



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

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024
 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 URL

<https://sfwater.zoom.us/j/89207822941?pwd=QXFRSER2WG9zM0IPK29ibmFZQjBMZz09>

Phone Dial-in

669.219.2599

Find your local number: <https://sfwater.zoom.us/u/kolNZGz3v>

Meeting ID / Passcode

892 0782 2941 / 888968

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

Amy Nagengast, Chair (D8) Douglas Jacuzzi (D4) Steven Lee (D10)	Maika Pinkston (M- Enviro. Org) Moisés García (D9)	Michelle Pierce (B- Enviro. Justice) Andrea Baker (B-Small Business)
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D = District Supervisor appointed, M = Mayor appointed, B = Board President appointed

Staff Liaisons: Lexus Moncrease, Sharon Liu-Bettencourt
 Staff Email for Public Comment: cac@sfwater.org

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order and roll call

Members present at roll call: (4) Nagengast, Pinkston, García, and Baker

Members Absent: (3) Jacuzzi, Lee and Pierce

Members of the Public: None

2. Approve [November 14, 2023](#) Minutes

London N. Breed
Mayor

Tim Paulson
President

Anthony Rivera
Vice President

Newsha K. Ajami
Commissioner

Sophie Maxwell
Commissioner

Kate H. Stacy
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.



Motion was made (García) and seconded (Baker) to approve the November 14, 2023, Minutes.

AYES: (4) Nagengast, Pinkston, García and Baker

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (3) Jacuzzi, Lee and Pierce

Public Comment: None

3. Report from the Chair

- Welcome members, staff, and the public
 - Welcome members, staff and the public
- Ohlone Tribal Land Acknowledgement

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

Public Comment: None

5. Presentation and Discussion: [Adopt a Drain SF](#), Idil Bereket SFPUC Wastewater Communications Manager, Jacob Herson, SFPUC Wastewater Communications Specialist, Autumn Ross

Presentation

Adopt a Drain SF
SFPUC and Adopt a Drain: Why?
How it all started
Bang for the Buck
Oh, What Fun!
Tool Giveaways
Then and Now
Adopt a Drain Goes Viral
Print, TV, Online Media Coverage
New and Improved Website
Inspiring Other Cities
Benefits and Challenges
Rain Guardians
Success Through Teamwork
Questions?

Discussion

- **Member Baker** asked if there are neighborhoods who might benefit more from drain adoptions.

Staff Bereket responded that she does not know the answer. It's something the team wants to work on but has not been able to do to staffing limitations. The team hopes to get together with the neighbors and figure out the answer in the future.

- **Member Pinkston** asked if there are trainings for members of the public who adopt drains.

Staff Bereket responded that there is not in person training but that written rules and safety guidelines are sent to everyone who adopts drains.

Member Pinkston asked if there are videos.

Staff Bereket responded that the video in the presentation is available to drain adopters.

Member García asked if the team emails drain adopters prior to major rain events.

Staff Bereket responded that they email adopters sometimes, but not every single time.

- **Member Baker** asked about the 1,800 folks who signed up in 2 weeks in January 2023 and if those sign ups were because of the ad campaigns or if the team knew why there were so many sign ups those two weeks.

Staff Bereket responded that the ads were ran in October of 2016. The ads are not currently running. The team believes the sign-ups were due to the mayor's press release regarding how folks can help and adopt a drain was part of the press release. The team posts on social media as well.

Staff Herson added that the numbers usually go up whenever there's rain

- **Member García** asked if there's a budget request this coming year for ads for adopt a drain.

Staff Bereket responded that they want to boost social posts. However, it's very difficult for the city to use credit cards.

- **Member Nagengast** commented the airport hired influencers to make videos. She wonders if the SFPUC can do that too and wanted to ask about the 25,000 drains and if there is a strategic plan and if we have the money and staffing to make it happen. Member Nagengast asked what metrics are for this project.

Staff Ross answered that there are regulatory requirements for cleaning the drains. The adopters are a bonus on top of the regulatory requirements. They're not a requirement. The team wants to grow the project but don't have enough budget and staff resources this fiscal year.

Member Nagengast asked what growth could look like for this project. What would it take it get to 10,000 or 15,000 drains adopted.

Staff Ross answered that there are no specific metrics at this moment, just the general goal to grow the program.

- **Member Baker** asked if there's a before and after story of what the drains looked like before and after someone adopted a drain. She asked if there are any tangible changes in the work done by adopters.

Staff Bereket responded that they did some impact study before Covid but hasn't done it since. There was a decrease in maintenance requests for the two years before the program launched versus two years after the program launched.

Member Baker asked if we saved in labor cost for the work done by the adopters.

- **Member Nagengast** suggested adding more numbers into the slides for duration of adoptions, distribution of where in the city and other information. She believes this could help drive engagement with the SFPUC. She further asked about the rain guardian program and if it's a separate program managed by different staff.

Staff Bereket responded that the rain gardens is a separate smaller scale project. 150 rain guardians versus 25,000 drains. 116 have already been adopted. It's run by another group of staff within wastewater. The events are often co-staffed and giveaways are often co-staffed as well.

Staff Ross commented the difference is mainly because stormwater is managed by a different division than the catch basins.

- **Member Nagengast** asked if the adopt a drain budget came from external communications, and asked if wastewater fund both adopt a drain and water guardians.

Staff Ross responded that the collections division under wastewater funds adopt a drain and the watershed division funds rain guardians.

- **Member Nagengast** asked if both programs used the external communications team as well.

Staff Herson responded that adopt a drain was originally started in communications whereas the watershed division came up with rain guardians.

Member Nagengast asked about the color spray circles that are mosquito pellets dropped by a group of bikers, and asked if that something that happens.

Staff Ross answered that she's not entirely sure how it works operationally as it's not really done within SFPUC anymore.

Staff Bereket commented it's usually done during the rainy season by someone who either bikers or walks up to the drains.

Member Pinkston asked if that was only done for mosquitos or if there are also drain nets.

Staff Ross responded there is not and that mosquitos are only managed because of the public health issues. We try not to use pesticides just for pests that are nuisances.

Member Pinkston said that the drains in her area have lots of issues and some residents put bleach covered towels on their indoor drains to prevent bugs and she is wondering if there are better solutions.

Staff Ross responded that she'd like to think about it a bit and suggests cleaning the drain once a year with baking soda and vinegar or using orange oil. She said she'll think more and reach out to CAC Staff.

- **Staff Pinkston** asked if there's a partnership with DPW to clean up trash otherwise, the garbage would flow right back into newly cleaned drains.

Staff Ross responded that we work closely with public works to clean up trash and she doesn't know the specific programs though. We also work with Recology and the Department of the Environment to clean up trash on the streets.

Staff Bereket commented that we work with public works and they have little patrol who clean the drains with their rakes prior to heavy rain.

- **Staff Pinkston** commented that in some neighborhoods trash is the biggest issue and probably preventing people from adopting drains.

Staff Ross said that we should submit 311 complaints for particularly bad drains and those drains might need mechanical cleaning.

Staff Bereket commented that drain adopters are helpful even if they just submit 311 complaints.

- **Member García** asked if they could expand on regulatory cleanings and what those are and how the big vacuum trucks work.

Staff Ross responded that wastewater collections enterprise has a goal of cleaning 4,700 catch basins a year and they must clean all of storm drains every year but not the catch basins. They must be cleaned every couple of years. That's the regulatory requirements. However, the department still responds to 311 requests even though it's not part of the regulatory requirements.

Member Nagengast thanked staff for presenting.

Member García let staff know that if they plan on making a budgetary request, they would like to support.

Public Comment: None

5. Staff report

Public Comment: None

6. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

- Resolution in Support of SFPUC Class A Biosolids Local Distribution Program adopted August 21, 2018
- Resolution in Support of Cityworks Interns Recommendations adopted on November 21, 2017
- 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 C Community Center at 1550 Evans adopted on January 19, 2016

Public Comment: None

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

Public Comment: None

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:50

For more information concerning the agendas, minutes, and meeting information, please visit www.sfwater.org/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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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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