



San Francisco Water Power Sewer

Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

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San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Citizens' Advisory Committee Wastewater Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor Tuolumne Conference Room

Members of the public may observe and participate via Zoom virtual conference software.

Meeting Recording:

https://sfwater.zoom.us/rec/share/bv9V4vF-r-dvHYrFR7d51ZyVCY5Sgrzy_4sckpYmUpLIKLOPWU6BHD4jpzxZv_u.EB3Wwpy5Ndkq-Gxf

Meeting Passcode:

536104

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

Erin Roach Chair (D2)
Douglas Jacuzzi (D4)

Amy Nagengast (D8)
Arthine Cossey van Duyne
(B-Environ. Justice)

Loretta Dickerson-Smith
(M-Engineering/Financial)

D = District Supervisor appointed, M = Mayoral 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 5:30 pm

Present (3): Roach, Dickerson-Smith, Cossey van Duyne

Absent (2): Nagengast, Jacuzzi

Staff/Presenters Present: Joel Prather

Members of the Public Present: Doug Jacuzzi

2. Approve the [March 10, 2026](#) Meeting Minutes

A motion was made (Cossey van Duyne) and seconded (Dickerson-Smith) to approve the March 10, 2026, Meeting Minutes.

The minutes were approved without objection.

Public Comment: None.

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

Joshua Arce
President

Stephen E. Leveroni
Vice President

Avni Jamdar
Commissioner

Kate H. Stacy
Commissioner

Meghan Thurlow
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 way that values environmental and community interests and sustains the resources entrusted to our care.



3. Report from the Chair

- Welcome members, staff, and the public
- [Public Memo re CCSF v. U.S.E.P.A.](#)
- [CCSF v. U.S.E.P.A. Oral Argument Audio](#)
- [U.S. and California take Enforcement action against S.F. for Clean Water Violations](#)

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: [Wastewater Enterprise New Division - Enterprise Capital Planning](#), Joel Prather, Assistant General Manager, SFPUC Wastewater Enterprise

Presentation:

- Wastewater Enterprise Capital Planning
- Agenda
- Why?
- Who?
- Mechanical Maintenance | Sewer Operations
- Public Works | Engineering
- What?
- Wastewater Expenses More than Double
- Water & Wastewater Rate Plan
- When?
- Where?
- The End

Discussion:

- **Member Dickerson-Smith** commented this seems to be focused on the residential side of operations and asked about the commercial side.

AGM Prather responded it is the same rate as residential. They say "residential" because it is not the regional water rate. In San Francisco, a portion of the water bill goes to sewer. Customers for water outside of San Francisco only pay for water and not for sewer. There is a very small contingent wholesale wastewater customers in Brisbane and Daly City who do have a different rate.

- **Member Roach** asked if the big clog was on Laguna Street.

AGM Prather responded he is not sure the exact location, but it is near Laguna.

Member Roach asked if this is how it is supposed to look.

AGM Prather responded yes before it was not coming through the pipe.

Member Cossey van Duyne asked if the tool used in the video is called a cuneate.

Staff Prather responded the cuneate is the part in the middle and generally this is where the dry weather flow goes. The objective is to keep the dry weather flow

to keep moving, minimizing the odor and keeping the tanks from becoming septic. During wet weather the boxes will fill up due to the combined system, so we have this extra capacity to contain the storm water.

Member Cossey van Duyne asked how often they are cleaned.

AGM Prather responded this is box cleaning and are done every few years.

Chair Roach asked if the debris is predictable and if it comes from the outside.

AGM Prather responded generally yes, and they found some interesting items.

Chair Roach asked if this is something that can be predicted.

AGM Prather responded they plan for it and there is a schedule but there are always surprises. For example, people can pull the manholes and dump garbage in there.

Member Cossey van Duyne asked if the boxes are underneath roads.

AGM Prather responded yes in the 1970s when the Clean Water Act came online, San Francisco put the boxes at the edge of the city.

- **Chair Roach** asked how the SFPUC is figuring in the 85,000 additional homes San Francisco is trying to get through the mandate.

AGM Prather responded if we are going to expand the loads, we are going to have to expand the Oceanside Plant. In the last iteration of the capital plan, we do have a project to do a full evaluation of Oceanside Treatment Plant in anticipation of this. As far as collection goes, it is project by project and need to analyze the impact they have on our collection system and how it will be mitigated.

Chair Roach commented specifically in the Marina; they are talking about building apartments near Safeway and asked if it is problematic to the SFPUC.

AGM Prather responded we don't know since it is not a real project. Throwing a number does not say the impacts it will have since we don't know the stormwater management that will be mandated due to the size of the building. Once we have the project proposal, we cannot guess what the effect will be.

Chair Roach commented since they are trying to get fast-paced approval they may not be able to get answers from them.

AGM Prather responded as of right now; we still need to get the answers from them.

- **Chair Roach** commented when she looks at the floodwater maps for the Marina. 50% of the Marina Safeway is not on the SFPUC floodwater because it is on National Park Service (NPS) land asked how the SFPUC interacts with the NPS since half of the storm water management is on land managed by NPS.

AGM Prather responded NPS stormwater is managed by the NPS catch basins and generally anything on NPS side should drain to their system and in our systems it should only be homes and residence on Marina Boulevard and up.

Chair Roach commented this is interesting because this project is in between both lands.

AGM Prather responded once they submit their plans through the Planning Department they can take a closer look at what is happening and right now it may just be artist conceptions. Once a plan goes through the Planning Department, we will review it and make sure it follows the Stormwater Management Ordinance (SMO) ensuring they are managing stormwater on their porous surfaces if they are over 5,000 square feet.

- **Member Dickerson-Smith** asked if they have engaged with any potential builds prior to getting the proposal.

AGM Prather responded no because there are hundreds, and staff time needs to be dedicated to projects already underway.

- **Chair Roach** asked if SFPUC has had to deal with any AB 211 projects yet.

AGM Prather responded he is not aware of any.

- **Chair Roach** asked if this will be under the Planning Departments or Department of Building Inspections'(DBI) purview that the SFPUC is getting the planning documents.

AGM Prather responded he is not sure whether it is the Planning Department or DBI but if there is interest, he can have his team who works on this come present on the process.

- **Chair Roach** commented this is interesting especially because they are trying to build so much new housing and in the Marina, this project is adding half percent to the land mass and asked if they are considering this during the capital plan and if it is in the plans.

AGM Prather responded every large development is considered and have a group that work on redevelopment areas.

- **Chair Roach** commented she is aware of four projects under AB 211, and it is tough.

Member Cossey van Duyne asked what is AB 211.

Chair Roach responded it is the state housing law streamlining projects ministerial approval if they meet objective standards.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** commented commercial buildings have a requirement for non-potable reuse for gray water activities and there are larger, denser buildings going up in various neighborhoods and asked if there is a consideration around putting non-potable water reuse and where else are non-potable reuse activities happening in residential areas.

AGM Prather responded when a building has to comply with the SMO, they can do it a number of ways like storm or gray water capture. Depending on the size of the building they have different options. Salesforce and Chase Center recycle their own water on site. A presentation on SMO can also be given if there is interest. As far as non-potable reuse there isn't much across the city aside from those buildings because we don't have a lot of purple pipes in the ground and don't have the infrastructure to deliver this. Oceanside has a recycled water

facility and once it comes online the non-potable water will be used for irrigation at Golden Gate Park.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** asked how the capital plan accommodates for finding new solutions, testing new solutions and finding space for new innovations that can be more effective than traditional process.

AGM Prather responded the state of our current 10-year capital plans have been stripped down to bare minimums because it has become so expensive to do construction in the area that is keeping up with regulatory needs and maintenance needs. On the Waterside, the dams are big deals. On the innovative side, water has done studies on direct potable reuse because California has passed a law for direct potable reuse and with the proper treatment can go directly into the water system. There is a plan for a demonstration beyond the 10-year capital plan for a demonstration.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** commented she is raising this because there are overflows that happen during the storm and there are solutions that are being in the marketplace that are available to do more than what is currently in place and there are many communities not just in the Southeast that are impacted by raw sewage going in from the combined system and wants to understand how does the community get to weigh in on the priorities to explore solutions to make water more accessible from the combined sewer overflows.

AGM Prather responded with the combined system which we have, there will be overflows. Every time there is a project, there is an alternative analysis report, and this is the opportunity to comment on that, but it is project by project and we have other projects across the city to address capacity issues but beyond that it is a case-by-case basis.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** asked how this new group is going to partner with the One Water organization and looking at capital planning for all of it and how it interacts with planning.

AGM Prather responded there is coordination that goes on across the three enterprises with these projects and there is coordination with Public Works when they pave the street. We do repairs on our own because there are other needs that we need to take care of. As far of the larger One Water picture, the direct potable reuse is something that falls into this and the enterprises working together.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** asked if there is a timeline for when the direct potable reuse will be in the capital plan.

AGM Prather responded it is not in this iteration of the 10-year capital plan.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** asked if we need to wait 10 years for it to be in the capital plan.

AGM Prather responded we redo the capital plan every two years, and it is hard to innovate since we don't have the funds to keep the service up to date and regulatory mandates.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** commented San Francisco was the first to do a Blue Bond in the United States and asked if there are any other plans to do climate related capital.

AGM Prather responded he is not sure at the city level but at SFPUC that is currently not an option we are looking at.

Public Comment:

- **Doug Jacuzzi** thanked members and AGM Prather for the presentation and when this presentation is given again the future for updates, he would like to see a more direct line on the graph shown with the costs and expenses coming and with the actual capital improvements that are driving the costs. He appreciated the videos and pictures but would like to see a list of 10 highest priorities going into the future. In response to AGM Prather's comment on there will always be overflows, he believes this can be mitigated to possibly eliminate the overflows if we focus on how to keep the rainwater out of the system and keep it to where it went naturally in the first place.

AGM Prather responded at the Commission meeting; he presented the entire capital plan. There is a slide that lists all major projects. We agree that nature-based solutions are very valuable and would love to expand these and one day manage more of the storm water.

6. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

- Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up
 - Resolution in Support of SFPUC Class A Biosolids Local Distribution Program [adopted August 21, 2018](#)
 - 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.

7. Announcements/Comments Visit sfpuc.gov/cac for final confirmation of the next meeting date.

8.

Public Comment: None

9. Adjournment at 6:37pm

For more information concerning the agendas, minutes, and meeting information, please visit sfpuc.gov/cac. For more information concerning the CAC, please contact by email at cac@sfwater.org or by calling (415) 517-8465.

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Task Force, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244 San Francisco, CA 94102-4683; by telephone 415-554-7724, by Fax 415-554-7854, or by email: sotf@sfgov.org

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