



Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission



1550 Evans Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94124
T 415.523.1434
sfpuc.gov/secc

**ADOPTED MINUTES
SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY FACILITY COMMISSION
Wednesday, July 24, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

- 1. **Land Acknowledgement:** Staff read the Land Acknowledgement.
- 2. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Commissioner Fromer called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and staff called roll.
Present: Fromer (exit 7:29 p.m.), Chung, Mezie, Posey, Tran (exit 6:52 p.m.)

- 3. **Adoption of Minutes:** June 26, 2024
Moved: Mezie **Second:** Chung
Ayes: Fromer, Chung, Posey, Tran, Mezie
The minutes for June 26 were adopted.

- 4. **General Public Comment:** None.

- 5. **Report of the Chair:** (Fromer)
Commissioner Fromer announced the Community Center will be hosting a movie night on August 24th on the lawn. The movie will be “Black Panther”, free popcorn will be provided while supplies last and families and children are invited.

Commissioner Posey added the Basketball Tournament was a success with close to 300 attendees. There was collaboration with APRI, San Francisco Park & Rec, and the India Basin Group.

Commissioner Fromer asked staff to research and identify other projects in the community that may have an impact on the environment such as rising water and the decreasing shoreline.

Public Comment: None.

- 6. **SFPUC Biosolids EIR Addendum Presentation:** (Brandao, Stern-Liddle, Cleere)
Daniela Brandao, Biogas Project Manager, SFPUC, provided construction updates for the Biosolids Digesters Facilities Project. The presentation agenda also contained Biogas Utilization System changes, Environmental Impact Report addendum, and an Environmental Justice and Southeast Community Center air quality monitoring update.

Kimberly Stern-Liddle who oversees the implementation of the project environmental requirements during construction and was involved directly with the Environmental Impact Report addendum provided information as to how the process works for projects in San Francisco where the City Code specifically designates the Planning Department to lead environmental reviews. The SFPUC provides information to the Planning Department about the project description and then the Planning Department conducts an independent environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and the City Code.

London N. Breed
Mayor

Dr. Gina Fromer
Chair

Vacant
Vice-Chair

Karen Chung
Commissioner

Chika Mezie
Commissioner

Damien Posey
Commissioner

Vacant
Commissioner

Marlene Tran
Commissioner

Emily Pharr
Executive Director

Carla Vaughn
Commission Secretary



The remainder of Ms. Stern-Liddle's portion of the presentation focused on the environmental analysis of the impacts of the operational air emissions.

Ricki Cleere, SFPUC, Environmental Justice and Land Use Analyst was introduced and advised his role is to ensure the project keeps the commitments and recommendations from the Environmental Justice Analysis. He reported the SFPUC is committed to monitoring emissions from the Southeast Plant and ensuring that if operational emissions exceed 3 tons per year the offset strategies would be put in place to reduce emissions.

Mr. Cleere reported partnerships with UC Berkeley, ManyLabs, and Greenaction were established to monitor air quality on the rooftop of the Southeast Center and the data will be available on a website for Bayview Hunters Point to identify violations affecting neighborhoods.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners:

Commissioners asked how much the new Biogas Utilization System would affect the existing PG&E pipelines.

- Staff responded there would be a large amount of gas therefore this would be a good time to transform the source into a renewable resource and utilize replacing natural gas which is fossil fuel and bad for the environment.

Commissioner Posey noted a tour that was provided recently that did not include all of the land that was seen on the presentation. He had questions regarding what would be happening with the additional land.

- Staff advised there are several processes that will be taking place on the land having to do with the solids that will come out of the liquid treatment. It will be dried and pre-treated before being placed in the digestors to produce high quality biosolids and biogas to be sustainably used. The land will be used and replaced with modern technology to add the redundancy and reliability needed to accommodate the system through 2045. What is available today would not be able to take us to 2045.

Commissioner Mezie mentioned the location of the current digestors and asked what would happen to the gases emitting from the current digestors once they are transferred into the new digestors? She said the gases are currently affecting the Bayview community and have been doing so in the past.

- Staff responded the old digestors will be decommissioned when the new facility starts.

Commissioners asked how long will it take to decommission the old digestors?

- Staff reported there will be 18 to 24 months of startup and commissioning and that is within the project schedule.

Commissioners said it would be great to have these stem related topics introduced to young people in the community and introduce them to the possibility of careers in this field.

Commissioner Tran acknowledged Community Leaders that were present and thanked the presenters for the presentation. She mentioned hearing complaints from residents over the years regarding the smell emanating from the plant and said she hoped that all of this work would eliminate that problem.

- Staff said there is a commitment to contain smells and to have no detection at the fence line.

The Commissioners expressed concern regarding how the community was being informed of the plans for the new digestors, and they questioned if the new digestors would process more sewage than the old digestors.

- Staff advised the percentage would be the same however the new system was constructed to process sewage through 2045.

Public Comment:

Community Advisory Committee Member Linda Richardson noted the third item on the Environmental Impact Report addendum and requested it be corrected to acknowledge there would be an increase in emissions. Ms. Richardson said new mitigation measures are required and health hazards already exist because of former industrial activities.

She noted the Bayview community will continue to be burdened with a tremendous increase of emissions that are creating high asthma rates.

Lonnie Mason, community member said he didn't see anything being done to minimize dust during the construction and he reported Alpha radiation was recently found in tap water near the sewage plant.

Chair Fromer was excused from the meeting and asked Commissioner Posey to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

7. **AB617 Updates** (*Ralston, Harrison, Madrigal*)

David Ralston of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District lead the discussion on air quality. He provided background on AB617 and reported Bayview Hunters Point has an AB617 designation mandated by the State of California to help reduce pollution in the community. He introduced Arianne Harrison who is a co-lead of the community steering committee.

Ms. Harrison the Executive Director of Marie Harrison Community Foundation for Environmental and Social Justice reported her organization met with community members from every social, economic, and ethnic group in the community. The idea was to develop a plan that would collect data to understand the challenges of the air quality management.

Ms. Harrison said the overall goal is to reduce air pollution and the impact on the community. She said the organization is working on community oversight, accountability, and the lack of enforcement. She reported illegal dumping and odor create a public health risk. Ms. Harrison expressed concern about dust and concrete that randomly blow through the community.

Commissioner Posey thanked the presenters and noted that he had an opportunity to work with Ms. Harrison and he thanked her for her advocacy.

Commissioner Mezie asked when the item would be placed on a ballot and what could the Commission do to provide support?

- Ms. Harrison said her foundation was working with youth and providing pathways into the industry through stem programs to encourage their development in environmental justice.

Public Comment:

Linda Richardson, Community Committee Member thanked the presenters and noted that for decades the community had been trying to shut down the power plants and mitigate the ongoing pollution. She advised there was still a long way to go and there is a need for a broader discussion that includes the land use plan. She said the Bayview community is the only community in San Francisco trying to mitigate the plan and it is extremely important.

Daniel Madrigal, Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced the next meeting would be held on August 20th and he invited everyone to attend.

8. **SECFEC Executive Director's Report** (*discussion only*) (*Pharr*)

Executive Director Pharr announced the Movie Night Series taking place on August 24 with Black Panther. There will also be movie nights in September and October. She advised there will be a re-envisioning of the SECC Marketplace. The Executive Director reported reservations for the Center were ongoing and there was a lot of interest from the community to rent spaces for community meetings. During the last fiscal year more than 54,000 people visited the Center.

In closing Executive Director Pharr said the recruitment process to fill positions at the Center continues.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners:

None.

Public Comment: None.

9. Future Agenda Items Initiated by Commissioners (discussion only)

None.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners:

None.

Public Comment: None.

11. Announcements

Commissioner Posey announced the August 18th Backpack Giveaway.

Commissioner Mezie announced there would be quarterly Job Fairs coming soon.

Executive Director Pharr encouraged anyone with upcoming events should contact SECC staff so they could be included in the SECC newsletter.

Staff announced the SECC community presence on Instagram was at 400 followers with approximately 900 on Facebook.

Public Comment: None.

12. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

The next meeting of the Southeast Community Facility Commission will be Wednesday, August 28, 2024.

Carla Vaughn, Commission Secretary