



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

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 24, 2017
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor Tuolumne Conference Room

Members:

Jennifer Clary (Chair) (D11) Suki Kott (D2) Ted Loewenberg (D5)
 Kelly Groth (D7) Nicole Sandkulla (M-Reg'l Water Customers)

D = SF District, M = Mayoral Appointment

Staff Liaisons: Tracy Zhu and Justin Gardner

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm.

Members Present at roll call (4): Jennifer Clary, Suki Kott, Kelly Groth , Ted Loewenberg

Members absent at roll call (1): Nicole Sandkulla

Members of the public (0):

1. Report from the Chair

- Chair welcomes committee members, staff, and the public

2. Approval of the [September 27, 2016](#) meeting minutes

Motion was made (Clary) and seconded (Loewenberg) to approve the meeting minutes.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES (4) Clary, Groth, Kott, Loewenberg
 NOES (0)
 ABSENT (1), Sandkulla

Public Comment: None

3. Public Comment - None

Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

Anson Moran
President

Ike Kwon
Vice President

Ann Moller Caen
Commissioner

Francesca Viotor
Commissioner

Vince Courtney
Commissioner

Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.
General Manager



4. **Presentation and Discussion: [Environmental Stewardship Policy Implementation Update](#)**, Tim Ramirez, Manager, Natural Resources and Lands Management Division, Water

Presentation Topics:

- Background
- Protect Wildlife Downstream of Dams/Diversions
- Collaboration and Public Involvement
- Partnerships - Upper Tuolumne River
- Partnerships - Alameda Watershed
- Creek Watershed Center and Education Master Plan
- Peninsula Watershed – Education and Recreation Opportunities
- Partnerships - Peninsula Watershed
- San Francisco Lands – Lake Merced
- San Francisco Lands – Twin Peaks
- San Francisco Lands – Laguna Honda
- Integrate Environmental Stewardship Policy into “Operations”

Topics of Discussion:

- Member Loewenberg: Is the Pilacitos Dam tilted over?
Staff Ramirez: No it is functional.
- Chair Clary: How old is that picture?
Staff Ramirez: 1928
- Staff Zhu: Is that the natural habitat?
Staff Ramirez: Yes, it was open grassland
(These comments are referencing slide 14 showing a treeless Crystal Springs)
- Chair Clary: Given the significant tree death in the recent drought are you gaining an upper hand in preserving plant species native to the water shed when it resembled an open grassland?
Staff Ramirez: We would if we could take some of the trees out, but the dead trees alter the ecosystem
- Chair Clary: How is that (the project to restore native plants to the Laguna Honda watershed)?
Staff Ramirez: It is going way better, always more work to be done, but it is much better than 5 years ago
- Member Kelly: Is that (Laguna Honda watershed) ever open to public?
Staff Ramirez: Yes but only to volunteers a couple times a year
- Chair Clary: Are you able to show that your stewardship has reduced your fines? Do you track that over time?
Staff Ramirez: Not really since they are so much better at finding violations than they used to be.
- Member Loewenberg: You started with a \$20 million budget. What is budget now?
Staff Ramirez: The Commission carved out \$20 million of bond funds which we still have some of. But the Commission added more so it is now \$50 million for the first 10 years. \$20 million of that is from the bond, which requires us to report every year. It's been 11 years and we haven't used all the funds.
- Member Loewenberg: Why hasn't Crystal Springs been opened to public yet?
Staff Ramirez: The timeline was extended, so that the city could do a more thorough review of environmental impact.
- Chair Clary: What ever happened to Board of Supervisor resolution to open parts of watershed?
Member Ramirez: It was withdrawn.

- Chair Clary: Regarding the Watershed Environmental Improvement Program, I assume your program is included in the projection in the 10 year capital budget?
Staff Ramirez: We do.
Chair Clary: I assume they are all using that (\$50 million) funding source?
Staff Ramirez: The Watershed Stewardship Program is funded by different sources and one of them is the bond fund.
- Staff Ramirez: The topic of how we manage the Peninsula Ridge trail in Crystal Springs is going in front of Commission.
- Chair Clary: Could you explain the existing docent program that provides access to the Peninsula Ridge trail?
Staff Ramirez: The trail is open 3 days a week, and we are limited to 3 trips per day with max of 20 people per trip. The trips are led by trained docents. The reason we have such limited access is because it is a very unique ecosystem with many protected species. It is a balance between giving more access and protecting the watershed
Clary: Is the docent program successful?
Ramirez: Yes people love the docents.
- Clary: When would EIR (that assesses the environmental impacts of new plan for the Peninsula Ridge Trail access) be ready?
Ramirez: The EIR would be finished this summer.

Public Comment: None

5. Staff Report

Staff Michelle gives update of EIR Scoping for the Peninsula Ridge Trail meeting that occurred last Wednesday.

- It was pouring rain. Six people attended who represented the spectrum of views on the matter from being open 24/7 to keeping it closed to preserve environment.
- Public comment for Draft EIR will close on January 30.

Public Comment: None

6. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions (5 minutes)

- Resolution on Watershed Environmental Improvement Program – Chair Jennifer Clary and Member Kott will work on a resolution regarding the next phase after the first 10 years of the program and potential support for the annual report that will be completed in December
- Tuolumne River Flows – Chair Clary would like to invite Tuolumne River Trust to provide different perspectives.
- Groundwater: update in the fall
- Drought resilience: 3 year water supply update
- Recycled water: construction of pipelines and onsite nonpotable reuse
- Legislative update on SB 7 and other water related legislation
- Repair and replacement/Maintenance: tentatively in May
- Resolution on the Peninsula Watershed uses and on balancing the management of environmental impacts and increasing access; EIR tentatively will be released in Spring/Summer 2017
- Clary will set up one-on-one meetings with members of the Water CAC to pass on institutional knowledge

Public Comment: None

7. **Announcements/Comments** – The next meeting of the Water Subcommittee will take place March 28, 2017.
Public Comment: None.

8. **Adjournment**

Motion was made (Kott) and seconded (Groth) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

MINUTES