressure system about 2-4 times a year. With 4-alarm fires, the fire department will bring in a secondary system. A positive about the high-pressure systems is that the fire department does not need a truck to create a high-pressure system like they do when connecting to hydrants. Instead, they will put an apparatus on the ground, bypassing the truck.

- **Member Soboll** asked if the areas on Treasure Island that is currently not being redeveloped getting any firefighting capabilities.

**Staff Miller** responded yes that they are rebuilding the distribution pipes and will have the ability to reach all different areas of the Island.

- **Member Clary** asked what the difference is between the blue pipes and green pipes.

**Staff Andresen** responded that the green pipes provide similar function to the emergency firewater system with the high pressure and have a similar Hetch Hetchy water source. An additional benefit is that they provide drinking water at a low-pressure before pumps are turned on and can continue their functions after an earthquake. The blue lines are the existing pipes so the green pipes will be interconnected. The pipes also have valves in them that will be able to one pipe be multifunctional in both systems.

**Member Jacuzzi** Asked if those are one-way valves.

**Staff Andresen** responded that they are isolation valves because it is meant to primarily bring drinking water. In an absolute catastrophe, non-potable water can be brought in.

**Staff Miller** added that this system is designed after the Japanese water system and are installing the Japanese pipes to make the system seismically resistant. The pipes have shut off valves so that in the case of an earthquake, they can shut these valves which would temporarily shut off water access to customers that can isolate water in the pipes to help fight fires. Slowly, everything will be returned to service after everything is disinfected and the City did not drain the reservoirs. However, on the East

Side, there will still be 2 systems because of the ease of access to Bay water.

- **Member Brown** asked how the Emergency Firefighting system is funded.

**Staff Miller** responded that it is through a mixture of bonds – one is Earthquake Safety and Emergency (ESER) bonds which are general and the other which are SFPUC utility bonds. The general obligation bonds are funded through real estate taxes, property taxes. The SFPUC bonds are through the water rates.

- **Member Clarry** asked if there are any plans to include Pump Stations down in Hunter's Point shipyard.

**Staff Miller** responded that it is currently a high-level plan that is being shared.

- **Member Nagengast** asked what the cross-departmental collaboration when working on these road projects is like on the West Side.

**Staff Andresen** responded that the SFPUC has a tool called dot maps showing when other agency projects are happening. By looking at this, the SFPUC can see when it can work collaboratively to combine paving projects.

**Staff Miller** added that the SFPUC still participates in the Cold Cup meetings where departments discuss where they are working on projects and opportunity for collaboration to minimize disruption in neighborhoods. An example of this is the cross collaboration on Taraval where there are new sewer, water, and firefighting pipes along with some beautification work.

- **Member Soboll** asked if the new pipe that was installed on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Sloat Blvd, the new pipeline.

**Staff Miller** responded that it depends on the manufacture. The SFPUC started conversation with the Kubota manufacturer and eventually domestic manufacturers wanted to be included in the projects, especially since the implementation of the American Iron and Steel Act and the Infrastructure Act which requires the SFPUC to use American product. These companies have developed their own seismic joint and are selling to cities.

- **Member Kott** asked if the valves can be shut off remotely.

**Staff Andresen** responded that the valves can be controlled remotely and in the event of seismic activity, can separate the drinking water system.

**Staff Miller** added that there is opportunity for innovation with the valve technology as they are currently being operated by car batteries which need to be replaced approximately every 5 years.

- **Vice Chair Perszyk** asked if there is collaboration with the Power enterprise when discussing the innovation to power the valves.

**Staff Miller** responded that PG&E currently owns the power distribution and anything new that they are building is done working with PG&E and eventually something that can function as well if the SFPUC owns the system. Unfortunately, PG&E is being a little difficult to work with as they are having the SFPUC put in expensive equipment that would not be necessary if the SFPUC were the owners of the grid.

- **Member Soboll** asked in the areas where PG&E currently does not have input, are we able to effectively install these valves without the added expenses.

**Staff Miller** responded that we are and noted that the valve on Cesar Chavez and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street will be operated on SFPUC power. There is also the opportunity to beautify these boxes through CEQA and an art enrichment fee.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if contract B is on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

**Staff Andresen** responded that originally it was on 42<sup>nd</sup> but now has moved to 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

**Staff Miller** mentioned that SFFD is looking at the alignment for the project to suggest modifications that are needed like higher elevation closer to Sunset Blvd since it's easier to roll hoses down and can be used as a fire break.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if water needs to be extracted from a cistern, how is that done and if there any thoughts about adding in more cisterns due to their cost efficiency.

**Staff Miller** informed that it requires a fire truck where they hook their suction hose to a cistern and pump out of the cistern. The cisterns are used as a last result as the water source last only about an hour, tying up an entire fire truck. Since the cisterns were built in 1910, they have not been used.

- **Member Brown** mentioned he was a new member to the CAC and was wondering in general if the SFPUC received any funding form the City or State.

**Staff Miller** responded that the SFPUC for the whole water system relies on the rate payer dollars. And there's a certain amount of revenue, and then there's certain bonds. So, I think you know twenty percent of the capital improvements are paid by revenue, and eighty percent are paid by bonds and whatnot for any city improvements. The property taxed collected, again there's a portion of revenue and portion of bonds, and most of the capital improvements are funded by the bonds. And it's really

the capital planning committee that makes those decisions. And about how that money is spent, but typically revenue is spent on, not on assets, but more on programs, whereas you sell bonds for assets, for actual physical things that you're putting in the ground. So, I think that's why this is covered by the general obligation bond program.

- **Member Soboll** asked if the SFPUC was able to obtain any funding from the Infrastructure Act.

**Staff Miller** responded that this is something the SFPUC is currently working on. The SFPUC has received some funds for water and wastewater programs.

**Staff Andresen** also responded that there is some innovation when looking into grants and see if pieces of the project fall into funders' priorities.

Public Comment: None

## 6. Staff Report

- November Full CAC meeting will be last meeting of the year - Will be presenting Water 101 from AGM Steve Ritchie
- December is a recess
- January's meeting will be a presentation from Community Benefits

Public Comment: None

## 7. SFPUC Communications

- [SFPUC Wildfire Mitigation Plan 2024](#)
- [Capital Financing Plan FY 2024-25](#)
- [Quarterly Audit and Performance Report, FY 2023-24, Q4](#)
- [Hazards and Climate Resilience Plan 2025 Update](#)
- Water Enterprise
  - [Water Supply Conditions Update \(September 3, 2024\)](#)
  - [Water Enterprise Capital Improvement Program Report, FY 2023-24, Q4](#)
  - [Hetch Hetchy Capital Improvement Program Report, FY 2023-24, Q3](#)
  - [Alternative Water Supply Annual Progress Report](#)
  - [Alternative Water Supply Planning Annual Progress Report](#)
  - [2009 Water Supply Agreement Quarterly Update](#)
  - [Onsite Water Reuse Program Update, FY 2022-23](#)
  - [Recent Wastewater Enterprise Bond Sale Results](#)
  - [Supplemental Appropriation of Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response \(ESER\) 2010 and 2014 General Obligation Bonds Interest Earnings](#)
  - [Water System Improvement Program Annual Report](#)
- Wastewater Enterprise
  - [Water Enterprise Capital Improvement Program Update, FY 2023-24, Q3](#)
- Power Enterprise
  - [CleanPowerSF Update, FY 2023-24, Q4](#)
  - [PG&E Interconnection Report, FY 2023-24, Q4](#)

Public Comment: None

## 8. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

- [CAC Advance Calendar](#)
- CAC roles and responsibilities
- Writing Resolutions 101
- Stormwater Sewage Infrastructure updates

Public Comment: None

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

- Chair Garcia is scheduled to present the CAC Annual Report to the Commission at the December 10 Meeting.

Public Comment: None

## 10. Adjournment at 7:07 pm

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

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[[cac@sfgwater.org](mailto:cac@sfgwater.org)] Lexus Moncrease 提出口譯要求。逾期要求，在可能狀況下會被考慮。

## **ACCESO A IDIOMAS**

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