



San Francisco Water Power Sewer

Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

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San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Citizens' Advisory Committee Water Subcommittee

MEETING MINTUES

Tuesday, July 28, 2026
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.

Zoom Recording:

<https://sfwater.zoom.us/rec/share/1M4KPJ1zT5e-rBSMe3WRXCq57yCdTPMvDFLzAYzGV95LPOSIG1bX3MEjt0je2qLG.TGVVT0PkQ0CJgijc>

Meeting Passcode:

492413

Mission: The Water Subcommittee reviews water supply system reliability, water conservation, recycling, regional cooperation efforts, and other relevant plans and policies.

[\(Admin Code 5.140-142\)](#)

Members:

Aaron Hebert (Chair) (D9)	Jennifer Clary (D11)	Katie Zheng (M-Large Water User)
Douglas Jacuzzi (D4)	Thomas Smegal (M-Reg'l Water Customers)	Sarah Atkinson (M-Enviro. 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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order and roll call at 5:33 pm

Present (4): Hebert, Jacuzzi, Clary, Smegal

Absent (2): Zheng, Atkinson*

Staff/Presenters: Obi, Nzewi

Members of the public: Arthine Cossey van Duyne, Alicia Escott, Karen Curtis, Georgia Hodge, Christine Doughy, Anonymous (2)

*Member Atkinson marked present at 5:36 pm. Quorum maintained.

2. Approve [June 23, 2026](#), Meeting Minutes

A motion was made (Clary) and seconded (Jacuzzi) to approve the June 23, 2026, Meeting Minutes. The minutes were approved without objection.

Public Comment: None.

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

Joshua Arce
President

Stephen E. Leveroni
Vice President

Avni Jamdar
Commissioner

Kate H. Stacy
Commissioner

Meghan Thurlow
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 way that respects our values environmental and community interests and sustains the resources entrusted to our care.



3. Report from the Chair

- Chair welcomes committee members, staff, and the public

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: [Groundwater Update](#), Obiajulu Nzewi, SFPUC Groundwater Program Manager

Presentation:

- Groundwater update for SFPUC Citizens Advisory Committee Water Subcommittee
- Agenda
- Plans and timeline for increasing groundwater blending
- Metered groundwater Pumping in Westside Basin
- Wellhead Water Quality Results and Trends
- Groundwater Blend Report – Summary
- Blend Report – Alkalinity and Hardness
- Blend Report – Chloride, TDS and Specific Conductance
- Blend Report – Hexavalent Chromium
- Blend Report – Manganese
- Blend Report – Nitrate
- Groundwater Monitoring
- Groundwater Capital Projects
- Groundwater Capital Projects Cont'd
- Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project – Cont'd
- WSB Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model Update
- WSB Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model Update Cont'd
- Westside Basin and SFGW Summary
- Questions?
- Plans and timeline for increasing groundwater blending – contd.

Discussion:

- **Chair Hebert** asked if the Westside Basin is delineated on the prior figure.

Staff Nzewi responded yes.

- **Member Smegal** asked if it is the Westside Basin within the city.

Member Clary further commented it is not the entire basin.

Staff Nzewi responded it is one basin across the city all the way to Millbrae and that is what is included in this graph.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if the source is known.

Staff Nzewi responded there is not a specific source and for the ones in the sunset it is probably all the dry cleaning business that were there and Golden Gate Park is close to the sunset so it may also have to do with the legacy dry cleaners.

Member Clary asked if this is going back to the flood and what year did it occur. **Staff Nzewi** responded a little bit, yes and it occurred in 2007.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if construction has started at the discharge.

Staff Nzewi responded the first piece is construction at the lake because they need this before they build the tunnel.

Member Smegal asked if there is something to see there now if someone were to pass by Lake Merced and if it is publicly accessible.

Staff Nzewi responded it is not publicly accessible yet but if you go there you cannot miss the tree removal.

- **Member Clary** commented one thing she is interested in is using the wells as emergency supply and asked if it will be all or just one.

Staff Nzewi responded the idea is all will be available for emergency supply.

Member Clary asked if any are available currently.

Staff Nzewi responded they are.

- **Member Clary** asked when the recycled water program will come online.

Staff Nzewi responded right now, based on the information provided by the Project Manager, by mid-next year we should have 1 million gallons per day (MGD) available and is unsure when we will get anymore since PG&E is currently a challenge with this project.

- **Member Clary** commented she noticed in the water quality there are bumps around late winter and early spring for early constituents and asked if this is real or if this is product of semi-annual monitoring.

Staff Nzewi responded that is real, but it is blend quality, not groundwater.

- **Member Clary** asked if they were just monitoring for the 4 MGD goal and asked if they need to have more recharge.

Staff Nzewi responded the project goal is to do 4 MGD, and we are looking to meet the goal first. Right now, we are nowhere close to the goal. Once all wells are available, we will be pumping little by little. In an emergency if additional capacity is needed, the wells can be pulled if needed.

- **Member Smegal** asked why this wouldn't be used as a drought supply like the rest of the basins and what would be the reason to use this as a baseload supply.

Staff Nzewi responded that was a decision that was already made and we are assuming what is available to us for our water budget for the city. There are reasons for this. One being we always want to have additional local supplies that are shielded from and if there is an emergency, these are available to use. Between trying to offset from regional supply and ensure we have supply in the city that is shielded from the regional firefighting might face in an emergency, we wanted to make sure this was an ongoing supply.

- **Member Clary** asked if this is a regional project and commented if it was a regional project

Staff Nzewi responded no.

- **Member Smegal** commented there is a lot of water on the regional supply and the fact that it would be reduced by 4 MGD would hypothetically is not meaningful in a normal year because demands are really low. The total amount of the system is less than 200 MGD in 2050 with projections and a stated capacity of 265 MGD.

Staff Nzewi responded this isn't what our detailed evaluation has shown otherwise we wouldn't have built a project.

- **Member Clary** commented they are building the project and then they can increase flow on the Tuolumne River.

Member Smegal commented SFPUC increasing flows in the Tuolumne does not actually increase flows in the river, it goes into Don Pedro.

Member Clary commented she is assuming the State Board's flow requirements go into play.

- **Member Smegal** asked what the SFPUC is looking for when it talks about Volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Staff Nzewi responded when we are testing, there is a list of VOCs we are looking for but at these three locations the main concern is carbon tetrachloride and Tetrachloroethylene (PCE).

- **Member Smegal** asked if these are typically associated with dry cleaning.

Staff Nzewi responded yes.

- **Member Smegal** commented there is an average blend is 0.7% and asked if there are neighborhoods that would get a higher percentage of groundwater.

Staff Nzewi responded the 0.7% is how much of the total flow to the city groundwater provided and no one neighborhood would get more groundwater compared to another because we are not changing the project set up where the water would go from the wells to pipes that would take it to Sunset Reservoir.

Member Jacuzzi commented the blue area on the map is the blended area, so it is not every neighborhood, so the entire east side does not get blended water.

Member Clary asked if it is currently going to Sutro Reservoir.

Staff Nzewi responded Sutro Reservoir gets it depending on how the run is. Most of the time it is running to Sunset Reservoir.

- **Member Clary** asked what the flow is from Sunset Reservoir.

Staff Nzewi responded he does not remember.

- **Member Atkinson** asked how long these have been detected in the wells.

Staff Nzewi responded they were not detected when the wells were first installed, which is a problem and one the regional system also encounters. It was only after the wells were running for a while that they were detected.

- **Member Atkinson** asked how deep the groundwater is.
Staff Nzewi responded it is a tiered question and there is a shallow aquafer depending on where you are between 8-20 feet and are pumping from an aquafer at minimum 200 feet below ground all the way down to 400.

- **Member Atkinson** commented with increased perception forecasted, there is worry of VOCs mobilizing and asked why only activated carbon on the individual wells and not the whole system.

Staff Nzewi responded one reason is cost and second reason is the two other wells have been running over 20 years and have been used for irrigation at Golden Gate Park and know that there is nothing there. The Lake Merced Pumpstation well has also been pumping for a long time, and we know nothing is there.

- **Member Atkinson** asked what the time difference in installation.

Staff Nzewi responded the Sunset wells were completed in 2016, and we are not really running them and around 2022 when they were retested, that's when we found the VOCs.

- **Member Clary** asked if it was cheaper to treat the water than to find the source.

Staff Nzewi responded even if we were to find the source, we would still need to treat the water.

Member Atkinson asked if there are state programs that provide funding.

Staff Nzewi responded there is not and there used to be funding but these got defunded.

- **Member Smegal** asked will the modeling show where the aquafer is being recharged.

Staff Nzewi responded it is part of the model.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked since the pipes are already in place for higher elevation reservoirs, is the hypothetical situation the west side of the city be expanded and we can further dilute.

Staff Nzewi responded no and it is only in the sunset since this is how the project was built.

Member Jacuzzi asked if there is a connection from Sunset to other wells.

Staff Nzewi responded it can go to other places in certain conditions, but the wells all go to Sunset.

Member Jacuzzi asked if there is a way to get the water distributed outside of the blue coded area.

Staff Nzewi responded no.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked how much of the recycled water is meant to go back into the groundwater and by which means.

Staff Nzewi responded it will be used by the park by irrigation and some of it will percolate but are not sure how much will actually reach the basin.

Member Clary commented you are not allowed to percolate recycled water.

Staff Nzewi responded you are not allowed to percolate when the goal is to get it to the groundwater.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked if the indirect percolation is comparable to rain.

Staff Nzewi responded no since there is no control with rain. There are a lot of rules and regulations with recycled water irrigation such as you are not allowed runoff.

- **Member Clary** asked when San Francisco's recycled water turned off.

Staff Nzewi responded he does not know.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented we can never plan on recycled water to offset some of the diverted that is going directly to the lake to the ocean.

Staff Nzewi responded some of the wells in GGP are capturing it.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented he is talking about storm water and by SFPUC's estimates there are 4 billion gallons per year going into the ocean by pervious sources and there are limited ways to capture it for recycled water which is only going to Golden Gate Park and incidental recharge is the only possible portion that could potentially that could make up some.

Member Clary commented Golden Gate Park is not part of the combined system.

Chair Hebert asked if the question Member Jacuzzi is trying to ask is the loss of natural recharge from the Sunset and if it offset or any expectation it may be.

Staff Nzewi responded no and they are two separate things. The only connection he can make is recycled water has stringent applications requirements and has less runoff.

- **Member Jacuzzi** commented he did a bunch of research and could not find any documented pipe discharge from Lake Merced in recent decades with a possibility there may have been discharge in 1983 and 2023. The only one he found was back in 1940.

Staff Nzewi responded that there is a way for water to go from Lake Merced to Vista Grande tunnel, and it will stay and the pipe is currently at 13.5 feet elevation, and the lake has not been at this elevation in 7 decades. The project will lower it to 9.5 feet because it is determined anything above this for an extended time would have consequences for the surrounding habitat. In the case there is a storm, we can also control it so we can have the water stay in the lake for a while and once the storm has passed, we can have the water go to the tunnel.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked since the lake is hydrologically connected to the groundwater, is there any expectation that we can get flushing out of Lake Merced in the future as part of the overall plan.

Staff Nzewi responded this is the hope and one of the challenges the lake is facing is it is terminal. As part of the new project, we are hoping to get water into the lake, so it is filtered. There is also a force main that allows water to go from the lake to the wetlands for treatment, but it is a small volume.

- **Member Clary** asked if there is a storm water pipe on the westside of Lake Merced.

Staff Nzewi responded there is an outfall and is north of Daly City's outfall and this project will renovate this outfall.

- **Member Clary** asked if there will be any work done on SFPUC's outfall.

Staff Nzewi responded not with this project.

- **Member Jacuzzi** asked of the 4 billion gallons that we discharge, any hope in working with the wastewater enterprise so that we can recover some of the water for recharge.

Staff Nzewi responded wastewater enterprise is always looking for ways to minimize what is going into the system.

Member Jacuzzi commented the Wastewater Enterprise is trying to ramp up the entire city, so the discharge is only 1 billion gallons per year in 2050 and currently 4 billion plus gallons in impervious surface discharge on the westside water shed diverted from percolation.

Member Clary asked if the overflows are actually measured.

Member Jacuzzi commented it is measured and asked why not a more intense focus on the hard surface run off.

Staff Nzewi responded wastewater enterprise is working very hard to divert stormwater away from the treatment plants as they can and in this project, we are not going to connect it we will be treating it to go to the Lake. There is no storm water alternative that would produce 4 MGD. There is also the challenge of not having much land in the city and it is expensive.

Member Jacuzzi thanked Staff Nzewi for his response and said that this upcoming rainy season, the 4 plus billion gallons will be discharged to the ocean from just the westside is enough to offset the entire domestic use for the city of San Jose and asked why are we spending so much money on recycled water and reverse osmosis when we have plenty of space because we are discussing distributed discharge.

Member Smegal commented it sounds like we need to see the results from the model.

Staff Nzewi responded it will not answer this question, and it will tell you how much recharge we expect and the impact of reliability.

- **Chair Hebert** asked if the system asked if the shallow aquifer is in a sandy system and if transitions into fractured bedrock as you get deeper.

Staff Nzewi responded we want to be above bedrock since you will not get much production in it. Shallow is a mixture of sand and salty sand. You want to make

sure you put wells in areas where you have enough yield and protecting it from things that can get into it.

- **Chair Hebert** asked if it is a sand based system the storage and aquifer is responsive to pumping.
- **Staff Nzewi** responded yes.

Public Comment:

- **Anonymous** asked what the state of the aquifers is and if they are healthy and what the capacity is.

Staff Nzewi responded they look very healthy and are not seeing any concerning impacts. The capacity is harder to answer. Staff looked at the data available and determined we can pump 4MGD and it is set up once the wells are operational and will be slowly pumped until reaching 4MGD and there is enough recharge to support 4MGD.

- **Anonymous (2)** asked if a scenario is anticipated with Vista Grande project where an atmospheric river could exceed water before it comes to Lake Merced before it comes to Vista Grande.

Staff Nzewi responded there are things in place to try to prevent it. The first being the first flush after any stormwater does not go to the Lake and it will go to the Ocean. When we know the water quality is better, it will get diverted to the Lake through a screening device and a filter. This is designed for a 25 year, 4-hour storm.

- **Alicia Escott**, an environmentally focused artist commented she has been living in San Francisco for 25 years, lives in District 5 and her art studio is located in 48th Avenue for 15 years and much of her work is focused on understanding the dune coastal ecology. Currently she is the 2026 San Francisco Art Commission gallery's artist in residence embedded with the San Francisco Department of Environment and is adjunct faculty at California College of the Arts (CCA). The dunes stretch for miles in the Sunset supporting the aquifers beneath so much of the area is now paved over and is advocating for investing in resiliency for the last dune ecologies as paramount in plans with infrastructure thinking about the future of Sunset Dunes Park and Lake Merced. There should be more investment in groundwater recharge especially as we plan to blend groundwater into our taps. Much of the investment can be breakup of concrete which helps the dune ecology and create green spaces and make the neighborhood more porous. San Francisco is ready for these changes.

Future Agenda Items and Resolutions

Standing Subjects

- Groundwater
- Water Quality

Specific Subjects

- Resolution on Salmon Restoration Project – Adopted May 19, 2026
- Integrating Tribal Leaders into SFPUC Land Management Decisions
- State Board Water Rights
- Water Enterprise Environmental Stewardship Policy Implementation Report
- State of the Regional Water System Report – Bi-annual report
- Drought resilience: 3-year water supply update
- Water Equity and Homelessness

- Water Treatment Plant Tour
- Sunol Watershed Tour
- Capital Plan Update

Adopted Resolutions for Follow Up

- Resolution on Salmon Restoration Project adopted May 19, 2026
- Resolution in Support of a Resilient Water Supply [adopted August 17, 2021](#)
- 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 Improved Communications Related to the San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project [adopted August 21, 2018](#)
- Resolution in Supporting Stewardship and Public Access in the Redeveloped Lake Merced West Property [adopted in March 15, 2016](#)
- Resolution on Impacts of Drought on System Maintenance and Improvements [adopted January 19, 2016](#)

6. Staff Report

Public Comment: None.

7. Announcements/Comments Visit sfpuc.gov/cac for final confirmation of the next meeting date.

Public Comment: None.

8. Adjournment at 6:51 pm

For more information concerning the agendas, minutes, and meeting information, please visit sfpuc.gov/cac. For more information concerning the CAC, please contact by email at cac@sfwater.gov or by calling (415) 517-8465.

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