JOBS AND CONTRACTS

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About the Sewer System Improvement Program

The owner and operator of San Francisco’s sewer system, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), has embarked upon the Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP), a 20-year, multibillion-dollar citywide investment to upgrade our aging sewer infrastructure to ensure a reliable and seismically safe system now and for generations to come. An investment in sewer infrastructure of this magnitude presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to:

**Upgrade our aging sewer system** to sustainably support all who live, work, and visit our amazing city.

**Provide training and support services** for our community to access, and meaningfully participate on projects being constructed in their neighborhoods.

**Create job opportunities** and access to careers that provide living wages and benefits.

**Provide opportunities** for the startup and growth of small businesses.

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**Making a Lasting Investment**

With the SSIP’s infrastructure investments, the SFPUC has an opportunity to support San Francisco’s ongoing economic vitality by strengthening its neighborhoods, businesses, and workforce through:

**JOBS:** The SSIP’s projects are covered by the San Francisco Local Hiring Policy for Construction and have a requirement of 30%, meaning hours must be worked by San Francisco residents. For apprenticeships (entry-level jobs) this requirement is 50%.

**CONTRACTS:** The City also has a mandate for local community contractors to participate. Although the requirements vary by contract, the SFPUC is committed to maximizing local participation on every project.

*Actual Local Hire participation is recorded and administered by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development.*

This Report is designed to provide a quarterly snapshot of the jobs and contracts provided by the SSIP and serve as a resource guide for those looking to get involved with this once in a generation opportunity. *The data in this report is through September 30, 2020.*
For Etta Jones, her new job has brought her career and passions full circle. Jones has deep roots with the jobsite at 1550 Evans Avenue where her new job as a Data Entry Clerk for construction manager and general contractor, Pankow Builders (Pankow), is located. When the former building housed classrooms, she worked as a Community Resource Coordinator for the San Francisco Unified School District, mentoring and advocating for education and the care of youth and their families. Jones, ever curious and always learning, has embarked on a new era for herself, and the Bayview-Hunters Point community, by being part of the team that is constructing the new Southeast Community Center.

“The building will be significant to the community because a lot people put in a lot work to make sure it would really happen. We had a lot of community warriors who advocated for this important facility,” Jones recognized, referring to the dedication of the Big Six of the Bayview, which included Dr. Espanola Jackson, Harold Madison, Eloise Westbrook, Ethel Garlington, Shirley Jones, and Alex Pitcher, who were all instrumental in advocating for the development of the original facilities and ensuring it was designed to bring equity to the community.

“From looking at the drawings, the new center is going to be fantastic! It’s going to house an educational institution, as well as a childcare center, so you can go to school and bring your children. The Alex Pitcher Pavilion will include space for Community Based Organizations to meet. The community is going to be elated,” Jones said.

“It’s significant for Pankow, too. For the company, it’s not just about building the building. They have a sign with a subheading, ‘Thinking Beyond the Building’,,” Jones explained. “It is about providing opportunities for residents and building something more than just walls and a foundation. It’s about working together to create inclusion for Bayview-Hunters Point workers and deliberately making investments into Bayview-Hunters Point residents, families and community.”
Jones prepared for her new career in Construction Administration and Document Control by participating in the Professional Services Job Training and Opportunities Program (PS-JTOP) which helped her advance the computer software skills that she relies on daily. She also credited the SFPUC’s community nonprofit partners that made it a success. For those that needed childcare or had outstanding traffic tickets, Young Community Developers (YCD) provided barrier removal funds. With their help, Jones was able to tackle one barrier after the next.

“If we needed professional attire, we went to a ‘Dress for Success’ workshop where they allow you to select one or two outfits,” she explained.

Jones views programs like PS-JTOP as key to empowering the next generation in the community. “My desire is to see another cohort recruitment for the PS-JTOP training program. We need to encourage and engage young people, get them involved acquiring skills in carpentry, electrical and other trades. Construction jobs, as well as construction administration jobs, offer financial security and increase one’s self-image,” she notes.

Like the excitement she felt as the new Southeast Community Center began to take shape, Jones’ desire is to share her excitement about similar opportunities with the next generation. Jones explains, “They get to see improvements in their community and learn about construction management. A young person who is employed with a construction company on a long-term project like this one, receiving weekly wages and benefits, imagine where they would be in five years!”

As one example, Jones cites a young man she is working with from Alice Griffith Housing Development. He is majoring in Civil Engineering and is an intern with Pankow. She enjoys the chance to work with, and see firsthand, people from the community getting involved and pursuing meaningful careers.

The SFPUC is committed to supporting the communities impacted by its operations. As the agency invests in its infrastructure, it is also investing in local, underserved communities by connecting youth and adults with learning, apprenticeship, job training, employment, and business opportunities. These programs support a strong, inclusive, local economy and a skilled, diverse, local workforce for today and tomorrow. Jones is one of the many individuals the SFPUC has been able to assist and the agency is proud to share her story.
HOW ARE WE DOING SO FAR…?

JOBS

BAY AREA

$71.5 Million
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS

3,816 Workers

981K+ HRS

APPRENTICES

$7.2 Million
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS

606 WORKERS

137K+ HRS

SAN FRANCISCO

$22.7 Million
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS

1,037 WORKERS

334K+ HRS

APPRENTICES

$4.4 Million
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS

280 WORKERS

86K+ HRS

TOP DISTRICTS: HOURS WORKED

ALL WORKERS D10 Bayview 31% | D11 Excelsior 16%

APPRENTICES D10 Bayview 36% | D9 Mission 14%

CONTRACTS

CONTRACTS AWARDED

$1.9 Billion
TOTAL CONTRACTS AWARDED

463 CONTRACTS

VALUED AT
$334+ Million

$1.55B CONSTRUCTION

D10 Bayview 50% | D3 Chinatown 19%

$403M PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
MAKING AN IMPACT

The Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP) is a critical citywide investment in our people, our communities, and our quality of life.

The Program

The SSIP is divided into overlapping phases to maintain affordability. To date only Phase 1 has been approved by our Commission representing $2.979 billion. This first phase is comprised of 70 projects occurring all over the City.

Grey. Upgrades to our pipes and Treatment Plants for reliability, resiliency, and regulatory compliance.

Green. Innovative stormwater management tools that not only reduce impacts to our system but help beautify our neighborhoods too!

Clean. Improving our infrastructure to protect the health of our communities and the environment.

This map depicts the approximate locations of our Phase 1 projects. ■Squares indicate completed Projects
Contractor Spotlight: On The Level, LBE Leads the Way

Written by Yordanos Dejen

Eric Jones’ careful, yet steady approach is paying off. “Before, I’d be doing all these jobs and then using the [profits] to buy my own equipment. I’d get a truck, or a bobcat and other things. People said I was crazy, but when the work dried up, I had the edge because I didn’t have to lease anything, and so I could bid the project for less than the next guy.”

Smaller companies, particularly Local Business Enterprises (LBE), often feel like they’re at the whim of larger contractors who will try to impose the scope and size of their contracts on their smaller subcontractors.

“All that glitters is not gold.” Learning how to lay out a job, what to put into the front end versus the back end so you can effectively manage the project’s inevitable challenges and still make it all the way through project completion, “that’s the trickiest part about being small—making sure money is always coming in.”

Since its inception in 2013, the Contractors Assistance Center (Center) has been helping small, local business identify, compete for, and perform on city projects through individualized trainings, business plan development and mentorship opportunities with more experienced firms.

“You never stop learning and growing in this business, but you have to be patient. Pankow is actually giving me a lot of help on the safety side.” Eric also credits his mentorship with another company for encouraging him to focus on growing his business. “I do eighty percent of my own estimating. I still run the crews and spend time on site visiting my jobs. I’ve been the project lead since I was 26 years old, and I’ve learned you get better results if people feel like they’re part of something. Through my mentorship with Plant, they’re teaching me to delegate to other people; that’s really the only way to grow.”

Whether learning how to identify and gain new competitive licenses to work on city projects, or receiving one-on-one small-business support in areas such as accounting, marketing, and payroll, the Center has provided networking opportunities and helped connect large, experienced firms with new or small but growing firms. For companies like On The Level, mentorship can be a vital component of learning how to bid and invoice for their work effectively and to avoid many of the pitfalls new companies often face without years of experience to inform their process.

When asked what his long-term goals are, Eric replies, “I don’t have to be some huge billionaire, or anything like that. My goal is to not be a big company. I try not to over-extend myself. I kind of want to get to mid-sized. For me, every time I ride through the airport, I think about my first job there. I ride through the station and I say, man I can’t believe I did that. I still get a thrill of finishing something and stepping back and taking a look at it.”
Resources in Jobs and Contracts

The SFPUC partners with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) and CityBuild to train and match SF workers with SSIP jobs opportunities.

The SFPUC has also established the Contractors Assistance Center to provide local, small businesses with the tools and resources necessary to get ACCESS to, COMPETE for, and PARTICIPATE on, upcoming contracting opportunities.

Looking for a job?

**Office of Economic Workforce & Development**
- FREE training programs for job seekers
- Skill development and support services
- Specialized job seeker services
(415) 554-6969  oewd.org/employment
SFPUC Job Information Hotline (415) 934-5777

Need job training?

**CityBuild**
Coordinates City-wide construction training and employment programs and offers construction industry training:
- Pre-Apprenticeship Training
- Construction Administration Training
- Employment Networking Services
(415) 701-4848  oewd.org/city-build

Want to bid on a project?

**Contractors Assistance Center**
(415) 467-1040  acp@sfwater.org  sfwater.org/acp
FREE resources for professional service firms, construction companies, vendors, and suppliers:

**ACCESS**
- Secure Necessary Certifications and Registrations
- Identify Contracting Opportunities
- Assess Capital Requirements and Financial Risk

**COMPETE**
- Networking Opportunities
- Plot Your Business Development Strategy
- Assistance Preparing Bids and Proposals

**PARTICIPATE**
- Learn the Skills Necessary to Coordinate Project Delivery
- Comply with City Programs and Get Paid
- Develop a Financial Game Plan

Questions about projects in construction?

**SEP Construction Information Hub**
Your resource for information on construction activities at the Southeast Treatment Plant.
(415) 551-4SEP (4737)  sfwater.org/SEPconstruction