

SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM | Grey. Green. Clean.

# JOBS AND CONTRACTS

EDITION 11 | DECEMBER 2021



San Francisco  
Water Power Sewer  
Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

# About the Sewer System Improvement Program

The owner and operator of San Francisco’s sewer system, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), has embarked upon the Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP), a 20-year, multibillion-dollar citywide investment to upgrade our aging sewer infrastructure to ensure a reliable and seismically safe system now and for generations to come. An investment in sewer infrastructure of this magnitude presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to:

**Upgrade our aging sewer system** to sustainably support all who live, work, and visit our amazing city.

**Provide training and support services** for our community to access, and meaningfully participate on projects being constructed in their neighborhoods.

**Create job opportunities** and access to careers that provide living wages and benefits.

**Provide opportunities** for the startup and growth of small businesses.

## In this Issue

Worker Profile: Ondra Gwinn . . . . .	3
How are we doing so far...? . . . . .	4
Making an Impact . . . . .	5
Mansfield and Giron Construction . . . . .	6
Partnering in Jobs and Contracts . . . . .	7

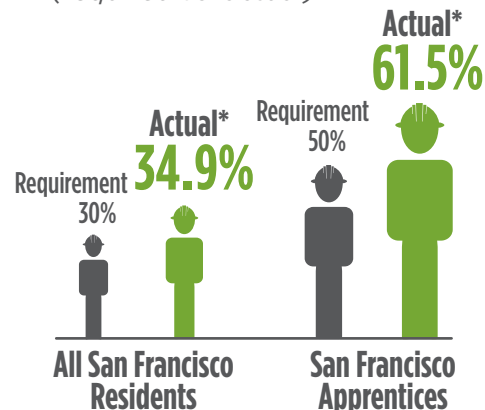
## Making a Lasting Investment

With the SSIP’s infrastructure investments, the SFPUC has an opportunity to support San Francisco’s ongoing economic vitality by strengthening its neighborhoods, businesses, and workforce through:

**JOBS:** The SSIP’s projects are covered by the San Francisco Local Hiring Policy for Construction and have a requirement of 30%, meaning hours must be worked by San Francisco residents. For apprenticeships (entry-level jobs) this requirement is 50%.

**CONTRACTS:** The City also has a mandate for local community contractors to participate. Although the requirements vary by contract, the SFPUC is committed to maximizing local participation on every project.

Percentage of hours worked  
(required vs. actual)



*\*Actual Local Hire participation is recorded and administered by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development.*

This Report is designed to provide a quarterly snapshot of the jobs and contracts provided by the SSIP, and serves as a resource guide for those looking to get involved with this once in a generation opportunity. *The data in this report is through December 31, 2021.*

## Worker Profile:

# Ondra Gwinn

By Kelley Omran, Communications



*“Learning is ongoing,”* reflects Ondra Gwinn with confidence as he shares his outlook on life. *“Trust in the process—looking at where you started and where you ended up—those things are really great things to see.”*

Gwinn is a journeyman laborer with Malcolm Drilling, Inc., a contractor working on the New Headworks Facility Project at San Francisco’s largest wastewater treatment facility, the Southeast Treatment Plant (SEP) located in the Bayview- Hunters Point neighborhood. Because no two days are typical, means he’s always learning. After completing two associate degrees, he is now working on a bachelor’s degree and plans to complete a master’s degree, before starting his own business.

*“It enabled me to pay my rent, to move forward with life,”* Gwinn says of his current career in construction. It also allowed him to continue paying his way through college and buy a new truck for work.

Gwinn jumpstarted his construction with formal training at the Ship Shape Community Center at Treasure Island, an organization which provides workforce support services such as job development, employment research, and work referrals and placement. *“There are lots of resources, but you have to be humble enough to receive them,”* he says. *“You just have to be willing to take it day by day and have an open mind. You have to have a desire to learn.”*

The training that Gwinn received at Treasure Island included managing asbestos, flagging, Class B truck driving, as well as other basic construction career essentials. After his training, he joined the Laborers’ Local Union 67, Asbestos, Lead & Mold Remediation and Allied Industries, and was soon dispatched for asbestos remediation and demolition work. His success at Treasure Island helped him to network and with other agencies, including CityBuild and the SFPUC, which eventually led to a referral opportunity with Malcolm Drilling at the SEP.

