

SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM | Grey. Green. Clean.

JOBS AND CONTRACTS

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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.

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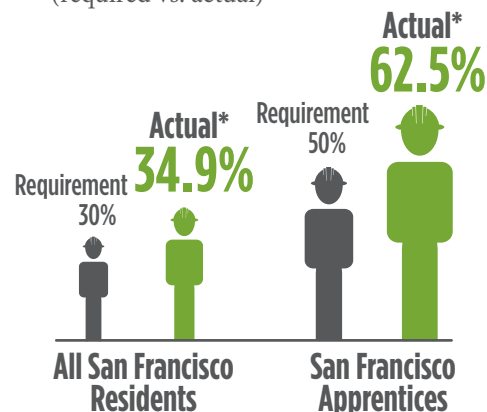
Making a Lasting Investment

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 serve as a resource guide for those looking to get involved with this once in a generation opportunity. The data in this report is through June 30, 2021.



Worker Profile:

Meet Clayton West

By Kristen Webb, Senior Outreach Liaison, Southeast Treatment Plant Construction

“I want kids to have a safe place to come to learn something or play,” said Ironworker Clayton West, explaining how he wants children in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Communities to have an easier and more enriching experience growing up than he did.

“I’m excited knowing that I am building a community center in a place that really needs it,” West says, with an expression of joy as he imagines a brighter future for the community in the not-too-distant future. Kwan Wo Ironworks, West’s current employer, is subcontractor to Pankow Builders, and is working on the new construction of the Southeast Community Center (SECC) located at 1550 Evans Avenue.

Scheduled to open next year, the SECC was developed with the main goal of being a neighborhood facility where local resources and educational programs could be housed within the community.

“Things that other communities always had available to them, I want kids over here to have,” West says, drawing parallels from his life to what he sees in the community today. He recalls how he had to prevail over the *“dramas in life while growing up Black and in the ghetto.”* That is why he wants the youth to have access to supportive resources closer-at-hand and in their own neighborhood.

The new modern building design, which is LEED Gold-certified indicating excellence for sustainability and energy efficiency, will include a childcare center, classrooms, community activity space, a café and office space, and will have over two acres of open space with picnic grounds, an amphitheater, play areas, and nearly 200 shade trees. In addition, the SECC will host to a wide range of programs and resources that will serve the Southeast community residents of all ages.

“I want [residents] to be able to come to the community center and learn a trade. Maybe they can learn welding, construction management, or blueprints – that would be beautiful – anything that will take them further in life,” he states.

For West, who has several family members in the trades, construction seemed like an obvious career path. *“My grandfather was a mason. My father was a mason. They sling mud, lay bricks and build walls. For me, I grew up seeing construction, it was a natural transition to get into the construction field.”*

While West's early experience with school was difficult and unfulfilling, he was always confident in his ability to learn and work with hands. This innate talent made him interested in pursuing a vocational welding program at the Folsom State Prison while he was there incarcerated ([Folsom State Prison Vocational Welding](#)). "When I got out, I wanted to hit the ground running," says West. "I was in [Mr. Ezenwa's] shop for two years. EZ had a profound influence on me, on all of us, and taught us to believe in ourselves. We were learning everything in-depth, including metallurgy, structural steel, and we even earned national welding certifications."

Part of what West loves about welding is the science behind it, which has given him a greater appreciation for the unique qualities and nuances of different metals and how they can be manipulated through his work. "What I love about my job is that when you take hundreds of amps and all this heat, and it's passing through my hand to melt steel – to me that's amazing! So, I never get tired of welding. That's what I love about it, and what keeps me wanting to improve my craft. My dream now is to become a welding inspector."

After his release, West worked on project sites up and down Third Street, increasing his professional skill level with each job, and it was through the help of Zelda Saeli, and the SFPUC's Workforce and Economic Program Services (WEPS) team, that West was identified for opportunities on some of the SFPUC's capital projects.

"My job is to put people to work, specifically local San Francisco residents," said Saeli. "Clayton understands

the industry and that you need to be reliable." Saeli, in her role as a labor relations liaison to the community, contractors, construction unions and other city agencies, explains further, "I attend progress meetings and walk the job sites to check in with the contractors and the people I refer. It all has to work together. And through building these relationships, we can support the local community and workers such as Clayton."

Upon reflection, West feels that his greatest success was getting into the industry in the first place. Through his own perseverance and initiative, he was able to overcome several personal hurdles, including periodic struggles with homelessness and drug addiction, get the training and credentials he knew would give him the best opportunities, and put aside any fears of failure or self-doubt when meeting potential employers and union representatives who could further his career. West prides himself on being in an elite category of construction, and because welding is so specialized and sought-after, the demand for his expertise remains strong, to the point where he's now on the cusp of becoming a full-fledged journeyman ironworker, having quickly moved through all the technical skills requirements and cumulative time-on-the-job necessary to advance through each level.

