

Susan Murphy
Chair
Gina Fromer
Vice-Chair
Karen Chung
Commissioner
Chika Mezie
Commissioner
Damien Posey
Commissioner
Amerika Sanchez
Commissioner
Marlene Tran
Commissioner

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY FACILITY COMMISSION CITY and COUNTY of SAN FRANCISCO



London Nicole Breed, Mayor

Emily Pharr
Executive Director

ADOPTED MINUTES SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY FACILITY COMMISSION CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE Joint Meeting Wednesday, May 24, 2023 6:00 P.M.

- Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement:** Chair Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:08 P.M.
Roll Call: (Staff)
Present Southeast Commissioners: Murphy, Fromer, Chung, Mezie, Posey, Sanchez, Tran
Present Citizens' Advisory Committee: Jacuzzi, Algire, Sanders, Nagengast, Lee, Clary, Pinkston, Sandkulla, Perszyk, Pierce
Absent Citizens' Advisory Committee: Garcia, Kott, Kight, Soboll, Baker
- General Public Comment:** None.
- Welcome and Opening Remarks:** Chair Murphy welcomed those in attendance and introduced Eliahu Perszyk, Vice-Chair of the Citizens' Advisory Committee. It was noted that both organizations are advisory and provide recommendations to the General Manager of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the SFPUC and the Board of Supervisors regarding the long term strategic, financial, and capital improvement plans of the agency with an emphasis on justice and equity. May was recognized as AAPI month and the Commission will acknowledge Patsy Tito, Director of the Samoan Community Development Center at an upcoming meeting. Commissioners were invited to submit names for nominees to be recognized in June which is Pride Month.

Eliahu Perszyk, Vice-Chair of the Citizens' Advisory Committee welcomed attendees and said the CAC was interested in collaborating with the Southeast Community Facility Commission. He shared regrets from Chair Garcia who was unable to attend the joint meeting.
- Minimizing Air Quality Impacts at the Southeast Treatment Plant:** (Presentation and Discussion)
Chris Colwick, SFPUC, Communications Manager

Mr. Colwick works with his team overseeing the Wastewater Capital Program that includes the Sewer System Improvement Program. Mr. Colwick provided an update on an important project element taking place at the Southeast Treatment Plant located across the street from the Southeast Community Center. Mr. Colwick provided an update on the major upgrades taking place at the plant and introduced the Biogas Utilization Project which is providing over a \$3 billion dollar upgrade to the Southeast Treatment Plant, the largest wastewater facility in San Francisco that treats 80% of the city's combined wastewater stream. He reported the first phase of the major projects are halfway through completion. This includes the New Headworks Facility Project and the new Biosolids Digester Facilities Project (BDFP). The BDFP is rebuilding and relocating the solids handling facility at the Southeast Treatment Plant. The main project components will focus on operational improvements, address aging infrastructure, maintain regulatory compliance, improve order, noise, and visual quality, and beneficially use 100% of Biosolids and Biogas produced. The original plan was to use Biogas onsite with boilers and turbines which would generate heat, steam, and electricity. In 2019 an update on the cost estimates was provided and they were much higher than originally estimated. After completing a detailed cost assessment, a new use was identified for the biogas which allows us to pursue a public private partnership reducing the capital cost to the project. This will create the highest economic and environmental value for the Biogas coming out of the treatment process. This approach will also support City and State renewable energy and sustainability policies and practices, as well as maximize value from our investments and leverage the expertise of our renewable biogas delivery partners.

This project needs to be completed prior to the Biosolids Digester Facilities Project. Construction will start in the Fall of 2024 and completion is expected in the Fall of 2026.

Questions and Comments from Southeast Commissioners and Citizens' Advisory Committee Members:

Michelle Pierce (CAC) commented that although methane exposure would be reduced formaldehyde exposure would not and the community was being moved into using something the city was considering banning by 2040 and could be obsolete in 20 years. Ms. Pierce requested an update in the future regarding what plan would be in place when the current plans were sun setting.

- Staff responded the momentum towards removing natural gas could be a part of a future conversation facilitated by the project manager Daniela Brandow.

Steven Lee (CAC) asked if the improvements and noise could be quantified as a result of the project?

- Staff responded the environmental review had not been completed and when it is available there would be data gathering regarding the project and the impact on the community.

Barklee Sanders (CAC) asked if the treatment plant would treat wastewater from Treasure Island?

- Staff reported solids would be treated at either Oceanside or the Southeast Plant until the population on the island made it cost effective to treat on Treasure Island.

Maika Pinkston (CAC) had questions regarding contracts and wanted to ensure contracts are available for local businesses and people from the community.

- Staff said they would figure out the best way to make sure those commitments were fulfilled.

Amy Nagengast (CAC) requested more information about 100% use of Biosolids and she asked if there was an opportunity to introduce a program similar to the one Recology has where property owners can have access to the Biosolids to increase the viability of their topsoil?

- Staff provided a breakdown of how the Biosolids are extracted from the treatment process and advised there is a group working on future uses of Biosolids which are high in nutrients.

Susan Murphy, SECC Chair commented regarding local hiring and reported the facessf organization provides wrap around services specifically for the purpose of local hiring.

Update on Air Quality Monitoring at the Southeast Community Center: (Presentation and Discussion)

Rickie Cleere, SFPUC, Environmental Justice & Land Use Analyst

Mr. Cleere provided an update on the effort to establish air quality monitors on the rooftop of the Southeast Community Center. The Community Benefits Team is facilitating the installation of 3 air quality monitors by institutional and community partners to support monitoring to improve environmental justice outcomes. The report was originally facilitated by the Team's involvement with the Bayview Hunters Point EJ Task Force who are a part of the IVAN (Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods) network that was launched in 2015 by Green Action with a small grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. Their goal is to remedy environmental pollution programs in Bayview Hunters Point, a low-income community. The Task Force brought together community and academic organization and applied for funds from Assembly Bill 617, California Air Resources Boards, Community Air Monitoring Grants, and the Carb Supplemental Environmental Project Grant. The goal is to increase community participation in comprehensive air pollution monitoring and prevention strategies.

Mr. Cleere said the SFPUC is currently working with Bay Area Air Quality Management District in collaboration with UC Berkeley to install a monitoring network called Berkeley Atmospheric CO₂ Observation Network or BEACON. The network was created to collect air quality measurements using low-cost monitors that can provide data in a dense network. The data will also be available on the Purple Air website. The relationship with Greenaction for Health & Environmental Justice will continue as well. There is a map of the monitors available on the IVAN website and a legend is provided to interpret the concentration of relative pollutants.

Mr. Cleere provided images of data points that are a part of a larger network and advised local factors such as cigarette smoke or generator exhaust can create variability in reading, so having 3 monitors at one location will provide the ability to cross reference pollutants and verify accuracy in tracking particular pollutants that could cause concern for people's health. The air pollutants that will be monitored are:

Carbon dioxide/ Carbon monoxide/ Nitrous oxides/ Atmospheric ozone/ Particulate matter (PM)/ Aerosols.

Mr. Cleere provided the following next steps:

- Finalize license agreements and obtain partner signatures
- Real Estate Services to agendize license agreements for PUC Commission approval
- Develop protocol for public inquiries and complaints about air quality data

Mr. Cleere introduced the following Community Partners who are working with the SFPUC on this project. They are as follows:

Virginia Lau – Advanced Project Advisor, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, has managed the project with UC Berkeley for 10 years. Currently monitors are located in Eastern San Francisco at 375 Beale Street, SF General Hospital, The Hall of Justice, SF Public Safety Building, and the Exploratorium.

Rebecca Skinner – Project Manager, Manylabs – an open science nonprofit who has precured project grants from the California Resources Board.

Kamillah Ealom – Bayview Resident and Community Organizer with Greenaction who is in the process of collecting data from monitor sites and portable monitors that record materials in the home. They are working to provide air filters to Bayview residents while educating them on the different types of pollutants and the impact they have on the community.

Questions and Comments from Southeast Commissioners and Citizens' Advisory Committee Members:

CAC member Barklee Sanders requested adding Treasure Island to the maps that are being used to provide monitoring data, and he asked if there was any monitoring being done on Treasure Island and if not, why?

- Staff responded the issue is on the Environmental Justice Teams radar and they are willing to look into it.
- Jennifer Ly, Environmental Justice Manager said the projects came out of the Biosolids Project Environmental Justice report. She invited members to connect with the partner organizations who are doing air quality monitoring and include Treasure Island as a potential location.

Amerika Sanchez, SECF Commissioner said she would like to learn more about the AB 617 Community Air Monitoring Grants and the correlation between community partners who were recipients of the funding and if the placement is highlighted by the legislation? Also, she asked if the air monitoring at 1550 Evans was provided by the grant funding?

- Staff responded yes to the first question and advised there are slight differences with each organization. Some projects are funded through Bay Area Equality Management, and some are funded through Supplemental Environmental Projects.

Maika Pinkston (CAC) advised she is a Bayview Community Advocate and a Contractor. She requested an MOU for the small contractor before placement with community-based organizations.

CAC member Barklee Sanders reiterated the exclusion of Treasure Island.

CAC member Michelle Pierce noted the issue speaks to environmental injustice and the exclusion of poor, black, and brown people who are ignored. She added there is concern regarding community exposure to benzene, formaldehyde, and other toxins. She asked if Greenaction has access to information regarding these pollutants, and if it was feasible to host the monitors at 1550 Evans, and would it be possible to host a conversation on Treasure Island?

- Kamillah Ealon, representing Greenaction responded the current information speaks to work with the air district. However, they are working with the Marie Harrison Foundation to get information regarding other toxins.
- Rebecca Skinner advised a photo ionization detector was available to collect air samples in a canister, however, there was a need to coordinate with a host in the vicinity where it could be set up. Funding is already available. Ms. Skinner advised that prior to being restricted to the Bayview the AB 617 work included Chinatown, Treasure Island, and SOMA.

- Jennifer Ly reported a resolution was drafted to put Treasure Island on the map, but it was not introduced because staff was told the city was working on it. She reported it was possible to reintroduce the resolution.

Public Comment:

Karen Pierce, Bayview resident said she was a member of the Digestive Task Force. She noted promises were made and now they are starting to slide back.

Emily Wade-Thompson, SFUSD asked how students in the community could begin to understand the different processes in terms of air quality and the possibility of careers in the future?

Dr. Carolyn Ransom Scott, Bayview resident said she serves the community in infrastructure, investment, and works with the clergy. She advised she was concerned and wanted to learn more and would take it back to the community pastors.

Oscar James, Bayview resident commented regarding contractors and advised the community must receive contracts so community members could be hired.

5. Port of San Francisco Waterfront Resilience Program: Sea Level Rise and Draft Waterfront Adaption Strategies in Islais Creek/Bayview: (Presentation and Discussion)

Adam Varat, Deputy Program Manager, San Francisco Port

Jennifer Ly, SFPUC Environmental Justice Manager introduced Mr. Varant.

Mr. Varant introduced the Port's Waterfront Resilience Program that was initially introduced 5 years ago to take action to reduce seismic and climate change risks that support a safe, equitable, sustainable, and vibrant waterfront.

The areas being studied are the Embarcadero, Mission Creek/Mission Bay, and Islais Creek/Bayview. The Port of San Francisco has developed seven high-level Draft Waterfront Adaptation Strategies through a collaborative interagency process and over five years of public engagement. The draft Strategies are ready for public feedback, with a goal of reaching a Draft Waterfront Adaptation Plan by Fall 2023.

Mr. Varat reported the Port has partnered with several city agencies as well as the US Army Corps of Engineers to develop the San Francisco Waterfront Coastal Flood Study. If the study finds a federal interest it can lead to federal funding to help design and build coastal flood defenses for 7½ miles of bay waterfront.

Images were provided showing the study in the fourth jurisdiction and it was noted that areas in the city outside of the images shown also need to be addressed. A grant submission is under review for the Yosemite Slough Adaptation Plan which aspires to eliminate the disparity in planning between Bayview Hunters Point and the rest of San Francisco's urban waterfront.

Mr. Varat provided information regarding the risks, the waterfront resilience program, community priorities, range of possibilities, and strategies.

Jennifer Ly noted the Community Benefits Team has done a lot of work in the Bayview Hunters Point Community and there will be a lot of land use and job implications with the changes that are expected, and this is why this item has been brought to the Commission.

To receive a complete copy of the presentation please contact the Commission Secretary at cvbaughn@sflower.org

Questions and Comments from Southeast Commissioners and Citizens' Advisory Committee Members:

Members of the CAC had questions regarding the various adaptation strategies.

Jennifer Clary (CAC) commented that she was interested in understanding the SFPUC's role with the combined sewer system and overflow management. She also commented regarding the gray solutions versus green solutions that were previously mentioned.

- Staff responded the Community Benefits team has done a great deal of work in the community to address their concerns and the SF Port continues to work with the SFPUC to better understand the cost.

Commissioner Tran wanted to know if property owners would be required to purchase flood insurance, and if property taxes would be higher because of the cost to control flooding.

- Staff responded FEMA recently adopted flood maps for the city, however they do not include sea level rise. They include current coastal flooding from a previous storm. Staff advised there are finance tools available, but they have not been fully explored.

Barklee Sanders (CAC) said Treasure Island is bay fill and he wanted to know why the SFPUC doesn't provide a report even though they work with the contractor that is raising the dirt level.

- Staff said it should be shown on the map because it is another initiative of the city, however it has its own adaptation plan.

Michele Pierce (CAC) commented the seasonal floodings were not included in the wastewater treatment plan and her home is located near the treatment plant. She said the SFPUC was probably taking extra action to protect the facility, however homeowners were not receiving communications from the SFPUC or the Port regarding the plans.

- Staff advised all projects that are being advanced have gone through a capital guideline for sea level rise. New facilities are being built with sea level rise adaptation elements in the design. Addressing groundwater will be a part of any solution that is provided. Staff said it is a challenge to build a coastal flood defense.

Maika Pinkston (CAC) commented India Basin is not on the map but there is housing that will be affected. She also requested that any testing should be administered by local contractors. She noted a previous situation where contractors from Boston were hired and the samples they collected were lost and the project was unable to move forward. She advised she understood there are opportunities, but the issue is once the funding is received, and the assignments are delegated to the CBO's the contractors are chosen and the community is left to figure out how to move forward. She said an MOU would provide something in writing and would be binding.

- Staff responded the Shoreline Park project is there as well as an approved development project which will adapt to the shoreline. The park will be expanded along the edge, elevating the site, and adapting to sea level rise. Regarding concerns surrounding contracting opportunities staff agreed and said the SF Port has a web page dedicated to contracting opportunities and local business opportunities.

Public Comment:

Christopher Chung community member requested information about the inland adaptation zones and wanted to know if the increase in groundwater levels would require a need to potentially buy people out.

- Staff advised the zones were meant to be generalized and not specific. The information provided means those areas will need to be addressed but not that buildings would have to be removed.

John Chung community member asked if there was a plan to re-grade the shoreline in the future. He suggested saving the solid waste from the construction sites to recycle and regrade it.

- Staff responded there may be a need for fill material through the project and if there is clean fill available through construction sites it can be used. He advised Treasure Island is using a lot of construction fill to build up the site.

Chair Murphy thanked Mr. Varat for the presentation and noted the concerns of the CAC members. She said if these items were addressed at a CAC meeting she would attend and represent the Southeast Community Facility Commission.

Director Pharr suggested bringing everyone back to each body individually or coordinate another joint meeting to provide answers to all of the lingering issues and concerns.

Commissioner Posey voiced his support of the community the Community Advisory Committee.

6. SECF Director's Report: (Discussion only)

(Emily Pharr, SECF Executive Director)

(Larry Berry, SECF Deputy Director)

Director Pharr provided an overview of the status of the Center. She welcomed members of the CAC who had not previously visited the Center and noted it had been over a year since the CAC and SECF had met.

The Executive Director introduced her staff:

Larry Berry-Deputy Director, Victoria Bryant-Community Programs Analyst, Carla Vaughn-Commission Secretary, and Event Monitors - Nicholas Cresta, Liuokalani Liu, and Malachi Harris.

Director Pharr reported the Center opened October 20 and over 21,000 guests have visited the center, and over 500 events have been hosted. She advised the Center is open Monday through Friday, from 7am to 7pm. Currently there are no public weekend hours, but they will be available in the future. The Center is booked into the Fall, and we are taking reservations for the Winter. There are over 30 pieces of locally sourced art on the property with value exceeding \$3 million dollars. The mission of the Center remains true to the mitigation agreement. The Founders worked hard to ensure the community receives concessions for the sacrifices made by the expansion of the sewage plant. Director Pharr advised the goal of the Commissioners and staff is to continue to cultivate strategic partnerships, offer programs to promote health, well-being, culture, education and a financial environment for the Bayview Community and San Francisco.

Larry Berry, Deputy Director introduced programs and events as follows:

Access Program - A partnership with the Office of Digital Equity to provide community members with access to laptops and iPads for use at the Center. The program will start in June and will be administered by Five Keys.

Event Series – Quotes have been solicited from local organizations that want to do events on behalf of the Center. The process is ongoing, and we are expecting an eventful summer of activities.

Farmers Market – Every Thursday through November from 3pm to 7:30pm the market will take place in the parking a lot and the community will be able to purchase fruits, vegetables, soaps, lotions, and makers items.

Executive Director Pharr invited everyone to experience the onsite café, Hungry Kitchen who provide fresh, locally sourced food that is affordable and culturally relevant. She mentioned the co-working spaces located throughout the Center and advised there is free Wi-Fi onsite. The Executive Director reported there is a childcare center onsite providing services to 60 children and a scholarship has been provided for local black families. Executive Director Pharr noted there are three reservable event spaces and a pavilion. She advised the rates are reasonable and discounts are offered for community-based organizations and community residents.

The Executive Director introduced the partner organizations that will be housed on the third floor as follows:

Five Keys Schools and Programs/ 3rd Street Youth Services and Clinic/ Charity Cultural Services Center/ Community Ambassadors Program/ Edgewood/ Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center/ En2action

In closing Director Pharr said these organizations will help the Center provide much needed social programs and services.

Questions and Comments from Southeast Commissioners and Citizens' Advisory Committee Members : None

Public Comment: None

7. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

The next meeting of the Southeast Community Facility Commission will be Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

The next meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Committee will be Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Carla Vaughn, Commission Secretary

Mayara Ruski Augusto Sa/ Lexus Moncrease/ Jobanjot Aulakh, CAC Staff