He says working at the SEP has benefited him in many ways he could not have predicted. *“Working here is big for me because during this time of COVID, it’s really challenging. A lot of people are out of work,”* says Gwinn. *“Construction is a viable option for many people who are looking for economic stability during the pandemic.”*

For those who are interested in pursuing a career in construction, Gwinn has some advice: *“Construction isn’t for everyone. You work hard, but there’s going to come a day when you stand back and look at the result of your work.”*

*“Just knowing that you’ve been a part of something that was a lot bigger than you—and seeing how it turns out—is worth it.”* Gwinn is excited for what the future holds and is thankful and appreciative to all those who helped him get to where he is today, including giving himself a pat on the back every so often.

# HOW ARE WE DOING SO FAR...?

## JOBS

BAY AREA (AND BEYOND)

**\$129.3 Million**  
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS



**5,066 Workers**

1.7M+ HRS

APPRENTICES

**\$11.6 Million**  
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS

807 WORKERS  
207K+ HRS

SAN FRANCISCO

**\$42.2 Million**  
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS  
1,356 WORKERS



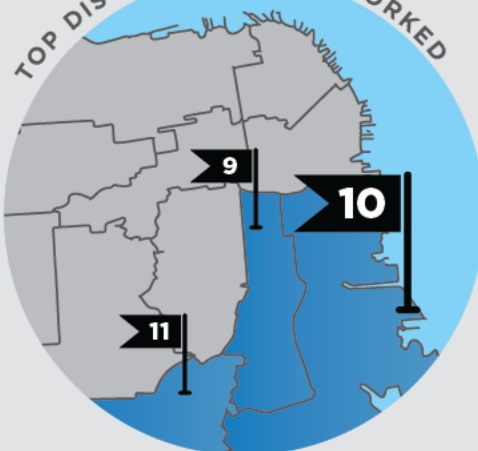
606K+ HRS

APPRENTICES

**\$6.8 Million**  
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS

365 WORKERS  
128K HRS

TOP DISTRICTS: HOURS WORKED



**ALL WORKERS** D10 Bayview **32%** | D11 Excelsior **15.7%**

**APPRENTICES** D10 Bayview **36.9%** | D5 Western **14.2%**

## CONTRACTS

CONTRACTS AWARDED

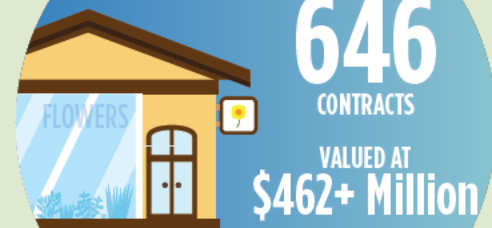
**\$2.1 Billion**  
TOTAL CONTRACTS AWARDED



**\$423M**  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**\$1.7B**  
CONSTRUCTION

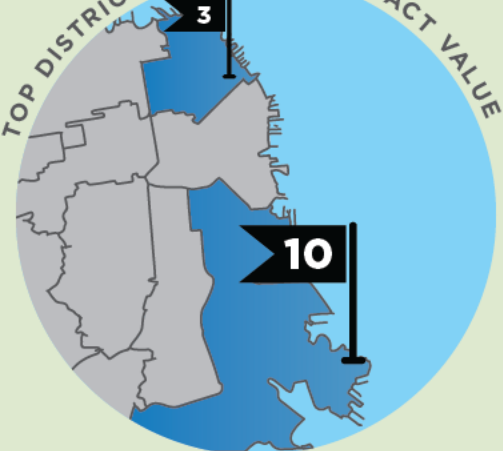
SF LOCAL BUSINESSES



**646**  
CONTRACTS

VALUED AT  
**\$462+ Million**

TOP DISTRICTS: LOCAL CONTRACT VALUE



D10 Bayview **51%** | D3 Chinatown **18%**

# MAKING AN IMPACT

The Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP) is a critical citywide investment in our people, our communities, and our quality of life.

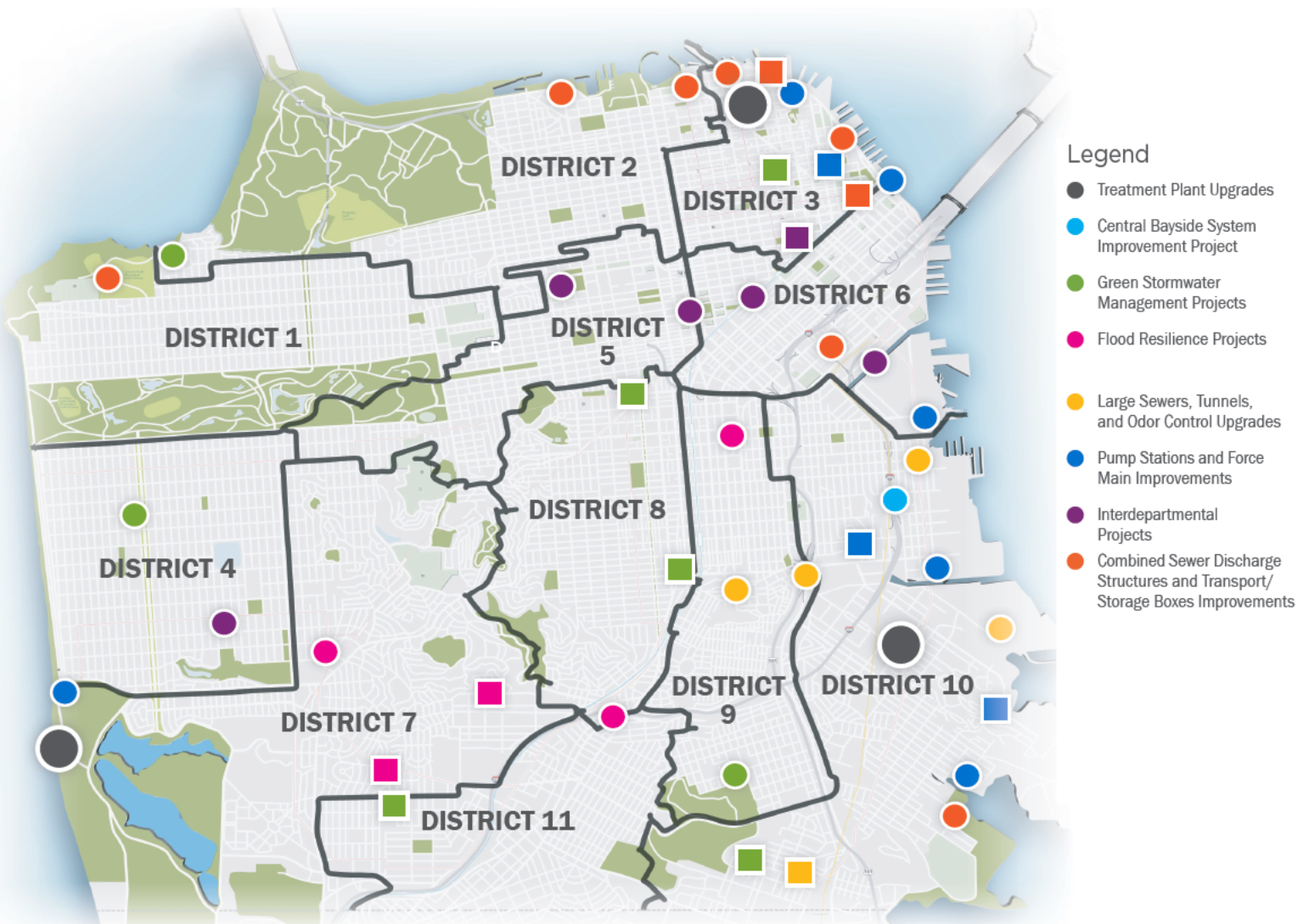
## The Program

The SSIP is divided into overlapping phases to maintain affordability. To date only Phase 1 has been approved by our Commission representing \$2.979 billion. This first phase is comprised of 70 projects occurring all over the City.

**Grey.** Upgrades to our pipes and Treatment Plants for reliability, resiliency, and regulatory compliance.

**Green.** Innovative stormwater management tools that not only reduce impacts to our system but help beautify our neighborhoods too!

**Clean.** Improving our infrastructure to protect the health of our communities and the environment.



↑ This map depicts the approximate locations of our Phase 1 projects ■ Squares indicate completed Projects



## LBE Profile: Giron Construction

By Aziza Jackson

Bruce Giron is not a big fan of Mondays.

As the head of Giron Construction, a heavy civil engineering construction company located in the Bayview, his day-to-day tasks vary, but Mondays can be particularly hectic.

*"I've got a company that is small in terms of size but very, very big in terms of capability and heart," said Giron. "I feel very, very proud to lead this particular group of people."*

Since 2011, Giron Construction has operated as both a contractor and construction management firm and currently operates out of its small office location on Evans Avenue and Third Street.

The firm has worked with clients in both the public and private sector, including the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department, and Herrero Bolt, a San Francisco-based commercial general contractor.

They also pride themselves on being a community-driven business, dedicated to providing opportunities to the local underserved communities of San Francisco.

