



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

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor Tuolumne Conference Room**

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Meeting URL

<https://sfwater.zoom.us/j/82481399764?pwd=x2MTCEEnvS1W3MRdx66R4P1XCqbCfQ5.1>

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Meeting ID / Passcode

824 8139 9764 / 371732

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)	Eliahu Perszyk (M-Large	Amy Nagengast (D8)
Douglas Jacuzzi (D4)	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 5:43 pm

Members present (3): Clary, Jacuzzi, Perszyk

Members absent (1): Nagengast

Staff presenters: Obiajulu Nzewi

Members of the Public: Tom Smegal (BAWSCA)

Daniel L. Lurie
 Mayor

Kate H. Stacy
 President

Joshua Arce
 Vice President

Avni Jamdar
 Commissioner

Steve Leveroni
 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.



2. Approval of the [January 28, 2025 Minutes](#)

Motion was made (Perszyk) and seconded (Jacuzzi) to approve the January 28, 2025, minutes.

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. Presentation and Discussion: [Groundwater Update](#), Obiajulu Nzewi, SFPUC Groundwater Program Manager

Presentation:

- Groundwater Update for SFPUC Citizens Advisory Committee Water Subcommittee
- Agenda
- Westside Basin and SFGW Summary
- 1. Plans and timeline for increasing groundwater blending
- Plans and timeline for increasing groundwater blending
- Plans and timeline for increasing groundwater blending – Contd.
- Metered Groundwater Pumping in Northern Westside Basin, January 2017 – February 2025
- Wellhead water quality monitoring results and trends
- Groundwater Blend Report – Summary
- Blend Report – Alkalinity and Hardness
- Blend Report – Chloride, TDS, and Specific Conductance
- Blend Report – Hexavalent Chromium
- Blend Report – Manganese
- Blend Report – Nitrate
- Groundwater Monitoring
- Groundwater Capital Projects
- Westside Basin and SFGW Summary
- Questions?

Discussion:

- **Chair Clary** asked when the annual report will be available.

Staff Nzwei responded it usually is available in the beginning of May.

- **Chair Clary** commented there are a lot of outliers in that middle manganese and the difficulty with manganese is that it makes the water stink and look poorly when present at a low level and this is a contaminant people notice and dislike.

Staff Nzwei responded there have been more outliers in the past and more recently, we have seen most of the samples sitting within the low range and there continues to be one or two outliers since 2022 and sometimes these outliers, depending on the source, may impact the water coming into our regional system, however, even with the outliers, we have a fairly consistent concentration that we can expect within the system. We are below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), and this is a secondary MCL.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if there is any plan for testing for the Stormwater Reuse project. Currently, as he understands it that is surface water draining off out of Daly City and with that surface water being directed to Lake Merced, are there any plans for monitoring the quality of that water going into the Lake and if there will be any third parties involved in the monitoring and commented his concern is that it does not take long for water to move from the surface in Daly City into the lake by the time it is monitored and depending on how frequency of monitoring, damage can already be done.

Staff Nzwei responded it is service water draining off what used to be the Lake Merced watershed which includes large portions of Daly City, and that water is typically diverted to the Vista Grande Canal, but that canal doesn't have enough capacity to manage all the stormwater causing it to overflow. We've had consistent issues with it, and we do not have good input to the lake so this project would be resolving 2 problems. For the water to be put into Lake Merced, we needed to get a diversion permit from the regional board since it is on the 303(d) list and since it is listed, we cannot add any source to it that might increase the impairment or lead to the impairment getting worse. We've run a pilot tests to look at the water quality coming off the basin to see what kind of water quality it was, do sampling in the lake, divert a small portion to the lake and test what happened when you put that portion into the lake, look at that data and then model what would happen if you put the same quality of water that we've looked over a couple of years to make sure it was consistent. Staff Horn did the first water quality assessment report for this project that was submitted to the regional board and since then we have subsequently updated it. The final report to the regional board was submitted January 2025 and this report shows that by adding the water to the lake we are not increasing the impairments of dissolved oxygen or PH because if we were, we would not be allowed to do the diversion and in fact, we are actually increasing the water quality of the lake by increasing dissolved oxygen and manage the temperature in the lake. We also want to make sure Daly City doesn't put anything in our lake that causes trouble so we have put language in our permit that states monitoring has to continue and they must share data with us that must be

submitted to the board. If we see something going on in the lake that is attributed to this project, it will be shut off until it's fixed, and monitoring will just be between Daly City and the SFPUC.

- **Chair Clary** asked if there is a lab at the Southeast Treatment Plant and if the tunnel and Vista Grande Canal being operated conjunctively.

Staff Nzewi responded we have a lab there and in Millbrae. One of the findings after the initial pilot was after a long dry spell, the water quality coming off the basin was poor and if we can have a certain water volume come after a long break, the water can wash off the oils that stick when its dry. The way the project is designed is the first flow all goes into the ocean, and it is only after that volume has passed and is measured by flow meters that we begin to divert into the lake. We have been intentional to not depend on sampling because it is not sustainable to continuously send staff out to sample and have one engineering control that works.

- **Chair Clary** asked if we are learning more to adjust the sustainable yield and how much flows out to sea and how much we can pump.

Staff Nzewi responded we are learning how much finer we can stratify the basin and looking closer at the geology for example, when doing a pump test and thinking two wells would respond differently due to a semi-confined layer that had clay responded the same, they can't be separated by the clay we thought was there. With the current data, we are finding we can refine what we had assumed and interpolate before when we had bigger gaps in our data and reducing our error. Once we do that piece and better our understanding of the basin, the more accurate the model will be in representing what we are trying to do in the basin.

Chair Clary commented it would be interesting to understand the fluctuation of the groundwater levels in the basin and asked if we can get this from looking at Golden Gate Park records, or do we need to wait until all the wells are in use to understand how it responds.

Staff Nzewi responded you can get a little from the Golden Gate Park but it so going to be more localized. Right now, we understand what happens when Parks & Recreation (SF Parks & Rec) pumps a couple of wells frequently and what we don't know for certain is what the basin will do if we run all the wells. We have not had a chance to run this because of the difficulties getting the project running but we do have hypothesis.

- **Chair Clary** commented there is a wave pattern on the hardness graph and asked if this is because of the spring runoff or from Hetch Hetchy being shut off for maintenance.

Staff Nzewi responded it changes between the sources of water between the blends of water coming into the regional system, not

groundwater system. The graph shows the regional system and how the operations group blends the different sources from Hetch Hetchy.

- **Member Perszyk** commented congratulatory remarks on getting the project really close to construction and next time, it would be helpful to get a visual to see the drainage area and address the concerns that Member Jacuzzi brought up and it would be nice to understand if there is any conceptual plans that the SFPUC is looking at for other lakes it manages and asked in regard to getting to the 4mgd goal is there a big dependency on getting the recycled water turned on at Golden Gate Park and when is it expected to be at the point where the test can occur to see if the system can run at 4mgd.

Staff Nzewi responded assuming everything was working perfectly right now, it would still take 3 or 4 years to get to that point because what was agreed in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) was to ramp up pumping slowly where at we would pump half an mgd then 1.8, then 3 then 4, increasing it slowly each year to see how things reacted. However, everything is not perfect and at this point we expect at best in 2 years to get 1 or 2 mgd from the recycled water project. If we can get 1 mgd in 2 years than we can at least get two of the wells back from SFParks & Rec and are hoping to get the North Lake which produces about approximately 550 or 600 gallons per day (gpd) and South Windmill which produces about 700 gpd. They would still have the Golden Gate Central because otherwise they won't have enough water for irrigation. There are 2 more wells, the West Sunset and South Sunset which approximately produce 400 to 450gpd that we have to do treatment to address the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to begin the process and this will take about another 2 to 3 years. Assuming everything goes to plan, in 3 years we should have about 80% of our wells available. The biggest question is the recycled water and there have been lots of challenges with PG&E where it's been impossible to predict a timeline because they don't stick to a timeline.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked which contaminants are naturally occurring from the list of that are currently being monitored and if we know the sources of the human made contaminants and commented by treating what is there now, we know that we are not continuing to add to the problem.

Staff Nzewi responded chrome 6, nitrate and manganese and its why we are treating for tetrachlorethylene and carbon tetrachloride since these are not naturally occurring. We haven't done a trace because the payback is very low and most likely the tetrachlorethylene it is from dry cleaners because there were lots of them along the sunset area back in the day. The tetrachlorethylene we saw at the Central Palm Station; we knew it was there because it was present at the Elk Glen Lake. Before the project started, it was below mcl and at the time, people stated it was fine since it is below mcl however, we do not want to

blend that into the water out of caution and we do not want to operate that way with human-made contaminants.

- **Chair Clary** commented once we start operating at greater capacity, we can see if those numbers go down.

Staff Nzewi responded we have not seen the number going up. At the Golden Gate Central Well it has been heavily pumped by SF Parks & Rec, more than what we would do when operating for potable use and the levels have stayed the same.

- **Chair Clary** asked if nitrate is in the Park Central Well and commented that naturally occurring nitrate is 3 or 4 parts per 1 million and a high nitrate level at Golden Gate Park would possibly be linked to fertilizer application.

Staff Nzewi responded nitrate is naturally occurring and found in a few of the wells.

- **Chair Clary** asked if we are testing for the 6 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are regulated through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or if we are doing a total organic fluorine.

Staff Nzewi responded testing includes the 6 compounds and then as far as what the requirements, they do that through the entire system through compliance and delivery.

Public Comment: None

6. Staff Report

- There are current seat vacancies representing Districts 2, 9 and 10

Public Comment: None

7. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

Standing Subjects

- Groundwater
- Water Quality

Specific Subjects

- Green Infrastructure - *Tentatively WW Topic*
- Integrating Tribal Leaders into SFPUC Land Management Decisions
- State Board Water Rights
- Water Enterprise Environmental Stewardship Policy Implementation Report
- Debate about Bay Delta – Member Sandkulla suggested everyone watch the February 5, 2021, Commission workshop about the Voluntary Agreement
- COVID and Long-term Affordability Program
- Implementation of the Bay Delta Plan Flow Requirement
- Hetch Hetchy Water and Power Division Update
- State Policy and Programs on Affordability or Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA)

- Bay Delta Plan and voluntary settlement agreement
- Legislative Update
- State of the Regional Water System Report – Bi-annual report
- Drought resilience: 3-year water supply update
- Water Equity and Homelessness
- State of Local Water Report
- Retail Conservation Report
- Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant tour

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

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

Public Comment: None

9. Adjournment at 6:53 pm

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