



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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 13, 2026  
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
525 Golden Gate Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Tuolumne Conference Room**

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY OBSERVE AND PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM  
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE**

**Meeting URL**

[https://sfwater.zoom.us/rec/share/tpDUA2gVLGkkZwTTIHQjVI52L7DvK6SGHCYDoO3cextE-UT9QP4DUJpRG-\\_WIRqH.UhuRMOoOm0H2Sbas](https://sfwater.zoom.us/rec/share/tpDUA2gVLGkkZwTTIHQjVI52L7DvK6SGHCYDoO3cextE-UT9QP4DUJpRG-_WIRqH.UhuRMOoOm0H2Sbas)

**Meeting Passcode**

919194

**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)** Erin Roach (D2) Andrea Baker (B-Small  
Douglas Jacuzzi (D4) Maika Pinkston (M-Enviro. Business)  
Org)

**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](mailto:cac@sfwater.org)

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**1. Call to order and roll call at 5:32pm**

Present (3): Nagengast, Roach, Jacuzzi

Absent (2): Baker, Pinkston

Staff/Presenters: Joanne Yee, Ryan Batjiaka

Members of the Public: Arthine Cossey van Duyne

**2. Approve the [October 28, 2025, Meeting Minutes](#)**

A motion was made (Jacuzzi) and seconded (Roach) to approve the October 28, 2025, meeting minutes.

**Daniel Lurie**  
Mayor

**Joshua Arce**  
President

**Stephen E. Leveroni**  
Vice President

**Avni Jamdar**  
Commissioner

**Meghan Thurlow**  
Commissioner

**Kate H. Stacy**  
Commissioner

**Dennis J. Herrera**  
General Manager



The minutes were approved without objection.

Public Comment: None.

### 3. Report from the Chair

- Welcome members, staff, and the public
- [San Francisco files final brief in SCOTUS case](#)
- [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: [Biosolids Program Update](#), Joanne Yee, Regulatory Specialist, Ryan Batjiaka, SFPUC Resource Utility Specialist

- Resources:
  - [2024 Biosolids Program Update Presentation](#)

#### *Presentation:*

- Biosolids Program Update
- Agenda
- Moving to resource recovery
- Soil Fertility – The Reason We Ate Yesterday
- Benefit of SFPUC Biosolids as a Fertilizer
- How were biosolids used in 2025?
- Continuing to transition away from landfill
- PFAS
- Region 2 PFAS investigation
- Comparison of PFAS in biosolids to human blood
- State PFAS Regulatory updates
- Federal PFAS Regulatory Updates
- WWE Biosolids PFAS strategy
- Nutrient Recovery in the form of Organic Matter
- Inorganic Fertilizers – A Costly Alternative
- Carbon Sequestration
- Biosolids Beget Life
- New Southeast Digestion System
- Thank you.

#### *Discussion:*

- **Chair Nagengast** asked if Treasure Island is Class A or Class B for biosolids.

**Staff Yee** responded Treasure Island is still considered sludge. It is trucked into a tanker truck to Oceanside since water still needs to be taken out which can be done at Oceanside. On average, it is about 10 to 15 trucks a month from Treasure Island compared to the average about 10 to 12 trucks a day between Oceanside and Southeast Plant.

**Chair Nagengast** asked if this is for both the current and new facility.

**Staff Batjiaka** responded the current one used to have a digestion facility but that was at the end of its life, so they started trucking the solids from Treasure Island to Oceanside for digestion. With the new facility, the designers and consultants stated that for a facility of this size, it does not make sense to build a digestion system and instead make sense to take them where you have digesters.

**Chair Nagengast** commented once Treasure Island gets built out as it is envisioned, there will be a lot more people residing on the Island and asked what the breakpoint of processing is it in its own facility versus hauling it across the city.

**Staff Batjiaka** responded at the current facility, there is the ability to thicken the solids so if more people reside there, you'll be able to reduce the amount of truck trips needed because you are making the solids thicker. The consultants did state the breakpoint was maybe around 5 million gallons per day (MGD).

- **Chair Nagengast** asked to clarify what Class A and Class B biosolids are.

**Staff Yee** responded Oceanside and Southeast Treatment Plant make Class B biosolids and there are certain pathogen thresholds that we must eliminate to meet that qualification. Class B biosolids can be used in bulk directly to rangelands and there will be certain crops that can grow for animal feed but not human consumption. With Class A biosolids, it is much more stringent pathogen reduction to remove those pathogens and then there is a lot less restrictions on what it can be used on so think of it like a general fertilizer.

**Member Roach** asked if it is considered organic.

**Staff Batjiaka** responded it is organic in the sense that it is carbon based like in the organic chemistry sense, and it is not an inorganic fertilizer like urea or ammonia. In terms of having organic certification for use in in organic farming, you cannot use biosolids in organic farming program.

**Chair Nagengast** asked when the new Southeast Treatment Plant biosolids digester is done, will it be Class A.

**Staff Yee** responded when completed, it will be Class A.

**Chair Nagengast** commented she wants to understand what that will mean for the pie chart mix and asked if anything would change.

**Staff Yee** responded the pie chart could change but it depends on what SFPUC is able to get through the contracting process. It will still primarily be managed as a bulk fertilizer program. Staff Yee envisions a change in the pie chart but is unsure yet of what they will be because the contracts have not been executed yet.

- **Chair Nagengast** asked if some of the biosolids are going to be given to residents for free.

**Staff Yee** responded the ideal would be to get to the point. Class A biosolids on its own is not very usable and will need to add other things to get it to the right amount of nitrogen or phosphorus. If we handed it out without that information, it would be a little bit challenging because it could kill plants which we don't want.

**Staff Batjiaka** further responded previously there was compost and with compost it's added sources of woody material that are high in carbon. Biosolids are an amazing fertilizer because they are high in both organic and inorganic nitrogen but then you wouldn't have a pot full of biosolids and be able to grow a plant in it. We have done some pilots where we have created soil blends using the biosolids so you do have something that is like a very rich soil that could put a plant in, and it'd go very well. This may be a possibility in the future depending on contracts.

- **Member Roach** asked if biosolids are currently just being treated and not being sold.

**Staff Yee** responded it cost money to bring it to a useful stage and for somebody to manage the process of using it. The farmers are getting it at no cost other than what it costs to have someone manage the process of adding to the biosolids to make it useful.

**Staff Batjiaka** further responded farmers pay Lystek a very nominal amount of money, so the farmers are realizing they are getting something of value, but SFPUC does not see any revenue from it. Very few places are charging the value of nitrogen to the farmers but we're in a situation where like you have a Lucille-Ball-type of situation: we have a factory and we're producing televisions but we cannot control the supply of televisions and people know that we have the keep the conveyor belt moving because we cannot meter out supply so the users know we will provide it to them.

**Staff Yee** further responded every city is in this situation where they have solids, they need to figure out what to do with.

- **Chair Nagengast** commented the SFPUC is investing a lot of money into the Southeast Treatment Plant and invested in its headquarters and would love to think about how you move waste from wastewater to a resource recovery and get the public to understand it by physically interacting with it like touching the biosolids with gloves through Community Benefits engagement and support.
- **Member Jacuzzi** asked what the total breakdown of the truck movement from each facility is.

**Staff Yee** responded it depends and estimates from Southeast Treatment Plant; it could range from 8 to 10, Oceanside could range 2 to 4 a day and Treasure Island could range 10 to 12 truckloads per month going to Oceanside.

**Member Jacuzzi** asked why Treasure Island is trucked out to Oceanside.

**Staff Batjiaka** responded the Air District has said we can not accept the Treasure Island biosolids material at Southeast Plant. Another operational reason is with the existing digestion system at Southeast Treatment plant, 2 of the 9 digesters are not in service and the Treasure Island material is only about 2% of Oceanside's total volume so it would be even less of what Southeast handles. Southeast handles 80% of the City and Oceanside handles 20% and by sending it to Oceanside it would put less stress on aging infrastructure.

**Member Jacuzzi** asked if it would be processed there once the infrastructure upgrades to the digesters are completed at the Southeast Plant.

**Member Batjiaka** responded the Air District said SFPUC would need to apply for a new permit to receive Treasure Island material at the Southeast Treatment Plant.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if the \$6 million figure for management include some internal costs for the SFPUC.

**Staff Yee** responded it is a fee payout and is the cost per ton that is managed by the different companies: Lystek, Synagro, and Prisco.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented there was a tremendous increase in the liquid fertilizer.

**Staff Yee** responded a lot of material used to go to Solano County and when California Forever bought the land there, they did not want biosolids to go there anymore so this was lost. There is now less direct land application so SFPUC heavily relied on Lystek as a backup option otherwise the material would need to go to landfill. SFPUC just signed new contracts to bring material to Merced County.

- **Chair Nagengast** asked if the SFPUC were to overlay costs year over year is it safe to say the trend is we are spending more on hauling biosolids than we have historically.

**Staff Yee** responded likely yes. The cost of service goes up every year, the rates increase, the hauling costs are tied to the specific union for truck drivers so when their hourly rate goes up, so does the SFPUC's.

**Chair Nagengast** commented she is trying to understand the Lystek cost per ton versus the landfill cost per ton versus the land application and the multi-factored approach.

**Staff Yee** responded this is tricky. Back in 2016, the landfill cost may have been much lower but today, there is less space in the landfill and placing it in the landfill hurts the City's diversion rate that is tied to a specific bill under jurisdiction of CalRecycle.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked what is tap and if it refers to tap like kitchen sink why are they not lumped together since it is safe to assume for residential use it would come from the same pipe.

**Staff Batjiaka** responded tap refers to what is coming out of the drinking water possibly since this study is coming from an area in Southern California where groundwater is a drinking water source. The chart breaks down what is coming out of the drains in the shower, sink, bathroom, not the heads or faucets.

- **Member Roach** asked why the digesters are painted different colors.

**Staff Batjiaka** responded the architect wanted to paint them like a mosaic, but the SFPUC was concerned they would not be able to get the correct paint color in future years and wanted to keep it simple. As a compromise, each digester was painted a different color.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented in his own research found that granule chips are embedded in composition shingles or cap sheet roofing where the chips are meant to keep the sun rays off the product so that's the first think that rainwater hits and still has a lot of concern about rainwater being transported from those rooftops to groundwater with the chemicals going with them.
- **Chair Nagengast** asked what are some actions that we should be thinking about to better help support the future of biosolids and commented an immediate answer is not needed from staff so they may have time to think.

**Member Jacuzzi** further commented when he talks to members of the public and biosolids come up, people are interested in it and it's a category within the SFPUC that peaks people's curiosity.

**Staff Yee** responded in would help to engage Community Benefits to do outreach to the community and introduce them to the biosolids through public tours. When we get to Class A there may be a possibility to show a product and potentially a soil blend, right now it looks wet material.

- **Member Roach** asked if there is a platform that connects resources to businesses that need those resources and commented one of the famous marketing stories was Ben & Jerry's would use biodigesters at their plants in the Netherlands so the cows would produce all their dairy products, and they'd recycle the biosolids and use it in their production of ice cream.

**Staff Batjiaka** responded once SFPUC gets to Class A there may be an opportunity. With Class B there is a lot of oversight that prevents people from grabbing biosolids and be able to use it. The SFPUC is hoping to get a fair amount of revenue with biogas sales.

Public Comment:

- **Arthine Cossey van Duyne** commented she learned a lot in this presentation and presenters made a distinction between Class A and Class B and the technology being used and asked is there a process

that the SFPUC goes through for evaluating technologies and doing pilots of the technologies and community outreach about solutions that may be implement and is there a constant scoping or scaling for new solutions that are coming out that may not be as chemically loaded as the current process and if there is someone dedicated to researching new technologies as they come out and commented when the digesters need to be repainted SFPUC should consider public art.

**Staff Batjiaka** responded the infrastructure bureau is responsible for delivering all the projects and they are not within that division so are not familiar with all the details. From his understanding, when SFPUC is doing a project, they identify a need and do alternatives analysis where they list out all the ways SFPUC can accomplish that objective and then they have to rank these projects based on usability, cost, community relations and they will generally have consultants come in and walk them through the process. For large projects like PDFP, it will be the best available technology when that project is happening. For other projects like the Southeast Biogas project, there is a combustion turbine to generate electricity on site and could put it into vehicles or into the pipeline. The combustion electricity generation has much more track history but with the pipeline injection, it would greatly reduce combustion in the community and improve air quality so that's why they decided to move forward with it. As new technology comes out once projects are completed, there is a question of destroying the facility and rebuild to implement the new technology but if there is a tweak in the system that could improvement it may be done after a cost-benefit analysis. There is currently a good relationship between academia and researchers in the wastewater community. At the Oceanside Treatment Plant for example, they piloted something called primary filtration which would have been a way to reduce energy costs at the treatment plant and there is now interest in implementing it.

**Staff Moncrease** further responded the Communications department handles the community outreach.

**Chair Nagengast** further commented all above ground construction contracts have a 2% requirement for public art so the new Headworks Facility on Evans Street for example has rotating exhibits.

## 6. Staff report

- Next week is a Full CAC meeting and will be hearing a budget update.

Public Comment: None.

## 7. [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 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 Community Center at 1550 Evans [adopted on January 19, 2016](#)

Public Comment: None.

- 8. Announcements/Comments** Visit [www.sfpuc.gov/cac](http://www.sfpuc.gov/cac) for final confirmation of the next meeting date.

Public Comment: None.

**9. Adjournment at 6:48 pm**

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