West hopes to one day return to the new SECC, perhaps as a youth mentor, where he can encourage a new generation of future workers to join a union and get into the construction industry like he has. Wrapping up another day of work, West says with satisfied grin, "I love the fact that I am a part of putting this place together!"



HOW ARE WE DOING SO FAR...?

JOBS

BAY AREA

\$105.8 Million
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS



5,046 Workers

1.4M+ HRS

APPRENTICES

\$10.5 Million
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS

810 WORKERS

189K+ HRS

SAN FRANCISCO

\$34.4 Million
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS
1,354 WORKERS



500K+ HRS

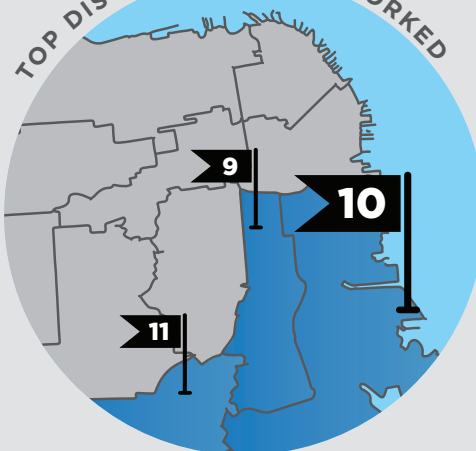
APPRENTICES

\$6.3 Million
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS

371 WORKERS

118K+ HRS

TOP DISTRICTS: HOURS WORKED



ALL WORKERS D10 Bayview **30.9%** | D11 Excelsior **16.8%**

APPRENTICES D10 Bayview **34.7%** | D9 Mission **15.3%**

CONTRACTS

CONTRACTS AWARDED

\$2.1 Billion

TOTAL CONTRACTS AWARDED



\$423M
PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES

\$1.7B
CONSTRUCTION

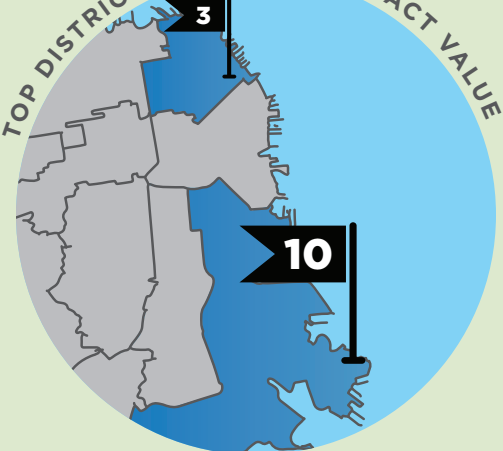
SF LOCAL BUSINESSES



618
CONTRACTS

VALUED AT
\$434+ Million

TOP DISTRICTS: LOCAL CONTRACT VALUE



D10 Bayview **52%** | D3 Chinatown **19%**

MAKING AN IMPACT

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

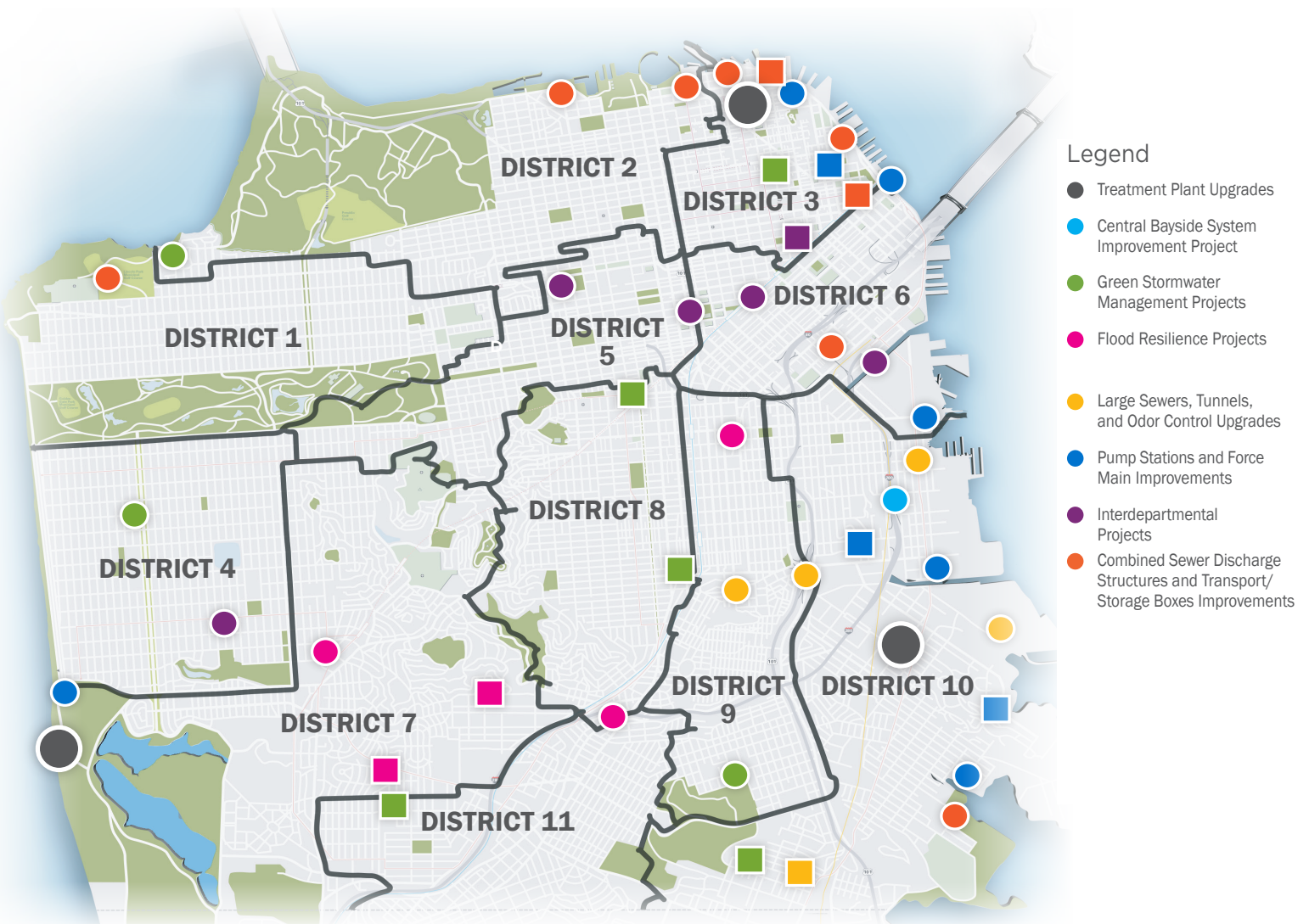
The Program

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

Successful Trucking Firm and Strong Community Advocate

By Yordanos Dejen and Todd Kyger

Michael Gregory Sr., President of HVYW8 Trucking, Inc., uses his hard-won experiences to empower other local truckers and help mentor them along the way. Michael and Tricia Gregory, husband and wife team and business partners, are the embodiment of the saying, “*lift as you climb*”, and have instilled that principle into their business practices.

Prior to starting HVYW8, Michael was a mentee himself, having received guidance from others, such as Charlie Walker, CEO of the Bayview trucking company, Walker Trucking Co., who taught him some of what to expect when owning a trucking company, and who pushed him to make a leap into starting his own business in 2001. Dan Boardman, President of Bode Concrete, also gave Michael insight into the power of advocacy. It was Boardman who was influential in advocating for District 10 minority-owned trucking companies on projects with the Port of San Francisco.



