Special Joint Meeting of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and Commission on the Environment
3:00 PM
Tuesday, May 27, 2014
As Approved on June 10, 2014
Call to Order

SFPUC President Courtney called the Special Joint Meeting to order at 3:27 PM.

1. Roll Call
   SFPUC
   Present: Courtney, Caen, Torres and Moran
   Excused: Vietor

   Commission on the Environment
   Present: Arce, Wald, Gravanis, Stephenson, Josefowitz, and Wan
   Excused: King

2. Opening Remarks by Public Utilities Commission President Vince Courtney and Commission on the Environment President Joshua Arce
   Commission on the Environment President Joshua Arce stated the Commission on the Environment looked forward to the opportunity to discuss partnerships, shared responsibility, and ways in which the two Commissions and agencies can collaborate and develop new ideas.

   SFPUC President Vince Courtney stated he looked forward to the joint meeting and for the opportunity to discuss overlapping goals, objectives, and potential partnerships. He noted particular interest in the development in joint initiatives and a discussion regarding work the SFPUC does for the environment.

Public Comment
   - Dr. Espanola Jackson provided a history of the Commission on the Environment and discussed environmental racism. She expressed her support for the GoSolarSF Program.
   - Mr. Eric Brooks, Our City and San Francisco Green Party, expressed his support for the CleanPowerSF Program. He noted the Board of Supervisor’s action on the SFPUC budget.
   - Ms. Robin Sherrer spoke on behalf of the trees in San Francisco and urged the care and preservation of trees, with emphasis on Eucalyptus.

   Environment Commissioner Wald asked for and received clarification on the ability to discuss CleanPowerSF during the meeting.

   - Mr. Francisco DaCosta spoke about the carbon footprint and asked the SFPUC to focus on Hetch Hetchy and hydroelectricity. He encouraged San Francisco Environment to enforce the Precautionary Principle.

3. Presentation and discussion of SFPUC and SFEnvironment’s (SFE) shared responsibilities and plans to advance the City’s environmental goals in toxics reduction and environmental safety, water conservation, wastewater management, clean vehicle adoption, and renewable generation and energy efficiency, including a
discussion of opportunities, challenges, and potential future collaboration in pursuit of environmental objectives.

Mr. Michael Carlin, Deputy General Manager (DGM), SFPUC, provided an overview of the business and services of the SFPUC, including the Water System, the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water and Power System, and the combined Sewer System. He outlined the SFPUC’s core priorities: Delivering high quality and reliable services; Maintaining critical infrastructure; and preserving ratepayer affordability. He touched on the following key updates: Water System Improvement Program; Sewer System Improvement Program; Rim Fire; Drought; and Rate Setting.

Mr. David Assmann, Acting Director, SFE, discussed how the goals and objectives of the SFPUC and the SFE are intertwined. He noted the day-to-day work occurring between the agencies, touched on common goals, and noted opportunities for continued joint work.

a. Toxics Reduction and Environmental Safety

Mr. Chris Geiger, SFE Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program Manager, spoke on the IPM Program, stating the Program uses scientific information to manage pests to ensure limited environmental risk. He noted prevention is first, with pesticides used as a last resort.

Mr. Geiger provided a brief background on the IPM Program and partnerships with City Departments. He discussed pesticide use trends since 1996, and pesticide use by specific departments, indicating Recreation and Park (RPD) is the largest user due their managed landscapes, followed by San Francisco Airport, SFPUC, Department of Public Works (DPW), Municipal Transportation Agency and the Department of Public Health. He touched on current priorities, focusing on RPD. He stated that most of their use is on golf courses during tournament golf. He noted the requirements of the 2010 Pest Control Ordinance.

Mr. Geiger introduced Mr. Kevin Wollen, Senior Pest Control Specialist, RPD, Ms. Nikkie Mixon, IPM Specialist, DPW, and Mr. Matthew Pruitt, RPD. President Courtney asked each of them to provide brief detail on their background, duties, licenses, certifications, and education that is required for their positions.

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Assistant General Manager (AGM), SFPUC Water, stated that SFPUC staff works closely with SFE on integrated pest management and minimizes the use of pesticides whenever possible, opting for non-pesticide usage which includes goats for weed control.

Brief discussion ensued on potential toxic impacts to the water system. Environment Commissioner Josefowitz asked if there is a spike in water use from golf courses during tournaments. AGM Ritchie indicated he would look at the data to see if there is a correlation between tournaments and increased use.
b. **Water Conservation**
AGM Ritchie provided an update on water conservation, stating that there is still a drought. He noted that in January 2014, a 10 percent voluntary reduction was requested, but the goal has not been achieved system-wide. Therefore, there is a push for additional conservation. He reviewed San Francisco’s water use, which is about 49 gallons per day, per resident. He provided a history of ongoing conservation assistance and discussed SFPUC conservation programs. He provided information on tools and educational materials available to customers, and noted increased awareness in response to the drought.

In response to a question from Environment Commissioner Josefowitz, Mr. Ritchie explained how individual water savings is measured. He indicated the greatest savings comes from replacing old toilets. Additional discussion took place on conservation goals and efforts. AGM Ritchie mentioned the laundry to landscape program, which is a popular idea, but is difficult to implement. He stated program is being reviewed to make participation easier.

Ms. Tamara Hurwitz, Environmental Education Manager, SFE, discussed the water pollution prevention, stormwater, and wastewater systems educational programs that are provided to local schools. She described the evolution of the programs and current curriculum, which focuses on environmental topics including water pollution prevention, water conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. She noted in 2008 the water conservation curriculum was created for 4-6 graders and teaches about local water resources and water conservation. She stated in 2010 the education team began classroom presentations on behalf of the SFPUC and they will be offered to all interested K-12 schools in San Francisco. She touched on “Drink Tap” assemblies; Teacher workshops; Conservation Connection Program; Garden for the Environment; and Community outreach.

c. **Wastewater Management**
Environment Commissioner Gravanis introduced the item and Mr. Tommy Moala, AGM, SFPUC Wastewater. AGM Moala stated that San Francisco has a combined sewer system that it is 100 years old, has 1,000 miles of pipes, four treatment facilities, and 27 pump stations. He discussed how the combined system operates. He noted significant challenges, including aging infrastructure, seismic vulnerability and lack of redundancy, and discussed the effects of climate change.

AGM Moala indicated that a step toward addressing the challenges is through the Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP). He detailed “Grey”, “Green”, and “Clean” parts of the SSIP and how each area is being addressed, and touched on the SSIP budget

He continued with discussion of the Urban Watershed Assessment, which utilizes the Triple Bottom Line, noting public outreach and involvement is key. He added
that the Level of Service needs, sustainability, and opportunities are also addressed. He discussed Early Implementation Projects that are planned throughout the City.

President Courtney urged everyone to talk with AGM Moala regarding the system. He noted the linkage between the missions of the SFPUC and the SFE. Mr. Moala concurred and discussed the joint work in education and resource recovery. He agreed with President Courtney that medicine should not be dumped in the toilet, stating that drop boxes are available for disposal of these items. He discussed the process for checking catch basins for mosquitoes.

AGM Moala responded to a question from Environment Commissioner Josefowitz regarding Biogas at the treatment plants. He noted the production of biogas energy and generation at each facility. He stated the new digesters will produce more, and that the alternative analysis is in process. He stated that resource recovery is an important part of the equation and used the Greasecycle Program (collection of restaurant grease) as an example.

Brief discussion ensued on the portion of the SSIP budget is allocated to green programs.

Environment Commissioner Wald commented on the disposal of medicine and toxins and the need to provide the public with education on proper disposal.

Environment Commissioner Stephenson asked for information on the Low Impact Design Programs (LID), which AGM Moala provided.

Environment Commissioner Gravanis noted several LID projects that have been completed. She referred to the SFPUC Stormwater Guidelines and rain barrels. She stated there are other toxic items that enter the system from street run-off.

Environment Commissioner Gravanis introduced Ms. Sushma Bhatia, Toxics Reduction Program Manager, SFE, who provided an overview of initiatives and areas where the SFE and SFPUC collaborate to reduce toxins. She discussed chemicals and commerce and their improper disposal. She noted SFE’s goals are to reduce negative health impacts by identifying and promoting safer products, practices, and education on proper disposal.

Ms. Bhatia continued, discussing how various toxic programs are implemented: Municipal agencies (citywide green purchasing specs and products); Convenient household hazardous waste and special waste disposal (e.g. batteries, electronics, unwanted pharmaceuticals, and used motor oil and filters); Customized business solutions (e.g. dentists, dry cleaners, hospitals, custodians, nail salons, and artists); and Green Business Recognition for small to medium sized business.
Ms. Bhatia concluded, stating that the SFE and the SFUPC staff work closely together to make sure that there is consistency in messaging and design and that technical expertise is shared.

d. Clean Vehicle Adoption
Mr. Todd Rydstrom, AGM Business Services and CFO, SFUPC, began his presentation by discussing fleet management and operations, addressing: Alternatives and transportation options (video/teleconferencing, transit first alternatives, centralized vehicle pools/ride share, bicycle pools, and electric cars and bicycles); Healthy Air and Clean Transportation Ordinance; Fleet inventories (by vehicle and fuel type); Replacement Strategies (cost efficiency and environmental sustainability); Environmental Strategies (day-to-day budget planning); and operations, and disaster preparedness and response.

Mr. Bill Zeller, SFE, noted the long collaboration with the SFUPC and recognized the SFUPC’s leadership in City wide fleet operations. Mr. Zeller discussed the SFE’s role in working with the public on transit first projects as well on the greening the City’s fleet. He touched on the Transit First Policy and discussed SFE’s three-pronged sustainable transportation focus: Commute Smart; Electric Transportation; and Alternative Fuel Vehicles.

Mr. Zeller continued, discussing the collaborative work with the SFUPC’s Power Enterprise, stating together they have developed the most dense public vehicle charging system in the United States. He discussed joint efforts with the SFUPC Fleet, including HACTO compliance; Biodiesel use; and telematics. He concluded by discussing collaborative work with the Wastewater Enterprise, emphasizing work with Biomethane.

In response to a question from SFUPC Commissioner Torres, Mr. Zeller stated that SFE does not provide rebates for owners of electric vehicles and that those are state-run programs.

Commissioner Torres left the meeting at 5:30 PM.

e. Renewable Generation and Energy Efficiency
Mr. Cal Broomhead, Climate and Energy Programs Manager, SFE, gave a brief presentation on SFE’s Renewable and Energy Efficiency Programs, which are mainly focused on the private sector. He discussed main tools used in their Programs: Education; Technical Assistance and Incentives; Single Family Program; Multi-Family Program (staff is trained on quality assurance and water conservation); Financing; and Law and Ordinances. Mr. Broomhead touched on solar market development, and the Solar Map. He discussed a chart on San Francisco Solar PV installations. He closed by discussing regulatory issues.

Mr. Broomhead distributed a brochure on the Energy Upgrade California Program.
Ms. Barbara Hale, AGM Power, SFPUC, provided overview of her presentation which focused on Solar and Renewables (GoSolarSF; Customer municipal solar; and renewable wholesale purchases), and Customer Energy Efficiency (General Fund; Civic Center Sustainability District; Other customers; and green commissioning and design review).

AGM Hale discussed the GoSolarSF Program, reviewing the Program’s background and activity to-date. She noted the installations completed; dollars paid since 2008; jobs created for disadvantaged San Franciscans; and incentives that are available to both customers and non-customers. AGM Hale described opportunities for collaboration with the SFE, stating the prospect for financing to ensure the funds for GoSolarSF are being leveraged in the best possible way. Ms. Hale discussed the GoSolarSF workforce (those hired through the Workforce Development Program), indicating the number of hires in each zip code throughout the City.

AGM Hale touched on municipal solar, describing the customers served and renewable wholesale purchases, emphasizing Sunset Reservoir. Ms. