

SFPUC Wastewater Master Plan
SUMMARY OF FIRST TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
City of San Francisco, California

July 1, 2006

Mr. Jon Loiacono
SFPUC
145 Market St. 5th floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: *Summary Report of First Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for the City of San Francisco* **Sewer System Master Plan**

Dear Mr. Loiacono:

Please find enclosed the summary report for the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the *City of San Francisco Sewer System Master Plan*. The first TAC meeting was held on March 5 and 6, 2006 in San Francisco at the PUC offices, and included a field trip to visit critical locations within the city. This summary report has been prepared, reviewed, and approved by all of the undersigned TAC members.

Very truly yours,

George Tchobanoglous, Chair

Robert Gearheart

Darla Inglis

David Jenkins

Michael Josselyn

Larry Kolb

Cecil Lue-Hing

E. Joe Middlebrooks

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of San Francisco, CA is currently in the process of developing a **Sewer System Master Plan**. To ensure that the planning process is comprehensive and consistent with the needs of the City, an independent Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed. Key findings from the first meeting of the TAC are presented in this Executive Summary. A consensus opinion on the continued use of combined sewers is presented following the executive summary.

The key findings from the first TAC meeting, organized by topic area, are as follows:

Collection System

1. Collection system management, including the ongoing maintenance and replacement program, needs to be improved.
2. Continued use of combined sewers (see consensus statement on use of combined sewers).
3. Sources and causes of odors in the collection system must be identified, quantified, minimized and, where possible, eliminated.
4. Grit management and disposal is a major issue that deserves special attention.

Stormwater

1. Selected low impact development projects should be evaluated to assess potential benefits properly, prior to implementation.
2. Continued use of combined sewers is addressed in detail in the consensus statement, following the executive summary.

Discharge Options

1. Bay discharge is likely to be regulated more highly in the future.
2. With proper treatment and dispersion, ocean discharge is generally deemed superior to bay discharge with respect to any water quality impacts.

Biosolids

1. Biosolids management alternatives (including the use of outside services) need to be expanded.
2. Also, additional attention need to be given to odor reduction.

Reuse

1. Both desalination and wastewater reclamation should be considered as viable reuse options.
2. Localized reuse options should be considered carefully.

Master Plan Guidance

1. Institutional issues (e.g., public acceptance and disruption of public services) must be considered along with capital improvement projects in the Master Plan.
2. The level of service provided with respect to wastewater management can only be assessed after project alternatives have been developed more fully.
3. Quality of life measures must enter into the decision making processes.
4. Sustainability issues (e.g., resources, energy, land use) should be considered in the analysis of alternatives.
5. The precautionary principle (better safe than sorry) should be applied where possible.
6. More resources including an additional personnel and an increased budget will be needed to accomplish Master Plan objectives.

CONSENSUS OPINION

QUESTION

Should the City and County of San Francisco consider full separation of the existing sewer system? If not, should the City and County of San Francisco develop criteria for areas of redevelopment that are amenable to sewer separation?

TAC CONSENSUS OPINION

It is the **consensus** opinion of the Sewer System Master Plan Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that the current combined sewer system used by the City and County of San Francisco has served the City well and provides high levels of environmental and public health protection, and regulatory compliance. Given the existing infrastructure and the disruption to City streets and neighborhoods it would cause, the TAC does not recommend the separation of sewers in the heavily developed portions of the City. However, the TAC does recommend that the City staff develop criteria for consideration of small-scale separate systems in redevelopment areas and at other locations in the City where beneficial reuse of the stormwater is possible without significant disruption and adverse geotechnical impacts on land mass stability.

SUMMARY OF FIRST MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The initial activities of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) through the first meeting of the TAC including a summary of the observations and findings from the first meeting are documented in what follows.

INTRODUCTION

The City and County of San Francisco, CA is currently in the process of developing a ***Sewer System Master Plan***. To ensure that the planning process is comprehensive and consistent with the needs of the city, an independent Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed to:

1. Review and comment on major milestone reports and/or technical memoranda prepared by the Planning and Engineering teams,
2. Provide an independent extramural view of the work to be undertaken, and
3. Offer advice and council on topics that should be considered as part of the master plan

TAC MEMBERSHIP

The TAC is comprised of eight members:

Robert Gearheart

Darla Inglis

David Jenkins

Michael Josselyn

Larry Kolb

Cecil Lue-Hing

E. Joe Middlebrooks

George Tchobanoglous, Chair

The TAC members were selected to represent a broad range of disciplines.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The first TAC meeting was held on March 5 and 6, 2006 in San Francisco at the PUC offices. The second meeting was scheduled for on June 1, 2006. Dates for the other meetings are to be decided at a later date as work progresses on the master plan.

FIRST TAC MEETING

Prior to the first meeting of the TAC the City sent out a series of reports and technical memoranda for review. An agenda, prepared by the City engineering staff, was emailed to the TAC members prior to the first meeting. A copy of the Agenda for the first meeting is given in Appendix A.

The agenda for the first TAC meeting was designed to provide the TAC members with a thorough introduction to the many issues to be resolved in the development master plan and, by means of a field trip on the first day, to familiarize the TAC members with the physical characteristics of the City and the facilities used for the management, treatment, and disposal of wastewater and residuals.

Detailed minutes of the two day meeting were taken by one of the TAC members, a member of the city staff, and by the project manager for the consulting consortium of engineering firms responsible for completing the work on the master plan. The minutes taken by the three different scribes are presented in Appendixes B, C, and D, respectively. Based on a careful review of the minutes and the ensuing discussions, the TAC has abstracted the key findings from the first meeting. These findings are presented in the Executive Summary. The committee was also asked to provide a consensus opinion on the continued use of combined sewers. The consensus opinion is presented following the executive summary.