

**Citizens' Advisory Committee
Wastewater Subcommittee**

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

1155 Market Street, 11th Floor, Conference Room A

Members: Terrence Jones (excused), Alex Lantsberg (**chair**), David Pilpel, Javieree Pruitt Hill, Dairo Romero (absent)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call – Meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Roll Call - See above

SFPUC Staff present – Idil Bereket, Jean Walsh, Marielle Earwood, Karen Kubick, Leamon Abrams, Sheena Johnson

Members of the public – Melissa Lareau, Joe Boss, Manu Koenig

2. Minutes – The June 14, 2012 Regular Meeting minutes were approved.

Public Comment: None

3. Public Comment on matters that are within the committee's jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda

Melissa Lareau: We need to transform the soil in San Francisco. I would like to see the medians with green infrastructure.

- **Alex Lantsberg (Alex):** The City is doing a lot with low impact design (LID), Urban Watershed, Better Streets, work by City agencies such as the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), Department of Public Works (DPW), and Planning Department. I suggest you write something up, such a white paper or a proposal.

4. Communications Staff Report

Report by Jean Walsh: We have conducted a number of focus groups for the Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP) to gauge awareness of the sewer system, how people feel about potential costs, help with messaging and communicating the need for SSIP. One thing we learned: top of the list consists of seismic safety, and aging infrastructure. Climate change was at the bottom of the list. Focus groups participants were from the West side and East side of the city, Spanish and Chinese language speaking communities, and Bayview neighborhood residents.

Alex: Did you bring up equity issues for the focus group from the Bayview neighborhood?

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- **Jean Walsh:** Yes. One comment from the focus group comprised of homeowners/ratepayers in the Bayview area said that if 80% of the City's wastewater is treated at the Southeast Treatment Plant, then 80% of the SSIP funding should be allocated to the improvements in the Bayview neighborhood.

Public Comment: None

5. Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP): Program Validation – verbal update by Karen Kubick (KK) followed by discussion

Highlights from the update: We had our first SSIP Validation Workshop with our Commissioners on July 10. We talked about goals, levels of service (LOS) and strategies. We added one new goal: affordability. Todd Rydstrom, head of Finance, walked everyone through the financial material: 5% rate increase, with an additional 2.5% for SSIP. We walked through projects – options, benefits, costs, for example, biosolids, Southeast Plant liquids, Oceanside Plant. The biosolids discussion was good and robust. In the next session, on July 24, our SSIP Validation Workshop will be included within the regular calendar. We will talk about the Bayside – Islais Creek and Channel watersheds; then we will talk about the Westside, then North and Southeast will be the last. We want to go to the Commission at the end of August to seek endorsement of the program.

David Pilpel (David): Staff and Commission looked at what's the least expensive, mid-range, and what's the most costly. Cost is important, compared to WSIP (paid for by regional customers), as opposed to San Franciscans for SSIP. All the sentiments that we expressed in the resolution have been taken to heart by staff.

Alex: How did you talk about multiple benefits and broader environmental benefits, requirements, enhancements?

- **KK:** We talked about operational improvements, critical redundancy, energy optimization, odors, climate change, sea-level rise, non-potable water use, different functionalities for North Point plant. Next session, we will look at combined sewer discharges (CSDs) and volume & volume control, removing flow.

Alex: How was the climate change question asked at the focus groups?

- **Jean Walsh (JW) read excerpt from script:** "In the years to come California's coastal regions are expected to become colder and wetter and this will have a significant impact on San Francisco's combined sewer system. Already rising sea levels have led salt water to intrude into the sewer system which can disrupt the wastewater treatment process."
- **KK:** At the July 10 Commission meeting, we also talked about fats, oils and grease (FOG), energy production, nitrogen removal.

Public Comment:

Melissa Lareau: Why is nitrogen removal important and is that an industrial technique or a plant-based (natural) technique?

- **KK:** Nitrogen may impact the health of the Bay. We work with other Bay Area agencies to see about reducing nitrogen. It is not a plant-based/natural technique.

Javieeree PruittHill (Javieeree): Have you heard concerns about the Southeast Community Facility at the focus groups?

- **JW and KK:** We heard some distrust in the existing groups in the area.
- **KK:** We would like for the members of the Wastewater CAC come to the July 24 SSIP Validation Workshop with the Commission.

6. Urban Watershed "Civinomics" iPad Survey – Manu Koenig did the survey with Alex Lantsberg.

Some suggestions by Alex: I suggest that you lead upfront with something that says, “this is part of the planning process for a multi-billion dollar project.” Do audio-recording to help with capturing more feedback during conversation.

Question by Alex: what are the locations, where will the surveying take place?

- **Marielle Earwood (ME):** We will do them at farmers’ markets, Sunday Streets and other outdoor events, by/around grocery stores

David: I suggest that you look at other places as well.

Public Comment:

Joe Boss: What is the timeline?

- **ME:** We are hoping to start around July 22 and continue through September. This survey is the first version. Later on in the process, we are hoping that we will go back out again with another version.

Alex: Are you not asking about age and demographics?

- **Manu Koenig (MK):** We do it afterwards after the respondent leaves to save time.

Alex: I suggest that you put an age-range and ask while the respondent is present. You should also ask whether they are homeowner (ratepayer) or renter. Including a few income categories will be good. I also think that you should include some racial categories as well.

David: The question on “truck traffic to/from the wastewater facilities” could perhaps be removed.

Public Comment:

Melissa Lareau: People will fade out unless you keep the survey short.

Public Comment:

Joe Boss: are you looking into going to neighborhood association meetings and have many people at the same time?

- **MK:** We have an online version of the survey that people can take.

7.. Possible Action: Discussion and vote on moving the Wastewater CAC meetings from 1155 Market St., 4th Floor Conference Room to a new location at 525 Golden Gate Avenue, 2nd floor starting August 9, 2012.

David Pilpel moved; Javieree Pruihill seconded.

The resolution passed without objection by members of the Wastewater Subcommittee present at the meeting, and all future Wastewater CAC meetings will take place at 525 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor starting August 9, 2012.

8. Comments, suggestions and requests for future agenda items by members of the WWCAC, staff and general public

Alex:

- For August, Terrence suggested that we cover something about the measures (incentives) given to those individuals (property owners) who adopt low impact development tools on their properties.
- Another update from the SSIP team for August as well.

David: Spot Sewer Repair Program and how we decide which projects go to in-City crews and which ones go to the contractor, including the relationship between DPW and the SFPUC for these projects, perhaps in September and October.

- **Jean:** I would like to get to the root of the request for this potential item. Are you wondering about how we coordinate? We need to understand and focus on the goals of the agenda items.

David: I would like to find out how we manage the notification, how we package these projects, how does the increase in the Sewer R&R projects play out?

- **Idil:** We also need to remember to follow the Commission calendar and keep focused on the items that will make an impact.

Joe Boss: DPW does not have a good overlay of what SFPUC is trying to do with permeable pavement, or coordinate with us.

- **KK:** We coordinate a lot with DPW.

Public Comment: None

9. Adjourned – 6:38 p.m.