



**San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)
Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)
Wastewater Subcommittee**

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor, Tuolumne Conference Room

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 5.140-142](#)).

Members

Anietie Ekanem (D10) Amy Zock (D3) Amy Nagengast (D8)
Misty McKinney (B-Enviro. Justice)

M = Mayoral appointment, B = Board President Appointment

Staff Liaisons: Tracy Zhu and Sabrie Grays

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Call to order and roll call:** The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm.

Members present at roll call: (3) Ekanem, McKinney, Zock

Members Absent: (1) Nagengast

2. **Approve February 5, 2019 Minutes**

Motion was made (Zock) and seconded (Ekanem) to approve **February 5, 2019** minutes

AYES: (3) Ekanem, McKinney, Zock

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Nagengast

*****Member Nagengast arrived at 5:36pm, quorum maintained.***

3. **Report from the Chair**

- Welcome members, staff, and the public.

4. **Public Comment:** None

*** indicates a member arrived after roll call.*

London N. Breed
Mayor

Ann Moller Caen
President

Francesca Vietor
Vice President

Anson Moran
Commissioner

Sophie Maxwell
Commissioner

Tim Paulson
Commissioner

Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.
General Manager



5. **Presentation and Discussion: [Combined Sewer System: Oceanside Treatment Plant and North Point Wet Weather Facility](#)**, Greg Norby, AGM
Wastewater Enterprise

- Resource: [Treatment Plant Handout](#)

Presentation Topics:

- SF's Combine Sewer System: Westside and North Point
- Our Combined Sewer System
- San Francisco's Sewer System Overview
- Bayside Facilities
- North Point Wet Weather Facility
- Westside Facilities
- Oceanside Treatment Plan & West Side Pump Station
- Westside System Overview
- Wastewater Infrastructure at Risk
- Collection System Components
- Westside T/S Box Example
- East and West Boxes During Construction
- Lifecycle Asset Management Approach
- Utility Asset Management Framework
- SSIP Phase 1 Projects
- Oceanside Treatment Plant Upgrades
- SSIP Phase 1 Projects
- North Point Outfall Rehabilitation

Discussion Topics:

- *Member Nagengast* asked how often the North Point Wet Weather Facility runs at full capacity. *General Manager (GM) Norby* was unable to answer the question exactly but said the facility rarely runs at full capacity.
- *Chair Ekanem* inquired how the sensors in monitoring overflows work. *GM Norby* replied that there is a network of sensors called the field monitoring network. They have a technical service division based out of North Point that is organized under the Wastewater Collection Systems Division. The group is responsible to maintain and keep functional at least 40-50 structures across the city. Almost all the Combined Sewer Discharge (CSD) structures have permanent instrumentation that is meant to detect if the structure is dry or if the structure is overflowing. If it's overflowing, they have a way to estimate the volume and flow rate.
- *Chair Ekanem* questioned if something goes wrong during construction at the Southeast Treatment Plant, could North Point be utilized to offset some of that. *GM Norby* responded that North Point facility only provides primary treatment. North Point provides solid removal and settling but has no biological treatment or filtering. This is not a facility you could send flows to in the wake of a shut down at the Southeast for a day or two. It's only intended for peak wet weather flows because it's not providing the level of treatment that occurs at the Southeast Treatment Plant.
- *Chair Ekanem* asked how big odor issues at the Oceanside Treatment Plant are. *Staff Ving* answered that the plant was designed with an intention to keep odors inside the plant because of the neighboring communities. It has a remarkable level of odor control which uses a tremendous amount of energy to keep the odors within the fence line. Also, most of the plant is underground, so odors get filtered before it is released to the surroundings.

- *Chair Ekanem* requested to hear about the community benefits that go along with the expenditures at the treatment plants.
Staff Zhu replied that with every capital project 2% of the above ground construction cost will go towards arts. A majority of these facilities have underground construction, but any above ground construction costs will contribute to the public art fund. Also, these are all projects that have to meet either local hire or local business enterprise ordinances.
- *Member Zock* inquired how the SFPUC has been interacting with the communities around the North Point Wet Weather Facility and Oceanside Treatment Plant. Do those surrounding communities receive the same level of engagement as the Southeast communities?
GM Norby responded that the Southeast Treatment Plant and the Southeast Community Facility Commission are a unique element to the Public Utilities Commission. The treatment plant has been much more of a burden to the community than the other two facilities. The SFPUC has done outreach around North Point, but they've seen little engagement. There's so much else happening in that community, and because it's just a wet weather facility it doesn't have the type of impact that the other two operating treatment plants do. For the Oceanside Treatment Plant, there's a close connection between the SFPUC, project teams and the zoo. There's also a group of people that are very active around the Ocean Beach Master Plan.
- *Chair Ekanem* asked for an update on SSIP Phase 2.
GM Norby answered that roughly starting in September 2018, the SFPUC looked at the existing list of future capital projects that focus on collection and conveyance. They realized that there's still some big questions they want time to refine before revealing the projects for public comment. Furthermore, the SFPUC is revamping how projects are prioritized.
Member Nagengast commented that it would be good to engage the public and the CAC on prioritization categories and impact factors.
- *Member Nagengast* asked how much the Wastewater Enterprise spends on energy (e.g. electricity and natural gas) and urged the SFPUC to consider energy efficiency in current and future capital projects.
GM Norby did not know the wastewater enterprise's annual energy expenditures.

Public Comment: None

6. **Presentation and Discussion: [Biosolids Program Update](#)**, Ryan Batjiaka, Resource Recovery Specialist; Manon Fisher, Resource Recovery Specialist; Karri Ving, Business Services Manager

- Resource: [CAC Resolution in support of Biosolids Program adopted August 21, 2018](#)

Presentation Topics:

- Status of goals set for 2018
- New goals for 2019
- Developing Biosolids Branding and Communication Framework
- UC Merced Carbon Sequestration Research
- SEP Demonstration Garden
- Mine Reclamation
- Benefit of SFPUC Biosolids Applied to Soils
- Resilience in the Face of Drought
- Biosolids Can Repair Destroyed Soils
- Regular Testing to Assure Biosolids Quality

- End Use Logistics and Contracting
- Biosolids Management System
- Class A Biosolids at Oceanside via TPAD
- Class A Biosolids at Southeast via THP
- Bay Area Biosolids Coalition
- UC Davis Research Partnership
- Branding and Community Engagement – Loop
- Branding and Community Engagement – Tagro

Discussion Topics:

- *Chair Ekanem* asked why Senate Bill 1383 will start to restrict the use of biosolids as an alternative daily cover in 2022. *Staff Batjiaka* and *Staff Fisher* answered that SB1383's goal is to reduce methane emissions. The concern is that there is still going to be methane released even though these landfills are required to have methane capture systems. They are looking to keep organics, like Biosolids, out of landfills which they know contribute to methane emissions.
- *Member Nagengast* inquired why there is so much monthly variation in dewatering performance at the Oceanside Pollution Control Plant. *Staff Batjiaka* responded that the difference between each month stems from the addition of more chloride to the system to deal with struvite, or the buildup of phosphorous ammonium. Struvite can damage pipes, and eventually end up changing the biology of the secondary treatment which will in turn change how the material flocculates or clumps together.
- *Member Nagengast* asked if the team considered using focus groups. *Staff Fisher* responded that they didn't build focus groups into the contract as it stands. When it comes to biosolids, it's different given the immediate stigma. Because they're not branding a product that's already familiar, there's a lot of education that would surround the focus group before they could even get to the point of talking about a name for a product. Their intention was to keep it a little more controlled.

Public Comment: None

7. Staff report

8. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

- Environmental Justice Analysis update
- Watershed Stewardship Grants
- Stormwater Management Ordinance and the Southeast Treatment Plant
- Environmental Justice in Capital Projects
- SSIP Phase II
- Communications Updates
- Upcoming Construction
- Biosolids Green Infrastructure Resolution Update
- Workforce Programs and Qualifications
- Ocean Beach Master Plan
- Emergency Planning & Safety

9. Announcements/Comments – Visit www.sfwater.org/cac for information about the next scheduled meeting.

10. Adjournment

Motion was made (Zock) and seconded (Nagengast) to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.