Fast forward to the outreach that was conducted for the SFPUC-facilitated townhalls that were presented in District 10 for the community to learn about the agency’s upcoming projects, and HVYW8 says, “*We’re grateful to the SFPUC and Bonner Communications. We wouldn’t have known about these [upcoming] projects if it weren’t for Bonner coming into the community and telling us.*”

When the SFPUC held these townhalls for projects happening in Michael and Tricia’s neighborhood, HVYW8 made a concerted effort to ensure the prime contractors met and worked with local truckers. Through their experience advocating alongside Boardman, as well as Michael and Tricia’s own firsthand experience on other projects, HVYW8 knew that they needed to be vocal advocates for their community, and to make sure trade package prime contractors didn’t relegate local trucking firms to only certain portions of the work. There was a strong desire and ability among the local truckers to perform a larger percentage of the project’s overall trucking. This was the one of the main catalysts for HVYW8’s advocacy, and Michael and Tricia did some due diligence through the SFPUC’s Contractors Assistance Center to learn more about the projects. From there they were able to connect with one of the subcontractors on the project, RDJ Enterprises, who was principally responsible for helping to coordinate with local District 10 LBEs and businesses, and to help inform the project management team’s cohesive subcontracting strategy to utilize a representative number of D10 LBE trucking firms on their project.

HVYW8 understands the power and value of mentorship and the benefits of “*lifting as you climb*”. Michael is proud to be able to pay it forward, in addition to continuing his advocacy work and making sure the City delivers on its promise to provide opportunities to small, local firms on its public works projects. He’s working towards establishing a trucking school for men and women from the D10 community who were formerly incarcerated and now want to launch a trucking career of their own, which Michael can attest to, is both rewarding and profitable when given an opportunity.

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

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

Want to bid on a project?

Contractors Assistance Center

(415) 467-1040 acp@sfwater.org 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



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Public Utilities Commission



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[#sfsewer](https://twitter.com/sfsewer)