



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

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, September 23, 2025
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor Tuolumne Conference Room**

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 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE**

Meeting Recording URL
<https://sfwater.zoom.us/rec/share/7SDFagezMRwLrhaxT08lPrTq4iOjCUea3aVyQ1JUbmSQEzAht-jQW6Yt7lpFMt7m.Pgn65hG-ttxD47-Y>

Meeting Recording Passcode
 002164

Mission: The Water Subcommittee reviews water supply system reliability, water conservation, recycling, regional cooperation efforts, and other relevant plans and policies. ([Admin Code 5.140-142](#))

Members:

Jennifer Clary (Chair) (D11)	Aaron Hebert (D9)	Thomas Smegal (M-
Douglas Jacuzzi (D4)	Eliahu Perszyk (M-Large	Reg'l Water Customers)
	Water User)	

D = District Supervisor appointed, M = Mayor Appointed, B = Board President appointed

Staff Liaisons: Lexus Moncrease and Lupita Garcia
 Staff Email for Public Comment: cac@sfwater.org

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 5:32 pm

Members Present at roll call (4): Clary, Hebert, Jacuzzi, Perszyk

Members Absent (1): Smegal

Members of the Public: Walter Van Riel

2. Approval of the [July 22, 2025](#) Minutes

A motion was made (Jacuzzi) and seconded (Perszyk) to approve the July 22, 2025, minutes.

Daniel L. Lurie
 Mayor

Kate H. Stacy
 President

Joshua Arce
 Vice President

Avni Jamdar
 Commissioner

Steve Leveroni
 Commissioner

Meghan Thurlow
 Commissioner

Dennis J. Herrera
 General Manager



The minutes were approved without objection.

Public Comment: None.

3. Report from the Chair

- Chair welcomes committee members, staff, and the public

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. Discussion: Water CAC FY 2025-2026 Priorities, Water CAC Chair CAC

Resources:

- [SFPUC CAC FY2023-2024 Annual Report](#)
- [SFPUC CAC FY2022-2023 Annual Report](#)

Discussion:

- **Chair Clary** commented this discussion will be what the Subcommittee will want to cover in the next year and not all that is listed was accomplished this year. Groundwater was discussed, but not environmental stewardship and the tribal update would be presented at the Full CAC.

Member Perszyk commented we are trying to schedule a presentation on the Tuolumne Flow Regime at the Full CAC and he is unsure how they are going to address the Tribal Update. The Water Assistant General Manager (AGM) Steve Ritchie said they were going to have a new position for upcountry, like a Tribal Liaison.

Chair Clary commented we did not talk about any of the topics listed in Alternative Water Supply-Regional and asked if we discussed direct potable reuse.

Member Jacuzzi responded we did not.

"Alternative Water Supply" was listed as the priority on the FY 2025-26 Priority List.

- **Chair Clary** commented this year the SFPUC is working on their budget and for the November meeting, we could see if CAC priorities are reflected in the budget because it is never known what could be cut and we advocate for any programs that we value and want to protect.
- **Member Perszyk** commented the Commission Streamlining Taskforce is recommending a 3-year sunset date for the SFPUC CAC and asked if there is anything this committee should do.

Member Jacuzzi asked if there was any rationale behind their decision.

Member Perszyk responded there was someone on the Taskforce that was very aggressively wanting to get rid of all committees in general.

Chair Clary responded she talked to Ed Harrington to see what the outlook was like because he used to be the SFPUC General Manager and he told Chair Clary that since it is in the charter, it would need to be moved out of the charter to sunset it and the voters need to approve it to be moved out of the charter. Chair Clary also talked to Wendy Aragon, the former CAC Chair who now sits on the Parks and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee and she said they seem to be anti-public process, and the recommendations will be delivered as a package to the Board of Supervisors who are conservative now and are likely to approve it as a package.

- **Member Perszyk** asked what it means to sunset a body.

Chair Clary responded they are going to end it in 3 years unless we do something to keep it and while the Taskforce is proposing this, the voters have to agree which they could because we have a fairly conservative group of people who are not familiar with public engagement or public outreach so it means we need to be strong advocates to our Board of Supervisors if we believe this body should continue and commented this is a useful committee that helped the SFPUC change.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented he agrees and asked if there was controversy over the cost of running the CAC.

Staff Moncrease responded the cost was included in the report but there was no discussion to the cost being a deciding factor for their decision.

Member Perszyk commented it was the philosophy that public comment can be made to the SFPUC Commission and this was sufficient, and they are trying to change the membership from 17 to 15 members.

- **Chair Clary** commented Alternative Water Supply will be presented at the November meeting and ask if members agreed this is still a priority for the upcoming year.

Member Jacuzzi commented this would be great and asked if there is any possibility to get groundwater on the list of priorities considering groundwater is managed under the Wastewater Enterprise.

Groundwater was listed as the second priority on the FY 2025-26 Priority List.

Member Perszyk responded Green Infrastructure (GI) is managed by Wastewater Enterprise, but groundwater is different.

Member Jacuzzi asked if it possible to get a presentation with both Water and Wastewater Enterprise since groundwater extraction is managed by Water Enterprise and GI is managed by Wastewater Enterprise to see how and if they are coordinating.

Chair Clary commented the goal of the groundwater discharge isn't the goal of the GI program which is basically to slow down the stormwater.

Member Jacuzzi commented they are putting weight within the Westside Basin.

Chair Clary asked why that is.

Member Jacuzzi responded when you have floods, recharge occurs.

Chair Clary commented it is fascinating because the goal was to reduce flooding.

Member Jacuzzi commented he is particularly interested in if there is any research going on within the SFPUC on the balance between extraction and recharge.

Member Perszyk commented the SFPUC is not extracting the groundwater yet because they want to bring the recycled water to Golden Gate Park to make that work and it seems to be a few years out. There are also some contamination issues at Golden Gate Park.

Member Jacuzzi commented his understanding is there is a blending program that is moving along at a small rate but there were mechanical issues causing it to go offline and there is no estimate of when it would go back online but nonetheless there are extraction goals.

Member Clary responded the goal is 4 million gallons per day and we are currently at 2 million gallons per day at Golden Gate Park which will be a 1:1 replacement.

Member Perszyk commented they cannot increase extraction until they get the recycled water back online.

Chair Clary responded they could but just not the Golden Gate Park piece of it.

Member Perszyk asked if Member Jacuzzi would like to see if the if the Groundwater and GI teams are coordinating on project and calculating the increased infiltration and/or sustainable yield of the Westside Basin.

Member Jacuzzi responded it is a discretionary topic to say what is a sustainable yield because wasn't only 25 or 30 years ago that Lake Merced dropped so low it killed everything and what he would like to know is if there is a coordinating effort between extraction and recharge so we make sure that we are recharging at a rate that will satisfy the extraction and all other things that is needed from the Westside Basin.

Chair Clary commented we can ask this, but it may not be the whole idea of the discussion. We want to make sure we pair groundwater extraction with groundwater recharge and her understanding is we still have fresh water exiting the Westside Basin Aquifer so we're not at anything like a reduced or saltwater intrusion yet.

Member Perszyk further commented reducing peak stormwater flows is another important part of GI and yes, recharging the Westside Basin is important but, a bigger issue is the 10 to 12 sewage overflows every year due to the combined system and if we cannot reduce stormwater volumes and peak flows, it will just keep happening.

Chair Clary commented what she is looking at is climate and larger storm and the fact that they are only designing the system for 5-year storms and not 100-year storms. This is dangerous given the flood we've had and typically have in various parts of the east side of town and maybe we can do groundwater supply on the westside and stormwater control on the eastside and asked if this was recently presented at the Full CAC.

Member Jacuzzi responded Sarah Bloom recently presented on GI at the Wastewater Subcommittee.

Chair Clary commented we want to be specific so groundwater recharge and extraction making sure they've made progress since their last presentation because they had a lot of pumps turned off the last time they presented.

- **Member Perszyk** commented he has another GI related topic. There are two grant programs: the GI grant program and the on-site water reuse and both have a deed restriction and would like to see how much money has been allocated versus distributed in these programs and how much acreage they are getting under GI.

Chair Clary asked if the question being asked is are these grant programs working.

Member Perszyk responded yes.

Member Hebert commented he seconds the flood issues on the east side of town as a distinct topic.

Chair Clary responded that is more of a Wastewater topic and doesn't want to impinge on their priorities.

"Recharge/Extraction Grant Programs" and "Sustainable Yield" were listed as subtopics under priority number one. "Deed Restrictions" were listed as a subtopic number one under subtopic "Recharge/Extraction Grant Programs".

- **Member Perszyk** asked if the Tuolumne Flow should be discussed.

Chair Clary responded yes, and she is not sure what the timeline is since it has been delayed because they did not get their exemption in at the end of the legislative process and currently the basin plant amendment is on hold so they will be working on that after the first of the year at the State Water Board and is not sure where the Tuolumne Voluntary Agreement fits into this timeline.

"Environmental Stewardship" was added as the second priority on the FY 2025-26 Priority List.

Member Perszyk commented it seems they put forward a plan in 2018 with a few different scenarios but haven't done anything towards it, not even making any adjustments.

Chair Clary asked if Member Perszyk feels they are not showing proper commitment.

Member Perszyk responded his question is do they have to wait for an agreement with the State to do anything or could they do anything before and what is currently proposed is below what the State wants.

Chair Clary responded no, they would need to have permits for projects and what is holding them back is the irrigation districts are not going to agree to something that will take the money and/or water unless they have some kind of protection and the idea of doing this voluntarily to not further delay is not working since it is still being delayed.

Member Hebert further responded they would want to get credit presumptively for this voluntary work and they will not if they proceed on their own.

Member Perszyk commented nothing will happen until they reach an agreement with the State.

Chair Clary responded yes and if it is something they don't like, they will sue and the courts are being deferential to agencies so whatever the agencies want, they will probably get, and it is unlikely anything is going to happen before we get a new governor.

Member Perszyk asked if there is anything we could do to inform the Commissioners about related to this making sure the value we add is all Commissioners understand the technical details in these instream flows.

Chair Clary responded if you are sitting on the SFPUC Commission, you hear from people who are staff working towards the voluntary agreements because that's what's signed with the irrigation district.

Member Hebert further responded he agrees with Member Perszyk's point of breaking it down into its constituent components, so people understand what it is, and he suspects the SFPUC Commissioners have been briefed on the politics behind it and what the goal of the agency in pursuing this.

Chair Clary commented the Tuolumne River Trust is diligent about appearing before the Commission and talking about their alternative, but the CAC is different in the sense that they are an engaged and disengaged third party that has an interest in it, but we don't have the baggage.

Member Perszyk further commented the Tuolumne River Trust has a very specific tactic they keep repeating which is to reduce the storage.

Chair Clary asked what it would take for these projects to get started and if everything for the whole valley needs to be approved before we can do a single project because Dos Rios cannot be the only project on the Tuolumne so far and if SFPUC would need to pay for 50% of the costs considering the agreement is SFPUC would provide 50% of any water released.

- **Member Perszyk** asked if this topic was better at the Full CAC or the subcommittee level considering the Full CAC had a topic on this earlier in the year.

Chair Clary responded it may be more difficult to take any action before the Full CAC, so her recommendation is to review it in the Subcommittee, develop a resolution and then present it to the Full CAC.

Member Jacuzzi commented he agrees with this approach since it is hard to get things understood at the Full CAC at times.

Chair Clary further commented she could ask Felicia Marcus if she would like to come speak to the CAC since she was the chair of the State Water Board at the time they made previous decisions for the minimum flows.

Member Jacuzzi commented this is a great idea to see if we can some of the projects that are low hanging fruit moving that are not going to affect the greater decision-making.

Chair Clary commented there are environmental groups that have put together a suite of projects to improve habitat in the San Joaquin Valley. Mike Lyons could come to the CAC to speak about this, but he is hard to get a hold of and we could have River Partners come talk about the projects they are doing and something to think about is there any projects ready to go and what are the time schedules.

Member Perszyk further commented this is what can be turned to a resolution for the Commission, to state this is something that could happen before a legal agreement happens.

Chair Clary proposed this be presented to the Water Subcommittee in November and then bring it to the Full CAC in January and is excited to bring a resolution forward since the Water Subcommittee did not write a resolution this past year and there is the possibility of the CAC being dissolved.

“Tuolumne Flow Regime” was added as a subtopic to priority number two. “Identify early action (November 2026)” was added as the first subtopic to subtopic one. “Resolution (January 2026)” was added as subtopic number two under subtopic number one.

- **Chair Clary** asked if the Watershed Center is open since they would like to do a field trip.

Staff Moncrease responded she is not sure, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant just opened and there are Wastewater Treatment Plant tours that are booked for the rest of the year.

Member Perszyk asked where they are.

Staff Moncrease responded it is one of the newer ones and will need to get back with exact location.

- **Chair Clary** asked if the Tribal Update was related to staffing.

Member Perszyk responded this was when AGM Steve Ritchie presented a while ago.

“Watershed Center Tour” as added as a subtopic under priority number two in the FY 2025-26 Priority List.

Member Jacuzzi asked if the center is open.

Member Hebert responded it is close to opening and when he was there a couple months ago, they were polishing up the exterior.

- **Chair Clary** commented she would like to keep the Urban Water Management Plan as a priority with the draft plan coming out Spring 2026 and she is interested in the water shortage.

“Urban Water Management Plan (Spring 2026)” was added as the fourth priority in the FY 2025-26 Priority List. “Water Shortage” was added as subtopic number one under priority number three.

- **Chair Clary** asked if affordability should come back to the Water Subcommittee.

Member Perszyk responded it was supposed to be presented at the Full CAC, but we were not reaching quorum.

- **Chair Clary** commented given we only have 6 meetings a year, there is a lot to cover, and we should still add affordability for January 2026.

“Affordability (January 2026)” was added as the fifth priority in the FY 2025-26 Priority List.

- **Chair Clary** asked if Alternative Water Supply is updated as part of the Urban Water Management Plan.

Member Perszyk commented from conversations, its moving but not quickly since it is tied to their development of the Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant.

- **Chair Clary** commented we could do both Alternative Water Supply and Affordability at the January 2026 meeting and for the November 2025 meeting, have staff tell us what early actions can be implemented now and what their schedule would be because we are disappointed this deal came out 7 years ago and we’re still not seeing anything. If staff are going to say they are waiting for approvals, we don’t need that presentation.

“Alternative Water Supply” was updated to “Alternative Water Supply (January 2026)” on the FY 2025-26 Priority List.

Member Perszyk further commented we would like to see are specific projects that don’t require a basin plan amendment.

Public Comment:

- **Tom Smegal**, CEO of BAWSCA commented on item 4 of the previous year, we had Manisha come talk about the demand study and the demand studies from both BAWSCA and SFPUC are going to be coming out over the winter in respect to the Urban Water Management Plan so that would be a good topic and it would be good for staff to come talk to the CAC about the Tuolumne Voluntary Agreement considering they issued a scientific basis report.

6. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

Standing Subjects

- Groundwater
- Water Quality

Specific Subjects

- Integrating Tribal Leaders into SFPUC Land Management Decisions
- State Board Water Rights
- Water Enterprise Environmental Stewardship Policy Implementation Report
- State of the Regional Water System Report – Bi-annual report
- Drought resilience: 3-year water supply update
- Water Equity and Homelessness
- Water Treatment Plant Tour
- Sunol Watershed Tour
- Capital Plan Update

Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up

- Resolution in Support of a Resilient Water Supply [adopted August 17, 2021](#)
- Resolution in Support of the Southern Skyline Boulevard Ridge Trail Extension Project [adopted April 20, 2021](#)
- Resolution in Support of Interim Emergency Rate Assistance Program and Revised Community Assistance Program [adopted July 21, 2020](#)
- Resolution in Support of Improved Communications Related to the San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project [adopted August 21, 2018](#)
- Resolution in Supporting Stewardship and Public Access in the Redeveloped Lake Merced West Property [adopted in March 15, 2016](#)
- Resolution on Impacts of Drought on System Maintenance and Improvements [adopted January 19, 2016](#)

Public Comment: None.

- 7. Announcements/Comments** Please visit www.sfpuc.org/cac for final confirmation of the next scheduled meeting, agenda, and materials.

Public Comment: None.

8. Adjournment at 6:26 pm

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