



**San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
 Citizens' Advisory Committee
 Wastewater Subcommittee**

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, September 13, 2022
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE

Meeting URL

<https://sfwater.zoom.us/j/85208535775pwd=RGINVlpBV1IYWWIUcHBpOEplZ1ZsZz09>

Phone Dial-in

669.219.2599

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Meeting ID / Passcode

852 0853 5775 / 430091

This meeting is being held by Teleconference Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 and the Sixteenth Supplement to Mayoral Proclamation Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency Dated February 25,2020

During the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) emergency, the San Francisco Public Utilities Citizens' Advisory Committee's (SFPUC CAC) regular meeting room, 525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor Tuolumne Conference Room, is closed. CAC Members and SFPUC staff will convene CAC meetings remotely by teleconference. Members of the public are encouraged to submit their public comment on agenda items in advance of the teleconference meeting by emailing comments to cac@sfwater.org. Comments submitted no later than 12 PM Tuesday the day of the meeting will be read into the record by SFPUC CAC Staffing Team members during the teleconference meeting and will be treated as a substitute to providing public comment during the meeting. Persons who submit written public comment in advance on an agenda item or items will not be permitted to also provide public comment on the same agenda item(s) during the meeting.

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 Article XV, Sections 5.140 - 5.142](#)).

Members

Amy Nagengast, Chair (D8)	Maika Pinkston (M-Enviro. Org)	Michelle Pierce (B-Enviro. Justice)
Douglas Jacuzzi (D4)	Moisés García (D9)	

D = District Supervisor appointed, M = Mayoral appointed, B = Board President appointed

London N. Breed
Mayor

Anson Moran
President

Newsha Ajami
Vice President

Sophie Maxwell
Commissioner

Tim Paulson
Commissioner

Dennis J. Herrera
General Manager

OUR MISSION: To provide our customers with high-quality, efficient and reliable water, power and sewer services in a manner that values environmental and community interests and sustains the resources entrusted to our care.



ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order and roll call at 5:31 pm

Members present at roll call: (4) Nagengast, Jacuzzi, Pierce, and Pinkston

Members Absent: (1) García

Staff presenters: Will Logsdon, Sarah E. Bloom, and Angela Lowrey

Members of the Public: Phil Lonsdale

2. Approve July 12, 2022 Minutes

Motion was made (Jacuzzi) and seconded (Pierce) to approve the July 12, 2022 Minutes.

AYES: (4) Nagengast, Jacuzzi, Pierce, and Pinkston

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (1) García

Public Comment: None

3. Report from the Chair

- Welcome members, staff, and the public
- Chair Nagengast commented that she and Member Jacuzzi have been working on a resolution to support a watershed approach.

Public Comment: None

4. Public Comment: Members of the public may address the Committee on matters that are within the Committee's jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda (*2 minutes per speaker*)

Public Comment: None

5. Presentation and Discussion: SFPUC Stormwater Runoff Charge and Credit Program, Will Logsdon, Watershed Planner, Urban Watershed Planning Division, Wastewater Enterprise

Presentation

- Stormwater Runoff Charge and Credit Program
- Agenda
- Why manage stormwater?
- San Francisco's collection system
- Wastewater rates already pay for stormwater

- Aligning charges to stormwater runoff produced
- Phased implementation plan
- Phase 1: Unmetered properties charge
- Phase 2: Green Infrastructure Grants
- Phase 3: Stormwater broken out in wastewater rate for all customers
- Impermeable and permeable surfaces
- Stormwater Runoff Charge Components
- Stormwater Runoff Charge Components: “Standard” Rate
- Calculating stormwater runoff
- Stormwater Runoff Charge Components: Simplified Residential Rate
- Simplified Residential Rate – Proposed Eligibility
- Simplified Residential Rate – Proposed Tiers
- Bill impact mitigation strategies
- Stormwater Runoff Charges
- Bill impact mitigation strategies
- Stormwater Runoff Charge Components
- Bill impact mitigation strategies
- Stormwater Credit Program Goals
- Example property bill impact*
- Stormwater Credits – ‘Standard Rate’ Parcels
- Example property with green roof credit*
- Example property with green roof and parking lot swale credits*
- Stormwater Credits – ‘Simplified Residential Rate’ Parcels
- Next Steps

Discussion

- **Member Pierce.** asked if the SFPUC was building in credit or subsidies for low-income residents or older residents whose homes have been in the family for a long time. Pierce also asked if there would be credit or rate reductions available if residents have taken proactive steps to add green measures to their residence. She then asked how would the SFPUC validate these measures and how significant would the credits be in terms of the ultimate rates.

