



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

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, August 17, 2021
 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

PARTICIPATE VIA BLUEJEANS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE

Meeting URL

<https://bluejeans.com/558525444/1079>

Phone Dial-in

408.317.9253

Meeting ID/Passcode

558 525 444# / 1079

This meeting is being held by Teleconference Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 and the Sixteenth Supplement to Mayoral Proclamation Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency Dated February 25,2020

During the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) emergency, the San Francisco Public Utilities Citizens Advisory Committee's (SFPUC CAC) regular meeting room, 525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor Tuolumne Conference Room, is closed. CAC Members and SFPUC staff will convene CAC meetings remotely by teleconference. Members of the public are encouraged to submit their public comment on agenda items in advance of the teleconference meeting by emailing comments to cac@sfgwater.org. Comments submitted no later than 12 PM Tuesday the day of the meeting will be read into the record by SFPUC CAC Staffing Team members during the teleconference meeting and will be treated as a substitute to providing public comment during the meeting. Persons who submit written public comment in advance on an agenda item or items will not be permitted to also provide public comment on the same agenda item(s) during the meeting.

Mission: The purpose of the SFPUC CAC is to provide recommendations to the SFPUC General Manager, the SFPUC Commission, and the Board of Supervisors regarding the agency's long-term strategic, financial, and capital improvement plans ([Admin. Code Article XV, Sections 5.140 - 5.142](#))

Members:

Anietie Ekanem, Chair (D10)

- Marria Evbuoma (D1)
- Suki Kott (D2)
- Steven Kight (D3)
- VACANT (D4)
- Emily Algire (D5)
- Barklee Sanders (D6)
- VACANT (D7)
- Amy Nagengast (D8)

- Moisés García (D9)
- Jennifer Clary (D11)
- Maika Pinkston (M-Environmental Org.)
- Nicole Sandkulla (M-Regional Water Customers)
- VACANT (M-Engineering/Financial)
- Eliahu Perszyk (M-Large Water User)
- VACANT (B-Small Business)
- Michelle Pierce (B-Environmental Justice)

London N. Breed
 Mayor

Sophie Maxwell
 President

Anson Moran
 Vice President

Tim Paulson
 Commissioner

Ed Harrington
 Commissioner

Newsha Ajami
 Commissioner

Michael Carlin
 Acting
 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.



D = District Supervisor appointed, M = Mayor appointed, B = Board President appointed

Staff Liaisons: Mayara Ruski Augusto Sa and Jobanjot Aulakh

Staff Email for Public Comment: cac@sfwater.org

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order and roll call at 5:37pm

Members present at roll call: (10) Ekanem, Evbuoma**, Kott, Kight, Algire, Clary, Pinkston, Sandkulla, Perszyk, Pierce

Members absent: (3) Sanders, Nagengast, García

Staff: Eddy So, Raymond Mah, and Andrew DeGraca, Manouchehr Boozarpour, Betsy Rhodes

Public Comment: None

**Member Evbuoma left at 5:55pm. Quorum maintained.

2. Approve [July 20, 2021](#) Minutes

Motion was made (Clary) and seconded (Pierce) to approve the July 20, 2021 Minutes

AYES: (10) Ekanem, Evbuoma, Kott, Kight, Algire, Clary, Pinkston, Sandkulla, Perszyk, Pierce

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (3) Sanders, Nagengast, García

Public Comment: None

3. Report from the Chair

- Welcomed members, staff, and the public
- Thanked the members and staff for their dedication to the CAC
- Thanked the Water subcommittee, especially Water Chair Clary and Member Sandkulla for the fascinating drought discussion
- Currently organizing a joint meeting with the SECFC and inviting members to share topics of their interest
- Thanked Member Zock for all her service to the SFPUCCAC
- Welcomed Steven Kight back as District 3 representative
- Welcome and introduction of new member, Environmental Organization Appointed by the Mayor Maika Pinkston

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:** [Consumer Confidence Report](#), Eddy So, Engineer, Water Quality Division, SFPUC

Resource

[2020 Annual Water Quality Report](#)

Presentation

- Regulatory History
- Purpose and Benefits of the CCR
- Who Prepares and How to Distribute CCR?
- Mandatory Requirements: the CCR is required by law
- Highlights of 2020 CCRs Under SFPUC
- 2020 CCR: slides identify the different sections of the CCR
- Discretionary Parts: sections not mandated by the State or EPA – the slides list all additional information
- More Data Available Than Mandatorily Required
- SFPUC CCR e-Delivery
- Questions?

