San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Citizens’ Advisory Committee  
Water Subcommittee  
Special Meeting  

MEETING MINUTES  

Tuesday, September 23, 2014  
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
525 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd Floor O’Shaughnessy Conference Room  

Members:  
Jennifer Clary (Chair) (D11)  
Nicole Sandkulla (M-Reg’l Water Customers)  
Eli Saddler (BOS Pres--Small Business)  
Ted Loewenberg (D5)  
Suki Kott (D2)  
Art Taylor (D9)  
Kelly Groth (D7)  

B = Board President Appointment, D = SF District, M = Mayoral Appointment  

Staff Liaisons: Ryan Iwata and Jessica Buendia  

ORDINARY BUSINESS  

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Meeting called to order at 5:39pm.  

Members present: (5 members present, quorum confirmed): J. Clary (Chair) (D11), S. Kott (D2), T. Loewenberg (D5), N. Sandkulla (M-Reg’l Water Customers), E. Saddler (BOS Pres--Small Business)  

Members Absent: (2) A. Taylor (D9), K. Groth (D7)  

Members of the public: Carol High, Edward Mason, John Kelly, Loraine Lucas, Joan Girardo  

2. Report from the Chair (5 minutes)  

- Chair welcomes new committee members and members of the public  

3. Approval of the July 22, 2014 meeting minutes (5 minutes)  

Motion was made (N. Sandkulla) and seconded (S. Kott) to approve the July 22, 2014 meeting minutes.  

No public comment.  

The motion PASSED by the following vote:  
AYES: (5): J. Clary, S. Kott, T. Loewenberg, N. Sandkulla, E. Saddler  
NOES: (0)  
ABSENT: (2) A. Taylor, K. Groth  

4. Presentation and Discussion: Local Groundwater Program Update, Paula Kehoe, Director, Water Resources Division, Water Enterprise (15 minute staff presentation, 15 minute discussion, 15 minutes of public comment on the agenda item)
The presentation included:
- Overview of the SFPUC Water Resources Division
- Overview of Groundwater and San Francisco Area Groundwater Basins
- Update on the North Westside Basin Groundwater Management Plan
- Status of San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project Construction

Topics of discussion:
- Water quality of groundwater supply in Golden Gate Park - E. Saddler
- Monitoring wells - J. Clary
- Depth of the wells - J. Clary
- Taste difference between groundwater and unmixed water - J. Clary
- What would be the impacts on water bills? - T. Loewenberg

Member K. Groth arrives at 6:21 pm (6 members present, quorum intact)

Edward Mason: How does the groundwater supply interact with the overall growth of the city? What happens if the drought goes away, and will we be permanently dependent on it?

John Kelly: Speaks briefly about his concerns with some of the wells and its association with bad ground water. Those “bad” wells are defined as “not reaching local or state standards without being blended”.

Joan Girardo: How long does it take for storm water to percolate to the aquifer on average?

Joan Girardo: How much does it cost for a single water quality test? Why not have an over abundant amount of these tests?

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution (10 minutes)
   a. Local Groundwater Resolution, Member Clary

Motion was made (J. Clary) and seconded (T. Loewenberg) to introduce and adopt the text into the meeting minutes.

Resolution adopted.

Public comment: John Kelly- Submitted his public comments pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.16- “John M. Kelly – long-time resident of City. He commended the Subcommittee for bringing the Groundwater Supply Project to its agenda for a vote, and having a real discussion about the impact of the Project on drinking water quality in San Francisco. He said (1) he supported the Project, but only in the event of emergencies, and we aren’t there yet; (2) the decision to mix groundwater into the City’s drinking water would reduce the quality of the City’s drinking water and was a top-down decision that made groundwater a permanent part of the City’s drinking water, draught or no draught; and (3) there had been insufficient notice to City residents about the water quality issue. He confirmed that the Subcommittee had received a copy of General Manager Kelly’s letter committing to a “robust outreach” on this issue next year, and asked the Subcommittee to hold Kelly to that commitment.”

Harlan’s response to John Kelly’s letter can be found [HERE](#).

Public comment: Loraine Lucas: General commentary ensues regarding the groundwater resolution and dissatisfaction with the amount of outreach that had been completed surrounding the program.

Public comment: Joan Girardo: General commentary ensues regarding groundwater and the upcoming ramifications that go along with 2018 obligations in the WSIP for local water.

Discussion ensued on what was being done in terms of outreach for the groundwater supply project.
Motion was made (N. Sandkulla) and seconded (S. Kott) to pass the Local Groundwater Resolution onto the next FULL CAC meeting.

No public comment.

The motion PASSED by the following vote:
AYES: (5): J. Clary, S. Kott, T. Loewenberg, N. Sandkulla, K. Groth
NOES: (1) E. Saddler
ABSENT: (1) A. Taylor

6. Future Agenda Items and Resolutions (5 minutes)

- Regional Groundwater Project- N. Sandkulla
- Resolution regarding the Natural Resources Division- J. Clary
- Presentation on water alternatives if the drought persists- N. Sandkulla
- Update from DBI guidelines about permitting- T. Loewenberg
- Update on Conservation mobile apps- J. Clary

No public comment.

7. Staff Update (5 minutes)

-Todd Rydstrom is leaving the SFPUC.
-The Groundwater Public Outreach plan as shared at the meeting.

8. 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)

Joan Girardo: Speaks generally about including substantive amount of opposing points of views into SFPUC’s planned outreach.

John Kelly: Speaks generally about the outreach and water quality issues.

9. Announcements/Comments (5 minutes)

Next meeting= December 2nd, 2014

10. Adjournment

Motion was made (N. Sandkulla) and seconded (T. Loewenberg) to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.