



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, July 14, 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.

Join the Zoom meeting:

https://sfwater.zoom.us/rec/share/YAE18s4uHpoZB0DtVTgaSKZH3O9iU9r25U4SbNlclqW_UYDKK3ThmS8M4p4G6Nan.FUDDIN7pzTXwDscX

Meeting Passcode:

774321

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 5:32PM

Present (4): Roach, Dickerson-Smith, Jacuzzi, Cossey van Duyne

Absent (1): Nagengast

Staff/Presenters: Linda Huang, Patrick DeLong, Joel Prather, Michael Tran

2. Approve [May 12, 2026](#), Meeting Minutes

A motion was made (Cossey van Duyne) and seconded (Jacuzzi) to approve the May 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes.

The minutes were passed with the following votes:

AYES (4): Roach, Dickerson-Smith, Jacuzzi, Cossey van Duyne

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.



NOES (0):
ABSENT (1): Nagengast.

Public Comment: None.

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: [Infill Development Project Review Process](#), Linda Huang and Patrick Delong, Sewer System Engineering Section, Wastewater Enterprise

- Resource: <https://www.sfpuc.gov/learning/emergency-preparedness/sewer-laterals>

Presentation:

- In-fill Development Project Review Process
- Agenda
- How Projects Reach SFPUC
- Infill Project Review Process
- What SFPUC Wastewater Reviews
- 15 Marina Boulevard, San Francisco
- Key Takeaways
- Stormwater Management Ordinance
- Stormwater Management Ordinance Status
- Common Green Infrastructure Tools and Systems
- Project Showcase SMO Infill Projects
- SCP Review and Approvals Process
- SCP Review Process: DBI Parcel Permitting [2025 Update]
- SCP Review Process: Conditions of Approval
- Thank you!

Discussion:

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if the property owner is responsible for the lower sewer lateral.

Staff Huang responded yes, the property owner is responsible for the maintenance of the lower sewer lateral. For example, if there is a clog in the lower lateral and they are experiencing backup that is visible from the sewer vent on the sidewalk, it is the property owner's responsibility to clear. SFPUC recommends property owners do preventative maintenance on their sewer laterals so if there are issues that arise, these are handled earlier rather than waiting for the lateral to fail.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked what would happen if the sewer lateral were to break.

Staff Huang responded if that were to occur, the SFPUC has the responsibility to repair it from the curb.

Assistant General Manager (AGM) Prather further responded SFPUC has the responsibility to keep the area safe. The maintenance ownership is on the owner.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** asked if SFPUC is monitoring the health of the sewer laterals and notifying the homeowners.
AGM Prather responded no, if the homeowner notifies us their sewer is not working, SFPUC will tell them to flush the line.
- **Member Cossey van Duyne** asked how often and what kind of communication the SFPUC has to educate homeowners and building owners for multi-family units around their responsibility and how to manage the sewer lateral.

AGM Prather responded this is a good question and does not know if we have any outreach. SFPUC may have inserts in the mailers or have done it to the past. This is unique to San Francisco and there is a lot of conversation around the amount of money spent on those lateral repairs and if the money is better directed main sewer repairs.

Member Cossey van Duyne commented her line of questioning goes to preventative maintenance. It is less expensive to teach people.

AGM Prather responded it is a good question and knows that in the winter, they will do mailers for the grant programs.

Staff Huang responded SFPUC does not do active outreach with the property owners on preventative maintenance. The website does have a webpage letting homeowners know what to do in case they have an issue with their sewer lateral and educates them on their responsibility for the laterals. In the past, we have mailed out fliers in advance of City sewer replacement projects advising homeowners to reach out to a plumber to inspect their laterals before the city comes to replace the main.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** asked how often homeowners need to contact SFPUC to fix issues.

AGM Prather responded they are contacted daily reporting issues with the sewer.

Staff Huang further responded she does not have an exact number, but they do get 311 calls everyday about someone having issues with their lateral. This does not necessarily mean this is something the SFPUC would be responsible for in terms of doing repairs. Usually, it is the lateral backing up because there is a clog from grease or wipes clogging. Many times, it is a maintenance call and needs to tell them to reach out to a plumber first.

- **Member Dickerson-Smith** asked what staff think the impact will be with the housing project moving forward.

AGM Prather responded SFPUC will not know until the permit is in and does not want to speculate on what the flows will be at this juncture. We have limited resources and need to effectively use them on projects. However, he thinks they will propose a heavy stormwater management operation at the site.

Staff Huang further responded when a project submits their permit application to Department of Public Works (DPW) and when it gets to the SFPUC, we already have construction document drawings laying out how many laterals proposing to connect and are asking for the flows for each lateral so we can add it to the hydraulic model.

- **Chair Roach** commented it is interesting what is happening at the state level because they are basically punting the approvals to the next level and asked if SFPUC is seeing things that are not happening at the City planning level that used to happen.

Staff Huang responded it depends because there are some projects that are proactive. For example, SFPUC is currently in conversations with Kaiser over their expansion project on Geary. Before they are going through the process, they already have engaged SFPUC and given them preliminary information which allows SFPUC to provide feedback. There are others that do not coordinate with the SFPUC and encounter issues.

AGM Prather further responded SFPUC has seen requests to tighten the review times. SFPUC does not imagine to be cut out of the process on both the wastewater and water side.

- **Chair Roach** commented that it was her next question and asked if someone identified that there is a weak node, how would the SFPUC address it.

AGM Prather responded he does not know since this is an issue the Water Enterprise would deal with.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented in a project, the “black and white things” like whether or not a pipe is big enough this has to be worked out eventually and if a developer waits to long, it can kill a project economically.

Chair Roach further commented what is happening with this specific project is all the capacity questions are happening after the approval and there is no review happening.

AGM Prather responded the approval is plan approval, not necessarily permit approval.

- **Chair Roach** asked at the planned check stage, is that still too premature for SFPUC.

Staff DeLong responded this is usually where SFPUC comes in on the Stormwater Control Plan (SCP). They cannot submit to Department of Building Inspections (DBI) without submitting their planned SCP to SFPUC.

- **Chair Roach** asked how SFPUC interacts with the Federal agencies.

Staff DeLong responded regarding contamination or flood maps, SFPUC leaves it to the project applicant.

AGM Prather further responded it is the burden on the developer to mitigate these issues on federal land.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked why only 5,000 square feet and where did this number come from.

Staff DeLong responded this is a good question and speculates an economic study on projects under 5,000 square feet and what total construction costs are and how much more it would cost to manage storm water.

Member Jacuzzi asked if this requirement is due for periodic review and commented the reason, he asks this question because so many structures are smaller and have an adequate an inexpensive way of dealing with their stormwater management.

AGM Prather he is not sure if it is and what he has heard is DBI gave us a lot of pushbacks because they do not want problems with foundations and basements and agrees there are plenty of opportunities.

Member Jacuzzi commented if you look further by soil and zone types by enlarge this is not the problem since many times it goes directly into the soil and San Francisco is the only city in the Bay Area that has a combined sewer system. Everyone else lets their water go to the soil. It would be great to have a review and workshops looking into this.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** responded she understands why these presentations were together and asked if they are going out to these properties to fix broken laterals are they not also evaluating them for stormwater management overview.

AGM Prather responded not unless they are constructing a new entire property that is at least 5,000 square feet.

Member Cossey van Duyne commented she is pointing to an opportunity to expand the number of properties that have impervious surfaces.

AGM Prather responded it is a political issue with other beliefs in San Francisco on the smaller indentations, but it is an opportunity.

Member Cossey van Duyne commented it does not have to be permeated into someone else's backyard, and you have other options that can be considered.

AGM Prather responded we cannot force implementations. We can provide them the opportunities and grants, and the extra stormwater flows are generally not causing backups in the laterals.

Member Cossey van Duyne commented this is an opportunity to dig once and fix it.

AGM Prather responded somewhat, and it is different work in most cases. We could give them information on the Green Infrastructure Grant while we are out there.

Member Jacuzzi commented it is rare for the stormwater management plan to be done on a street structure.

AGM Prather responded when looking at the bigger developments like the Safeway Parking lot, when you have a large impervious surface where every raindrop is going into the sewer versus something that can capture the rain on a big development, you get a lot more bang for your buck and SFPUC can enforce that since it is a much bigger load.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented that it sounds like the project is going to build a new previous lot with stormwater management control.

AGM Prather responded hypothetically, yes because in theory the new project can have less stormwater coming into our system than the current parking lot.

Chair Roach commented it's all building type and asked how it is possible.

Member Jacuzzi responded they are going to control their stormwater so it could be a reduction on the system.

AGM Prather further responded it is on dry days like today when our system can handle 800 more toilets in the system and during wet weather days where the system reaches capacity this is when the issues happen.

- **Chair Roach** asked what assumptions SFPUC uses.

AGM Prather responded we have a modeling team that does this and does not know the assumptions used.

Staff Huang further responded from a rough scheme; it is assumed a certain percentage of the fixture units in the proposed project will be returning wastewater into the system.

Member Jacuzzi asked if there is a bottom- up and top-down calculation where you are using 95% of water going in should also be what comes out are used and if fixture rates are taken into consideration.

AGM Prather responded probably, and we have a modeling team that uses formulas.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented it is really great to know with the Storm Water Management Ordinance, there is the potential for reduced capacity on the system.
- **Chair Roach** asked if members are also dealing with flooding in their neighborhoods.

Member Jacuzzi and **Member Cossey van Duyne** responded yes.

- **Member Jacuzzi** responded he just recently came across SFPUC's own calculations that there are 4.01 billion gallons of water just on the Westside's draining produced by impervious surfaces and this is a lot of water annually for just the Westside and can supply the entire city of San Jose.

AGM Prather responded he agrees with Member Jacuzzi and there is only so much we can do.

Chair Roach asked what specifically we should be doing.

Member Jacuzzi commented we need to be persistent in asking for change.

- **Member Jacuzzi asked** if this is a topic we want to continue to push on from a permitting side because if you are doing an entire house remodel and are redoing the plumbing, why should this not also be looked at and commented he believes the way the permit should be written is if this is something that can be managed onsite, it should be managed on site. It is expensive to tie your storm water system into the sewer system.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** asked if Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)s fall into this.

Chair Roach responded that it is a good question, and they don't fall into the density calculation but there must be an answer since they are pushing ADUs.

Member Cossey van Duyne commented this may not be requiring them to do the stormwater disconnect.

Member Jacuzzi commented there may be certain trigger points like there are certain trigger points with seismic improvements and it took a while for building codes when and where do we require seismic improvements, and we need to advocate for changes to be made where they can help improve the process.

Chair Roach responded it may be a tough political climate to do so and speak about the abundance approach to getting stuff done. San Francisco leaned hard into this and will keep doing things on a voluntary basis and we can suggest this.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented this is why the CAC exists, and the CAC can write resolutions to advocate for changes to be made.
- **Member Cossey van Duyne** commented she wonders if there are other best practices to point to or how other communities navigated this step so that we are not necessarily inventing things from scratch and pinpoint staff to a best practice elsewhere. There is a burden to the building owner, that permits triggers many other things and asked if this a pile on to that list and if it will be a burden to comply with it. It may be better to also pinpoint them to grants so that in the case it gets built, they don't front the entire cost of the project.

Member Jacuzzi commented the triggers should not be added on top of it, but if they are already in the process of doing pipe work, this should be embedded into the process. People don't know other options can be explored and the idea would be if work is happening there would at least be an assessment that has steps. If the CAC would want to write a resolution about this, we would need to find out more information.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** commented she is thinking more about what the outcome is we are going after and what we are trying to prevent is combined sewer overflow. If we are able as a neighborhood, are able to balance the load that is going into the system, then there needs to be modeling to understand what percentage of buildings we need to have disconnect to ensure we do not have disasters happen and asked if anyone has ever done this.

Member Jacuzzi commented he somewhat has done this analysis.

Member Cossey van Duyne commented yes but it only represents one quadrant of the city.

Member Jacuzzi commented the gallons are the same and the physics are the same.

Member Cossey van Duyne commented the question of where the water goes is still standing.

Chair Roach asked in a combine sewer system, is it hard to isolate where it is coming from.

Member Jacuzzi commented the elephant in the room is the property line.

- **Member Cossey van Duyne** commented every district has a capacity load and the higher risk neighborhoods for disasters need a more aggressive approach on how many buildings are going to need grant funding to address the problem on a district level rather than city-level since these are the residents who are going to be impacted the most and may or may not have the money to address the solutions. Residents also do not know how to access the information and resources to them and SFPUC should be thinking about better strategies to distribute information rather than just doorknob hangers and mailers.
- **Member Jacuzzi** commented Marina is a hot spot and so is Ocean Beach neighborhood for flooding.
- **Chair Roach** commented she is inspired to do a wastewater community meeting to educate constituents in her neighborhood.

Member Jacuzzi asked what exactly is going to happen at these meetings.

Chair Roach commented she is going to suggest they have a meeting on this topic and see if someone from the SFPUC can do a presentation on the grants and resources available.

Member Jacuzzi commented it would have been great to have those groups present tonight.

- **Member Dickerson-Smith** asked what the strategy is to go into the various neighborhoods to educate residents, and this won't be happening overnight.

Member Cossey van Duyne responded there are 11 districts, each with a supervisor.

Chair Roach commented the CAC is composed of a representative from each district.

Member Dickerson-Smith yes, but they are not hear and it puts the responsibility to educate to members who are here.

Member Jacuzzi responded not on us personally and the Wastewater Subcommittee would write a resolution.

Member Cossey van Duyne commented the city has an environmental justice team that partners with environmental justice nonprofits that are embedded within the community, and we can arm other people with the information and will trust people who live the in neighborhood.

Chair Roach commented another resource is the District Supervisors office and they know all the neighborhood leaders and organizations. She works closely with her District Supervisor and is happy to do a test run to see how it works.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if Chair Roach is proposing bypassing the CAC process and going directly as an individual.

Chair Roach commented no, and the approach is to test out what it takes to disseminate information like this in a neighborhood. She sees this as a role of a CAC member to disseminate information on how the SFPUC and CAC can be helpful in the neighborhood.

Member Cossey van Duyne commented the CAC represents all the districts and it is the high-risk districts that need to have the awareness, handholding and access to the capital to fix. The money is there but they need to know how to get it. There is also the technical assistance needed on how to implement.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked is the goal is how to get public access to the information.

Chair Roach commented she is in a unique situation because of the Safeway project, District 2 is super organized, and it would be easy to organize a meeting focusing on this issue and acknowledges District 2 is a high-resource district that experiencing lots of flooding.

Public Comment: None.

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.**

Public Comment: None.

8. **Adjournment at 6:49 pm**

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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ACCESO A IDIOMAS

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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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