Discussion

- **Member Clary** asked what contaminants are present in our water.

Staff So replied that there are contaminants in the water, but they are at a level below health risk and below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

- **Chair Ekanem** asked how big the sample sizes are, where samples are collected, and where can we find specific data that shows what and where the sampling has been done. The Chair explained that he would like to understand the water quality district by district or even street by street if that data is available.

Staff So replied that all sampling is according to regulations determined by the state and EPA. The contaminants are monitored to make sure they are not above the drinking water standard and causing health concerns. The source water is monitored first. If there are no contaminants in the source water, then the chances of drinking water being contaminated is very unlikely. The wider systems, such as the San Francisco distribution system, focus primarily on bacteriological samples. Other contaminants as disinfectant byproducts are also monitored. The EPA and State define how the monitoring should be done. Strategic locations are defined to determine where water sampling should take place and samples are regularly collected. Every week, about 70 samples are collected from the distribution system and about 300 samples are collected monthly for bacteria alone. Chlorine and disinfection byproducts are also being monitored.

- **Chair Ekanem** asked for a list of sampling locations for 2020.

Staff So replied that he does not have the list available now, but that a list can be shared with the CAC members later. Staff So also added that there are dedicated sample stations.

- **Member Kott** commented that it would be best if the report was created in a format that is easier to digest. The report starts easy to read but it gets confusing. Customers would like to know if there is anything that they should be concerned about and would appreciate less abbreviations.

Member Sandkulla replied that the issue brought up by Member Kott had to do with the groundwater project and that it was specific to that project and it did not carry over to the CCR. Member Sandkulla then asked if there is flexibility on how the report is presented.

Staff So commented that the presentation of the data in this format is done according to the California City Water Results Control Board's Guidance. It is difficult to understand the numerical relationship between the number presented and the corresponding drinking standard. The SFPUC is tied to the EPA and State regulation when it comes to the format of the report.

Chair Ekanem commented that the tables can still be included to meet the regulatory guidelines, but the PUC can still make that information more clear to the general public. Chair Ekanem volunteered the CAC to help with developing infographics that make sense to the general public that.

Member Kott commented that this is a missed opportunity for the SFPUC to show that it is exceeding regulatory requirements, Member Kott suggested adding a column or row to highlight that the SFPUC is exceeding compliance and the consumer can easily find that information

Member Clary commented that staff cannot change the tables.

Staff So agreed that the infographic presentation would enhance the existing table and would appreciate any help in developing infographics.

Chair Ekanem has added that the CAC is available to help with the infographics and asked Staff Sa to keep it on the agenda for future coordination.

Public Comment: None.

6. **Presentation and Discussion:** [SFPUC's Lead Service Line Replacement Program](#), Raymond Mah, Engineer, Water Quality Division

Resources: [Lead and Drinking Water Handouts](#)
[Interactive Map](#)

Presentation

- Overview
- SFPUC Historical Lead Reduction Effort
- LSLR – Lead Component: SFPUC typically finds lead goosenecks or pigtails connected to 1-inch utility service lines. The replacements require taking out the lead and galvanized pipes and replacing them with copper lines from the water main to the water meter. SFPUC will

start inventorying the customer side of the meter according to new regulation

- LSLR Program: ongoing inspection of materials to decide when replacement is needed
- LSLR Drivers
- LSLR – Field Investigations: Interactive Map linked above has information on what type of material (galvanized pipes or not). The map is updated every 6 months
- What to expect as a Customer with a Galvanized Line
- Flushing Instructions
- Health Information and Tips
- Homeowner Benefits
- Installation Photos: photos show installation of copper lines from water main to water meter
- LSLR Next Steps
- Conclusion
- More Resources: www.sfpuc.org/lead

Discussion

- **Member Clary** commented that there had been a couple schools that tested positive for lead and asked if the source of the lead contamination was determined.

Staff Mah replied that if the lead levels were high, a repeat testing would be done and then recommendations would be made to shutoff and replace the lines. SFPUC offers lead testing when fixtures are replaced.

- **Member Clary** asked whether the schools should be contacted to see if this issue was resolved.

Staff Mah answered positively. There is a new lead school program, but the program was paused due to pandemic

- **Chair Ekanem** asked what the testing and tracking procedure is for large apartment buildings or HOAs.

Staff Mah replied that larger buildings usually have a greater than 1 inch water line and SFPUC does not have galvanized water lines that are greater than 1 inch in our system.

- **Chair Ekanem** commented that there is 10-year rollout to identify several lines and asked who determines the priority to get an inspection and a replacement is necessary.

Staff Mah replied that the SFPUC had submitted a 2020 schedule, but this schedule was changed in July because the SFPUC wanted to add more disadvantaged neighborhoods. This neighborhoods were identified from a GIS (geographic information system) map of disadvantaged neighborhoods and then the staff engineer would take 20% every month and spread it around for the 10 year period. In terms of scheduling and neighborhoods, the program is moving randomly around the city, but field inspections are being grouped together.

Staff DeGraca added that it is an evolving program with no definite process. If there are customers that want this done sooner, though, they will be added to the queue. There are a lot of different factors that affect the schedule.

- **Member Kott** asked for clarification about the dots that appear on the interactive map and the meaning of the different colors.

Staff Mah responded that all dots need to be field checked and are not confirmed. The black dots are galvanized pipes and the orange dots are unknown (no data about the material in SFPUC's database).

Member Kott asked if the lack of dots signals that there are no issues in the specific area?

Staff Mah answered positively. Material type has been confirmed and most of the material is either copper or plastic.

- **Member Kott** asked if there is an assumption that neighboring houses have lead lines if one house tests positive.

Staff Mah answered positively.

Chair Ekanem asked if the SFPUC has a datasheet that can be shared with the public to reassure them about the lines underground.

Staff DeGraca replied that the SFPUC encourages people to contact 311 and schedule a lead testing.

- **Chair Ekanem** asked how many people take advantage of that program every year.

Staff Degraca replied that about 600 people contact SFPUC. A third of the cases require an inspector to be deployed.

Public Comment: None

7. **Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action:** [Resolution in support of a Resilient Water Supply](#), Jennifer Clary, Water CAC Chair

Brief Introduction by Member Clary: Member Clary commented that the drought is a lot more concerning than what SFPUC has been advertising on its website. Residential water use is the majority of our water use and conservation is very important. Overreliance on a single source of water is very dangerous, especially with the effects of climate change that have become more apparent. The commission is considering alternative water supplies and the CAC should provide support in expanding the water supplies. The idea is to ensure that the PUC moves forward and addresses the more severe forms of climate change and how to create a more resilient water system for San Francisco and wholesale water customers. The resolution asks the SFPUC to consider how to fill the potential gap, as well as asking the SFPUC to consider the reuse of water that is currently thrown away and how to talk to customers about their changing water sources and water supply. Member Sandkulla added that BAWSCA has been pressuring the SFPUC to initiate their current alternative water supply program in response to the Bay Delta implementation. However, it does not have enough projects to fill the gap. We need to be planning to address this gap. The resolution asks the Commission to develop a plan to identify more alternative water supplies, looking into potable reuse, and education and awareness campaign on water quality.

- **Member Perszyk** suggested adding a sentence about the SF Purified Water Opportunities Study.

Member Clary asked if that should be added to the second resolve clause.

Member Perszyk replied affirmatively.

- **Member Pierce** asked what the alternative water supplies are. And asked if desalinization and recycling are options, as well as rainwater capture.

Member Clary answered that the resolution only mentions wastewater because that is the biggest water source. The best water source in a drought is what you already have as there will be no more water coming from the sky. Recycling is very important. The Bay Area has also been looking at desalination for many years but that has significant environmental effects and it is energy intensive. The biggest form is conservation and passive conservation makes a big difference.

Member Sandkulla mentioned that the current plans and study has desalinization, non-potable/potable reuse, increase groundwater, increasing size of existing reservoir. There are many projects in the plan, but there are no easy answers. However, reliability needs to be addressed and SFPUC needs to do more to ensure a reliable supply.

- **Chair Ekanem** suggested adding something to promote equity and avoid that vulnerable communities be negatively impacted by new projects and programs.

Member Clary replied that a resolve clause can be added to ensure that vulnerable communities are not burdened by the increased cost of dealing with climate change.

Member Sandkulla asked if the Chair is concerned about cost, quality, or both.

Chair Ekanem answered that he is concerned about both aspects.

Member Clary added a clause that asks the SFPUC to identify and mitigate any economic and social impacts on less affluent communities or vulnerable communities

Chair Ekanem commented that the term “less affluent” should be changed to “vulnerable.”

Member Sandkulla added that all projects will go through an EIR process and that this should be considered as an important part of the project.

- **Member Clary** suggested language to cover Member Perszyk’s suggestions regarding the ongoing study as follows: “considering the results of the San Francisco Purified Water Opportunities Study” to the second clause. Second Resolved clause was amended to include this change.

- **Member Sandkulla** suggested adding that the CAC wants to be involved in process. The last resolve clause was changed to include “advises the SFPUC to invest in partnership with the CAC.”
- **Member Kott** suggested using the font arial as it is easier for dyslexics to read.

Motion was made (Kott) and seconded (Pierce) to adopt the resolution as amended.

The motion PASSED with the following votes:

AYES: (9) Ekanem, Kott, Kight, Algire, Clary, Pinkston, Sandkulla, Perszyk, Pierce

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (4) Evbuoma, Sanders, Nagengast, García

Public Comment: None

8. Staff report

- Welcome new staff Jobanjot Aulakh
- Reminder for CAC seats seeking members
 - District 4
 - District 7
 - Small Business Seat appointed by Board of Supervisors' President
 - Engineering/Financial appointed by the Mayor
- Survey will be sent out August 18, 2021

Public Comment: None

9. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

- Commissioner's Visits
- SFPUC Lines and Cost – PG&E
- Racial Equity – Composition of the Management Team
- SECFC/CAC Joint Meeting
- Power Rate Increases
- Education Update
- Pres Maxwell Visit
- Drought and Bay Delta Discussion
- CleanPowerSF and Hetch Hetchy Power Study Rates
- Agency-wide Planning & Policy on Climate Change & Adaptation
- Interagency Working Group on Sea Level Rise
- Contracting Process
- Education Resolution
- PUC Properties and City Department Partnerships
- Water Equity and Water Access for Homeless
- Workforce Programs
- Water Rights and Raker Act
- Water Use and Parks
- Flooding Protection
- Water Quality Report
- Green New Deal
- Micro Hydroelectric Power
- Prop A Bond Funding

Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up

- Resolution in Support of the Southern Skyline Boulevard Ridge Trail Extension project [adopted April 20, 2021](#)
- Resolution in Support of Interim Emergency Rate Assistance Program and Revised Community Assistance Program [adopted July 21, 2020](#)
- Resolution in Support of a Skilled and Diverse Utility Workforce [adopted February 19, 2019](#)
- Resolution Honoring the Life, Activism, and Contributions of Dr. Espanola Jackson to the Local Community [adopted on April 19, 2016](#)
- Resolution on Balboa Reservoir [adopted March 15, 2016](#)

Public Comment: None.

10. **Announcements/Comments** The next FULL CAC meeting will be on September 21, 2021. Visit www.sfpuc.org/cac for confirmation of the next scheduled meeting, agenda and materials.

Public Comment: None.

11. Adjournment

Motion was made (Ekanem) and seconded (Clary) to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM