San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Citizens’ Advisory Committee
Water Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 22, 2019
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
525 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor Tuolumne Conference Room

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:
Jennifer Clary (Chair) (D11)  Suki Kott (D2)  Ted Loewenberg (D5)
Amy Nagengast (D8)  Nicole Sandkulla (M-Reg’l Water Customers)

D = SF District, M = Mayoral Appointment

Staff Liaisons: Tracy Zhu and Samira Nuru

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm

   Members present at roll call: (3) Clary, Loewenberg, Sandkulla

   Members Absent: (2) Kott, Nagengast

   Members of the Public: Nancy Wuerfel, Thomes Doudiet, Elleen Boken, Eliahu Perszyk

2. Approval of the August 27, 2019 Minutes

   Motion was made (Kott) and seconded (Nagengast) to approve August 27, 2019

   AYES: (3) Clary, Loewenberg, Sandkulla

   NOES: (0)

   ABSENT: (2) Kott, Nagengast

3. Report from the Chair

   • Chair welcomes committee members, staff, and the public.
   • Chair introduced Eliahu Perszyk to the Water subcommittee.
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
   - Eileen Boken (Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods) submitted a memo on [Emergency Firefighting Capabilities on Taraval](#).

5. **Presentation and Discussion: Perspectives on the Emergency Firefighting Water System,** Jennifer Clary, Water CAC Chair; Ted Loewenberg, Water CAC Member

**Presentation Topics:**
- Thomas Doudiet submits the report [The SFPUC Plan for Post-Earthquake Firefighting: Not based on Reality](#) to the CAC Water Subcommittee.
- *Public member Doudiet* provides perspective on the report.

**Presentation Discussion:**

- *Member Loewenberg* asked what kind of fire vulnerability does the city face that would require such a system that uses ocean water. *Public member Doudiet* replied that large earthquakes can break gas mains in the streets and gas main in houses which can lead to large fires.
- *Member Clary* asked if Public Member Doudiet had any comments about the previous San Francisco department’s oversight on the firefighting system. *Public member Doudiet* replied that the Fire Department budget was cut in the late 1980s, which also lead to cutting civil engineer staff members.
- *Member Clary* mentioned that she has been working with other climate folks on trying to get to ban on natural gas in new construction buildings and asked if the Fire Department would support the ban to protect the city from future fires. *Public member Doudiet* replied that a seismic safety shutoff should be installed on every gas meter to prevent fires during an earthquake.

**Presentation Topic:**
- Nancy Wuerfel submits her comments on firefighting systems to the CAC Water Subcommittee.
- *Public member Wuerfel* provides brief overview of factsheet.

**Presentation Discussion:**

- *Member Clary* asked Member Sandkulla for clarification on the state annual report and to explain how unaccounted water is dealt with. *Member Sandkulla* replied that she does not know and wanted to relay those questions to public member Wuerfel.
- *Member Sandkulla* asked if non-potable water is metered. *Public member Doudiet* replied no.
- Member Clary mentioned that an audit does not really include unaccounted for water or unmetered water in the annual state report. Public member Wuerfel exclaimed that it does. Member Sandkulla added that the annual report must show water losses.
- *Member Loewenberg* expressed his concerned that the cost of SFPUC firefighter system work will be borne by the rate payers.

**Public Comment:**
- *Public member Boken* (Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods) comments that she is in full support of using high pressure and high volume non-potable water and believes that it is a superior option.
6. **Presentation and Discussion: Water CAC Subcommittee-led Field Trip**, Jennifer Clary, Water CAC Chair
   - Members discussed field trip to Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant.
   - Staff follow up on scheduling a tour in partnership with Water Communications staff.

7. **Staff Report (5 minutes)**

8. **Future Agenda Items and Resolutions (5 minutes)**
   - Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant tour
   - Bay Delta Plan and voluntary settlement agreement (tentatively January or February)
   - Legislative Update (tentatively March and June)
   - Annual Water Quality Report (tentatively July)
   - State of the Regional Water System Report – Bi-annual report due to BAWSCA in September 2020
   - Groundwater Communications Resolution Update
   - Water Diversification and Climate Change
   - Statewide Issues: Bay Delta and Affordability
   - Drought resilience: 3 year water supply update
   - Water Equity and Homelessness
   - State of Local Water Report
   - Retail Conservation Report
   - Urban Water Management Plan

9. **Announcements/Comments** – The next scheduled meeting is November 26, 2019. Please visit www.sfwater.org/cac for the agenda and materials for the next scheduled meeting.

10. **Adjournment**

    Motion was made (Nicole) and seconded (Loewenberg) to adjourn the meeting.

    Meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm.