



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

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, August 27, 2024
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor Tuolumne Conference Room**

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Meeting URL

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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](#))

Members:

Jennifer Clary (Chair) (D11)	Suki Kott (D2)	Amy Nagengast (D8)
Nicole Sandkulla (M-Reg'l Water Customers)	Eliahu Perszyk (M-Large Water User)	Douglas Jacuzzi (D4)

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

Staff Liaisons: Lexus Moncrease and Desiree Almendral
 Staff Email for Public Comment: cac@sfwater.org

London N. Breed
 Mayor

Tim Paulson
 President

Anthony Rivera
 Vice President

Newsha K. Ajami
 Commissioner

Sophie Maxwell
 Commissioner

Kate H. Stacy
 Commissioner

Dennis J. Herrera
 General Manager

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Members present at roll call: (5) Clary, Kott, Perszyk, Nagengast, and Jacuzzi

Members Absent: (1) Sandkulla

2. Approval of the [April 23, 2024](#), Minutes

Motion was made (Jacuzzi) and seconded (Perszyk) to approve the April 23, 2024, Minutes.



AYES: (6) Clary, Kott, Perszyk, Nagengast, Jacuzzi and Sandkulla

NOES: (0)

Public Comment: None

3. Report from the Chair

- Chair Clary asked members to think about when they would like to meet for the rest of the year.
- Member Kott asked how many times the committee is required to meet.
- Chair Clary asked Staff Liaison Moncrease for clarification if it is based on calendar or fiscal year to which Staff Liaison Moncrease confirmed it was fiscal year.

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:

- Peter Drekmeier introduced himself as the Policy Director for the Tuolumne River trust and he commented he wanted to talk about transparency and asked why the SFPUC has two sets of books on demand projections. He further commented there's a Water Enterprise and those inflated projections go into the urban water management plan but there's a finance bureau that has much lower sales. Peter said he kept bringing it up to the Commission and finally Commissioner Ajami and Commissioner Moran said they were curious and requested Staff to provide a graph comparing these two and compare them both to actuals however three months passed, and Peter said he didn't get anything and so he said to Commissioner Moran you need a process to hold Staff accountable to Commissioners' requests. And so, Commissioner Moran included it on the advanced calendar. Peter commented that nothing happened for a couple of months then finally he got the report, and it was a great report and it confirmed everything we've been saying for a long time. Peter commented that when Commissioner Moran left the Commission that disappeared and there was no accountability. But what we've seen is that when there is a resolution Staff takes that more seriously. Peter commented about how he made a public records request but was denied. He is asking for the CAC's help; he says that things are not transparent. He asked that the CAC please be his liaison and do something to get the SFPUC to respond. Thank you.

5. Presentation and Discussion: [2023 Consumer Confidence Report](#), Eddy So, P.E. (Mech), P.E. (Civil), Senior Water Quality Engineer, SFPUC Water Quality Division and Natalie Stone, SFPUC Communications

- *Resources:*
 - i. [2023 SFPUC Annual Water Quality Report](#)

Presentation

Introduction and Report Background

Eight Basic Report Requirements

2023 Water Quality Report Results

Changes in 2023 Water Quality Report Design
Accessibility Improvements
Public Outreach
New Regulations

Discussion

- **Member Nagengast** pulled the copy of the report on her phone and made a comment to presenters that the report is very text heavy and lacking graphics. Member Nagengast asked if this was due to the rigid template the SFPUC needs to follow or if it were possible to add in more graphics?

Staff So responded that this is feedback they get often. Unfortunately, due to mandatory language that are required by the State and Federal government as well as the EPA, there is not much the SFPUC can do regarding limiting the text, especially the technical language. The communication team also works hard to balance the graphics and mandatory text. An example given is the New York Consumer report where it is 20 pages, and one page may be a graphic with a few sentences.

Member Nagengast reiterated that they would like to see more infographics to explain items in the report at a 5th grade level.

- **Member Perszyk** asked what responses the SFPUC has received from customers and more specifically have there been areas in the report where customers are confused.

Staff Stone responded they have not received any and the report is getting more views that in the past and customers may not have questions at this moment.

- **Member Clary** reiterated the increase is due to the outreach the team is doing alongside tracking the report's open rate. Member Clary also reiterated Member Nagengast's point of including more infographics and explanatory visuals like the report card.
- **Member Clary** asked where to find the Source Water Assessment.

Staff So responded that we do have reports that we submit to the State and due to the EPA's concern on security and sensitive information, these are not made available to the general public.

- **Member Clary** asked to clarify pfas in SFPUC's source and asked if it was because the SFPUC is not extracting from the West Side wells now.

Member Nagengast left at 6:10pm and the CAC remained quorum.

Staff So responded that the SFPUC does monitor pfas in the West Side and there have not been any pfas detected above the corresponding limit.

- **Member Clary** asked what the SFPUC is doing for lead testing in schools considering news headlines recently.

Staff So mentioned his colleague Ray is currently handling this initiative and would be able to speak more to this. However, when they oversaw lead monitoring at school between 2017 -2019, most of the lead came from the plumbing within the property.

- **Member Clary** requested a future presentation on disinfection and disinfection byproducts considering the SFPUC's numbers are a little higher.

Public Comment: None

6. Presentation and Discussion: [Contaminants of Emerging Concern](#), Enio Sebastiani, P.E. WQD Engineering Section Manager

Presentation

Contaminates of Emerging

Presentation Outline

Background: CEC Definition and Program Objectives

On-Going CEC Work Status

2024 Water Quality Prioritized On-Going Recommendations for CECs

Discussion:

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented he wondered if there are efforts to check water quality from surfaces, roadways, parking lots and rooftops considering the goal of disconnecting stormwater from treatment plans and feeding it back into groundwater.

Staff Sebastiani responded that the SFPUC is not monitoring stormwater runoff directly. Considering the SFPUC has protected watersheds, they are not subjected to runoff that others are such as agricultural. When there are special events that impact our watersheds for example the SCU Complex fire, the SFPUC has taken action to monitor the watersheds.

Member Jacuzzi specified that there is a push within the urban areas to disconnect the storm water from treated water in the combined sewer system and that water is being directed towards ground water. Is anyone looking into what is happening to the water before it percolates into the ground water?

Staff Sebastiani responded the SFPUC has not monitored runoff from those areas prior to being absorbed to the groundwater basin.

Chair Clary mentioned that Sarah Minnick would be the best staff point of contact to ask this question to regarding water quality.

Staff Sebastiani asked his colleague Raymond Mah on the call if there was any discussion of this.

Staff Mah informed members that the SFPUC did not go into detail but can look at alternate water sources such as recycled water and usually recycle

water projects are long-term range planning where it takes at least a decade to put something into the ground.

- **Member Perszyk** commented the SFPUC has a plan to increase ground water extraction from the West Side basin in a few years. Once the SFPUC obtains recycled water from the ocean side and doubles the levels of extraction, what is the plan in place to deal with contaminants of concerns that the SFPUC currently does not deal with?

Staff Sebastiani responded that it is important to be vigilant but currently there are only four active wells in the GSR program that are relegated to drought use and are not being used regularly.

- **Chair Clary** asked how the CEC plan is overlapping with the intention to work the West Side Basin more proactively. Chair Clary also suggested having a map of potentially contaminating activities even if the PUC is not looking at rooftops.

Staff Sebastiani recognized that part of the strategic plan as water production increases is to have repeat monitoring.

- **Member Knott** asked what TCR stands for.

Staff Sebastiani throughout the city, there are several taps for TCR known was the total coliform rule which are monitored daily in a rotating schedule. The field crews go out to sample for coliform bacteria which includes E. coli.

- **Member Kott** followed up and asked if the test have ever been positive and what protocol is when there is a detection.

Staff Sebastiani responded that only one test had returned right at the detection limit. While there is a protocol, the SFPUC is currently in the process of updating it considering the Research Foundation had provided extra laboratory capability on speciation. Abandoned building and still water legionella are of concern, so the SFPUC is staying vigilant.

- **Chair Clary** asked if Legionella is part of testing protocol.

Staff Sebastiani responded that not at this time. This question gets to strategic plan focus area number 8 which is premise plumbing.

Chair Clary would love to cover premise plumbing in future presentation.

- **Chair Clary** followed up to ask if unregulated organics monitoring is part of the program to maintain filtration avoidance of the Hetch Hetchy source.

Staff Sebastiani commented that the unregulated DPPs is being prepared for future regulations that can cast a broader net on spectrum by-products.

Public Comment: None

7. Staff Report

- The D10 Seat on the CAC is vacant
- All CAC Members have been added to the Hetch Hetchy Tour List

Public Comment: None

8. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

Standing Subjects

- Groundwater
- Water Quality
- Statewide regulations

Specific Subjects

- FY24-25 Priorities
- Green Infrastructure - *Tentatively WW Topic*
- Integrating Tribal Leaders into SFPUC Land Management Decisions
- State Board Water Rights
- Water Enterprise Environmental Stewardship Policy Implementation Report
- Debate about Bay Delta – Member Sandkulla suggested everyone watch the February 5, 2021, Commission workshop about the Voluntary Agreement
- COVID and Long-term Affordability Program
- Implementation of the Bay Delta Plan Flow Requirement
- 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

Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up

- Resolution in Support of a Resilient Water Supply [adopted August 17, 2021](#)
- Resolution in Support of the Southern Skyline Boulevard Ridge Trail Extension Project [adopted April 20, 2021](#)
- 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](#)

Public Comment: None

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

Public Comment: None

10. **Adjournment** at 7:05pm.

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