Staff Logsdon responded that the SFPUC was still developing the residential credit structure, but their goal is to be accessible for many different property types. He commented that he is hoping that the residential pilot can be a way of providing resources because the SFPUC recognizes that not everybody can afford to do major upgrades to reduce their bill. Staff Logsdon commented that the residential green infrastructure grant pilot would fund the full cost of a project on a resident’s property, and they would also be eligible for a bill credit.

- **Chair Nagengast** asked whether there was a way to make the aerial imagery publicly available so that residents can confirm whether the SFPUC’s information is correct. She then asked Staff Logsdon to discuss the adjustment process and how those adjustments could be made during the fiscal year before rates are released.

Staff Logsdon responded that the aerial imagery is good data for large scale because it is not feasible to measure each property’s individual characteristics. He commented that the SFPUC recognizes that this tool is not perfect, so there will be an appeals process. Staff Logsdon added that there will be a webpage available for residents to see their property’s permeable and impermeable areas, and residents will be able to appeal if there is a discrepancy. Staff Logsdon explained

that residential properties can be tricky because the SFPUC is proposing to use a tiered flat rate where the tiered rates will be based on an average across all properties in that tier rather than an individual property's characteristics. He noted that the credit program would be the mechanism to reduce a bill at the residential scale. Staff Logsdon commented that the appeals process would be more for standard parcels that fall outside of the simplified single-family residential class.

- **Chair Nagengast** asked if residents who own a house with green infrastructure upgrades could receive a full credit for the stormwater charge instead of filing an appeal. She then asked if a resident would receive the entire credit for the stormwater charge if 100 percent of their property was upgraded.

Staff Logsdon responded affirmatively and commented that the SFPUC was still deciding whether rate payers would receive a full credit or 90% of the property's charge because there are fixed charges that the SFPUC incurs whether or not it is raining. He noted that the credit program would provide a bill reduction at the residential scale and that there would be tiers of credit based on the size of the project.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if the slide titled "Example property with green roof and parking lot swale credits*" can be read as to state that on a residential property the column in the middle would have its green fall short of the red dashed line and the upper yellow 20% would be 20% of the stormwater charge while the rate the property owner would pay would stay the same. Jacuzzi commented that Staff Logsdon did not specify whether this was for residences or commercial buildings.

Staff Logsdon responded that on the left side with the existing rate structure, the graph shows the storm water and the sanitary water as mixed. He commented that currently storm water is 20% of every customer's bill. Staff Logsdon noted that a previous analysis showed that a majority of residential properties would see a change of less than 10% in their bill, either up or down, but he does not have the exact numbers for the change at the single-family residential scale.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if a residential property owner could see their bill go down 20% less that small amount if they adopted full measure in installing green infrastructure.

Staff Logsdon responded that it was possible. He commented that whether storm water would be 20% of an individual's bill will depend on how much water they use each month, and the storm water bill will be a fixed charge. Staff Logsdon provided an example that if an individual's bill did not change at all and they had a new line item for storm water, that storm water portion would be eligible for credits if they installed green infrastructure. He also provided an example that if an individual were to install a rainwater harvesting system, they would be eligible for bill credit on the storm water portion of their bill while also reducing their potable water demand and using some of that storm water for irrigation.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented that it seemed like large property owners were going to have an increase on their bill and asked if there was a scenario where a large property owner could reduce their rates below the current baseline or could it only go up.

Staff Logsdon responded that it was a site-specific thing that depends on the property's size and water use. He commented that it could be possible for a multi-family residential building with a high wastewater bill to receive a credit, but it would be hard to determine that without completing their rate study.

- **Chair Nagengast** commented that on that same slide the credit is in the void above the yellow 9% increase and 46% increase, so it would be helpful to show that block because in order to understand where that credit fits and how it matches to the proposed rate structure.

Staff Logsdon responded that he would make that change in the slides moving forward.

- **Chair Nagengast** asked when will individuals have access to the aerial imagery map and when will the process for credit be available.

Staff Logsdon responded that the system that will house all the data and show the property characteristics is going through testing which should be complete by the end of the year, but no date on when the system will be publicly available for now. Staff Logsdon commented that his division has information on most of the green infrastructure that has been installed in San Francisco either through the storm water management ordinance or through grant programs, and that the SFPUC will be trying to do much of that leg work for property owners ahead of the roll out of the charge by calculating their credit for them. He added that the SFPUC is still developing their strategy to identify properties they may have missed while also developing their timeline for when they would be accepting applications for credits.

- **Chair Nagengast** emphasized that the web application should be available before the credit goes live in July to allow the SFPUC to course correct.

Staff Logsdon responded that much of the outreach will be happening through the rate study so that will ramp up once the SFPUC has more hard data on the dollar values of the rates. They will be doing more mailers, webinars, informational sessions, and adding information on their website. He added that the tier system would also be available once values are assigned.

- **Chair Nagengast** asked if February 2023 would be a good time to update the Wastewater CAC on the rates, the tools for outreach, and credit processes.

Staff Logsdon responded affirmatively. He commented that is when the rate analysis study would be wrapping up and the SFPUC would have more information to share at that point.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if the data would be linked to the planning department's property portal.
- **Staff Logsdon** responded that the SFPUC has not discussed that yet, but it is something they can explore once the data has been finalized and is available.

Public Comment:

- **Phil Lonsdale** asked what the SFPUC's current strategy for outreach was for large scale properties to encourage applications for grant programs and to have infrastructure installed and how this could spread across the City.

Staff Logsdon responded that for the large parcel green infrastructure grant program, the SFPUC has started with the large institutional landowners in San Francisco such as the school district, private schools, and Recreation and Parks. He commented that they have also expanded their outreach because there was a lull over Covid and have now changed their application structure to have a fall deadline. Staff Logsdon added that they have ramped up their outreach starting with a series of webinars to explain the grant program and gather interest. He noted that the SFPUC has also included outreach to contractors and third parties who can partner with property owners. Staff Logsdon noted that the SPUC was also trying to leverage the outreach of organizations who could apply on behalf of property owners to help the SFPUC reach them. He commented that the SFPUC was doing mapping and with the data they had available, they could start to identify the one-off parcels that might have been missed. Staff Logsdon noted that the SFPUC will physically be passing out flyers with a one-page summary of the grant program and will continue to increase outreach before the fall cycle.

- **Chair Nagengast** asked how much money was available in the residential grant program.

Staff Logsdon responded that there was \$10 million in funding available for the fall application cycle.

- **Chair Nagengast** asked what the longevity of the program was and whether it was a sustained program over several years or was it a one-time program.

Staff Logsdon responded that they launched in 2019 with \$3 million in funding the first year, \$5 million in funding the second year, and have \$10 million now. He commented that they have granted all their funding to date and is confident that the program will be funded moving forward. Staff Logsdon noted that they already have \$10 million in funding in their capital program for the next fiscal year and should have at least \$10 million for the following years moving forward.

6. **Discussion:** [Wastewater CAC FY 2022-2023 Priorities](#), Amy Nagengast, Wastewater CAC Chair

Resources:

- [Wastewater Enterprise Business Plan FY 21-22 and 22-23](#)
- [Wastewater Enterprise Key Metrics Report](#)

Introduction

- **Chair Nagengast** provided a summary of the Wastewater CAC priority topics for fiscal year 2021-2022 as well as a summary of the Wastewater Enterprise priorities for the upcoming fiscal year after her meeting with AGM Greg Norby.

Discussion

- **Chair Nagengast** commented that the Wastewater and Water Rates Study should be on the list because even though there might not be a rate increase there could be a cost increase due to inflation. She then commented that Green Infrastructure is important because it should be a central pillar to how business is done. Chair Nagengast added that Hiring should also be on the list due to short staffing.
- Wastewater and Water Rates Study was added to the list of priorities for FY 22-23.
- **Member Jacuzzi** suggested categorizing the topics to make sure they hit all the different categories.

Chair Nagengast responded that Internal Processes and Green Infrastructure as a Way of Life could be broader themes and so could Design Criteria as well as Hiring.

- **Member Pierce** commented that she liked Jacuzzi's idea because they do not have time to cover all topics. She added that Infrastructure (both built environment infrastructure issues and bureaucratic political infrastructure issues) was the highest priority because it impacts all the other subjects.
- **Chair Nagengast** asked what two topics members wanted to focus on the most in the upcoming year.

Member Pierce responded that Air Quality Monitoring was high on her list because she lives near the plant as well as Workforce Succession Planning because it is important to have more community members work their way up at the plant.

- Environmental Justice: Air quality was added to the list.
- **Member Jacuzzi** commented that Environmental Justice Recommendations and Advance Environmental Justice Recommendations could be combined. Jacuzzi added that Green Infrastructure was high on his list and he would like to see the momentum with the watershed approach continue. He noted that the Islais Creek Resilience Project was a hot topic for Green Infrastructure currently as well as everything that was discussed for Lake Merced with the eastern and western watershed.

Chair Nagengast responded that some topics will be pushed to the Full CAC.

- Green Infrastructure: Watershed Approach, Islais Creek Resiliency and WWE Workforce Succession Planning were added to the list.
- **Member Pinkston** commented that she was looking at Air Quality Monitoring and Support SFPUC and Community Air Quality Monitoring Efforts because air quality is a factor in her neighborhood.

Chair Nagengast responded that Air Quality is a gateway into environmental justice topics. She added that she will re-word Green Infrastructure so that it is more of an approach and a philosophy and HR Hiring Processes should be looked at as well.

- HR Hiring Processes was added to the list of priorities in the same line as WWE Workforce Succession Planning.

Public Comment: None

7. Staff Report

- Staff announced that the Full CAC Chair will present the CAC Annual Report to the Commission mid-October.

Public Comment: None

8. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

- Update on Storm Water Runoff Charges and Data Capture – *tentatively Feb 2023*
- Update on Air Quality – *tentatively 2023*
- Green infrastructure grants – *tentatively 2023*
- Level of Service Goals Update and Annual Report
- Upper Islais Creed Watershed Approach Update – *tentatively 2023*
- Wastewater Enterprise Competency Based Training System Update – *tentatively 2023*
- Regulation and Legislation for PFAS, Microplastics, and BPA
- Westside Water Resources Presentation
- Floodwater Grant Program
- Treasure Island and Wastewater
- Southeast Treatment Plant Update
- Watershed Stewardship Grants
- Next Generation Green Infrastructure
- Racial Equity Plan – Funding to Support the Plan
- Job Creation at the Plant – City Works and Apprenticeship Program
- Wastewater CAC staff
- Asset Management Integration – policy and capital projects
- Green Infrastructure Program and Resolution Update
- Wastewater Communications Update
- Stormwater Management Ordinance and Southeast Treatment Plant
- Upcoming Construction
- Workforce Programs and Qualifications
- Treasure Island Field Trip
- Environmental Justice Analysis briefing
- Environmental Justice in Capital Projects

Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up

- Resolution in Support of SFPUC Class A Biosolids Local Distribution Program [adopted August 21, 2018](#)
- Resolution in Support of Cityworks Interns Recommendations [adopted on November 21, 2017](#)
- Resolution in Support of Equitable Green Infrastructure Implementation throughout the Southeast Sector of San Francisco and throughout the City [adopted on June 20, 2017](#)
- Resolution Urging SFPUC Commission to Initiate Planning and Environmental Review for Building a New Community Center at Third and Evans and to Direct Staff to Develop an Interim Greenhouse Environmental and Workforce Development Program [adopted on October 18, 2016](#)

- Resolution Supporting the SFPUC to Conduct Robust Community Engagement to Determine the Community's Preference for Remodeling Southeast Community Facility at 1800 Oakdale or Building a New Community Center at 1550 Evans [adopted on January 19, 2016](#)

Public Comment: None

- 9. Announcements/Comments** Visit www.sfpuc.org/cac for final confirmation of the next meeting date.

Public Comment: None

10. Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.