



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

MEETING MINUTES

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

PARTICIPATE VIA BLUEJEANS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SOFTWARE

Meeting URL

<https://bluejeans.com/420284814>

Phone Dial-in

408.317.9253

Meeting ID

4841825#

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 Power Subcommittee shall review power generation and transmission system reliability and improvement programs, including but not limited to facilities siting and alternatives energy programs, as well as other relevant plans, programs, and policies ([Admin. Code Article XV, Sections 5.140 - 5.142](#)).

Members

Chair Moises Garcia (D9) Steven Kight-Buckley (D3) Sammy Nabahani (Public Member)
 Mark Tang (M-Eng/Financial) Jim McHugh (D4)

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

Staff Liaisons: Tracy Zhu and Mayara Ruski Augusto Sa
 Staff Email for Public Comment: cac@sfgwater.org

London N. Breed
 Mayor

Sophie Maxwell
 President

Anson Moran
 Vice President

Tim Paulson
 Commissioner

Ed Harrington
 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.



ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Call to order and roll call 5:34**

Members present at roll call: () Garcia, Tang, McHugh, Nabahani

Members Absent: (1) Kight

SFPUC Staff present: Barbara Hale, Michael Clark

2. **Approve [October 27, 2020](#) Minutes**

Motion was made (Tang) and seconded (McHugh) to approve October 27, 2020 Minutes.

AYES: (4) Garcia, Tang, McHugh, Nabahani

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Kight

Public Comment: None

3. **Report from the Chair**

- Welcome members, staff, and the public. Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year
- Chair invited Jim McHugh to make an announcement. Member McHugh announced he will be leaving the CAC

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: Power Enterprise Mid-Cycle Budget Adjustments**, Barbara Hale, Assistant General Manager, and Michael Clark, Budget Manager, Power Enterprise.

Presentation:

- The impacts of COVID required reopening the budget mid-cycle. The Commission will analyze the revisions in February.
- Although adjustments are ongoing, agency-wide themes have not changed.
- Focus on innovation in practices and technologies; community engagement; responsive and efficient work; incorporating transparency and accountability to the work.
- Focus on Resiliency: being prepared for emergencies and having a clear asset management program.
- Focus on People: addressing recruitment and retention concerns.
- Reduced Revenues and City Services

- Increased Cost from PG&E: PG&E filed a new wholesale tariff and that increases the cost PG&E charges the PUC for using their distribution system.
- Increased Costs related to the Racial Equity efforts
- Goal to Stabilize SFPUC's Financials: engage and retain Hetchy customers; distribution system emphasis by continuing to fund it; PG&E system acquisition; updating business plan; Hetchy capital program; adjust CleanPowerSF rates to be competitive; enhance CleanPowerSF programs; and staff recovery.

Discussion:

- **Member Tang** asked if the budget has decreased or if there are enough reserves.

AGM Hale answered that some services required using reserves, such as the CleanPowerSF. The cost increase and revenue reduction has made using the reserves necessary.

- **Member Tang** asked about the impact of Covid-19 on the next budget cycle.

AGM Hale answered that there is an assumption that the diminished levels of activity should continue. CleanPowerSF has had an increase on residential consumption as a result of the pandemic. AGM Hale highlighted that the SFPUC is in a difficult financial situation and that that affects the CleanPowerSF and Hetch Hetchy programs.

- **Chair Garcia** asked if the capital investments have slowed down because of all the financial impacts.

AGM Hale answered that the SFO substation and redevelopment projects are expected to slow down. The SFPUC is avoiding reducing streetlight investments and energy efficiency investments, as well as programs designed to help consumers meet affordability or bill reduction and programs that would affect our climate action goals.

- **Chair Garcia** asked about customer assistance programs and its impact on budget.

AGM Hale explained that the SFPUC has the policy of not disconnecting customers at this time. CleanPowerSF is seeing higher non-payments than previously – that data about non-payment can be shared with the CAC. Most customers are still paying, even if late. CleanPowerSF applied for a CPUC program, that should help customers with unpaid bills. The SFPUC has also been encouraging eligible customers to participate in discount programs that the SFPUC operates.

- **Chair Garcia** asked if the CleanPowerSF application is similar to the securitization and collections strategy used during the 2001 energy crisis where the state took care of it through a bond or if it is separate from that.

AGM Hale clarifies it is separate and that a similar strategy would require legislation.

- **Chair Garcia** asked if that is being considered right now.

AGM Hale answered that she has not personally seen anything about it but would check with the Policy and Government Affairs team.

- **Chair Garcia** asked if the themes from last year's budget presentation stayed the same and if positions that were going to transition from temporary to permanent were affected.

AGM Hale answered that positions with CleanPowerSF have moved forward and are being filed. Other positions with Hetch Hetchy continue to be funded and positions funded by the capital program are also still moving forward but at a slower pace. Staff has also been reevaluating their roles and there is an expectation that SFPUC will keep staff working remotely through the end of the calendar year. AGM Hale remarked that all uncertainties make it challenging to bring on new staff but recruitment and hiring efforts are ongoing.

- **Member Tang** asked about the average age of SFPUC's employees and how that affects future retirements.

AGM Hale does not know the average age of SFPUC employees but noted that a lot of employees have been retiring. It is a national challenge for utility sectors.

- **Chair Moises** asked if investments on workforce development programs have stayed the same or if they have increased in light of these difficulties.

AHM Hale said that the SFPUC has been thoughtful about it and looking even more at programs with an equity focus. There is a lot of work being done through the racial equity team and there are efforts to ensure that resources are being used and allocated in an equitable manner. The SFPUC data on SFPUC workforce was presented to the Commission recently and needed changes were discussed.

- **Chair Garcia** said he has seen the data and that the Commission has been very supportive of necessary investment in data collection. Chair Garcia asked if there any things to look out for and possible good news in the horizon.

AGM Hale answered that the SFPUC will be watching what happens with San Francisco's economy and its impact on revenue recovery. AGM Hale stated they will continue to hear the City Economists to get good data on recovery.

- **Chair Garcia** offered the CAC support when necessary

Public Comment: None

6. Staff report

- Staff thanked Chair Garcia for starting the trend of inviting Assistant General Managers to present at the subcommittee meetings.
- Reminder about vacant seats
- Reminder to use both Tracy and Mayara as resources as the responsibilities shift to Mayara

Public Comment: None

7. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

- Chair Garcia asked how members would like to engage in SFPUC business and CPUC (public comment or non-public avenues).
- Member Tang asked if members can address the CPUC on behalf of the CAC.

- Staff Zhu explained members can mention that they are CAC members when addressing the CPUC during public comment. However, speaking on behalf of the CAC should be done through resolutions.
- Public Member Nabahani asked about the public comment procedure and format. Chair Garcia recommended watching CPUC meetings.
- Member McHugh mentioned that the CPUC has encouraged CAC members to join in the past.
- Chair Garcia announced that he would like to discuss the members interest for the upcoming meetings and agendas.

Others

- SFPUC interaction with California ISO
- Treasure Island – power perspective and representative of TIDA, Treasure Island resident
- Strategic Communications and Marketing Plan for Power Enterprise
- Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) speakers
- Future Programs
- Program Development i.e. Electric Vehicles, Electrification, Multi-family Buildings, Storage, Time of Use Rates
- Low-Income Assistance Program

Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up

- Resolution Recommending that the SFPUC Commission Reverses its Position on the "Not to Exceed Rates" for CleanPowerSF, Move Forward with this Important Program, and Allow Staff to Move Forward with its Launch [adopted September 16, 2014](#)

Public Comment: None

8. **Announcements/Comments**

The next Power CAC meeting will be on March 2, 2021. Visit www.sfwater.org/cac for confirmation of the next scheduled meeting, agenda and materials.

Chair Garcia will reach out to members to discuss future agenda items. Staff Zhu highlighted that the retreat might have items of interest and the budget priorities will probably impact interests.

Public Comment: None

9. **Adjournment**

Motion was made (McHugh) and seconded (Tang) to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: (4) Garcia, Tang, McHugh, Nabahani

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Kight

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm

Public Comment: None