*"I kind of have fond memories of my growth and development here because it started with my very first contract being with the SFPUC," said Giron.*

*"I started off with a very small sub-contract and I have incrementally developed my company from that very small engagement to successfully larger contracts. And now we're doing projects that I only dreamed that I'd be able to do."*

Giron said that his firm now receives multimillion-dollar contracts – a huge milestone for his team and his second go-round at a career.

Technically, Giron is retired, yet the constant ringing on his phone tells another story.

He retired from the Marines as a Colonel, with more than 25 years of active and reserve service. He also has a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a master's degree in Systems Management.

Giron attributes his work ethic to his service in the Marine Corps and applies much of their philosophy to his business practices, teamwork, and standards of quality in his work.

*"All of my military life was actually about demolishing things, so I did a lot of that, and I never got much of a chance to create something," said Giron. "I didn't get a chance to really construct or do anything that was remotely close to my major until I retired."*

Giron has been able to add a number of impressive projects to the firm's resume, including the first construction contract for the Calaveras Dam, where they provided site-prep work. This inaugural contract included building a wildlife exclusion fence, so the construction wouldn't interfere with the natural migration of movement of wildlife in the area.

*"Without that contract, this wouldn't be possible here," said Giron. "The PUC holds kind of a unique place in my heart because they were the very first contracting opportunity for me, so that's kind of neat that I started here and hopefully I'm a good example of the return of their efforts to try and create an environment for companies like mine to be successful."*

Giron Construction has grown exponentially and has two more projects in the Bayview under its belt.

*"We started in 2020, working on two large PUC projects," said Giron. "One is the Biosolids project which I can almost walk to, and coincidentally we also started the 1550 Evans community center project, and I can also walk there on a good day."*

In addition to being based in the Bayview, Giron is also dedicated to maintaining over a 75 percent local hire rate at the firm and is intentional about hiring locally.

Not only does he believe in hiring from communities of color in San Francisco, he believes in investing in his employees so that they can go on to provide a better life for themselves and their families.

According to Giron, a lot of opportunities in the construction industry are episodic and short-term, which makes it difficult for some employees to build and develop their technical skills.

*"I've always hired people from the neighborhood, but about four or five years ago I hired a couple of folks that have been with me to this day, and I am extremely proud of that because I have been able to create a continuous employment position for them," said Giron.*

*"I think it's very important that I do the best job that I can so that I can be a part of someone else's dream and hopefully they go even further than me, and that it becomes something that's more commonplace than unusual. My hope right here in this office is that I try to run this business like it's part of a family. I try to pay forward the things that I hope they will pay forward as well."*



# Resources in Jobs and Contracts



The SFPUC partners with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) and CityBuild to train and match SF workers with SSIP jobs opportunities.

The SFPUC has also established the Contractors Assistance Center to provide local, small businesses with the tools and resources necessary to get **ACCESS** to, **COMPETE** for, and **PARTICIPATE** on, upcoming contracting opportunities.

## Looking for a job?

### Office of Economic Workforce & Development

- FREE training programs for job seekers
- Skill development and support services
- Specialized job seeker services

(415) 554-6969 [oewd.org/employment](http://oewd.org/employment)

SFPUC Job Information Hotline (415) 934-5777

## Need job training?

### CityBuild

Coordinates City-wide construction training and employment programs and offers construction industry training:

- Pre-Apprenticeship Training
- Construction Administration Training
- Employment Networking Services

(415) 701-4848 [oewd.org/city-build](http://oewd.org/city-build)

## Want to bid on a project?

### Contractors Assistance Center

(415) 467-1040 [acp@sfwater.org](mailto:acp@sfwater.org) [sfpuc.org/contractorcenter](http://sfpuc.org/contractorcenter)

FREE resources for professional service firms, construction companies, vendors, and suppliers:

#### ACCESS

- Secure Necessary Certifications and Registrations
- Identify Contracting Opportunities
- Assess Capital Requirements and Financial Risk

#### COMPETE

- Networking Opportunities
- Plot Your Business Development Strategy
- Assistance Preparing Bids and Proposals

#### PARTICIPATE

- Learn the Skills Necessary to Coordinate Project Delivery
- Comply with City Programs and Get Paid
- Develop a Financial Game Plan

## Questions about projects in construction?

### SEP Construction Information Hub

Your resource for information on construction activities at the Southeast Treatment Plant.

(415) 551-4SEP (4737) [sfpuc.org/SEPconstruction](http://sfpuc.org/SEPconstruction)



Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission



**SEWER SYSTEM**  
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
**Grey. Green. Clean.**

[sfpuc.org/ssip](http://sfpuc.org/ssip)  
[#sfsewer](https://twitter.com/sfsewer)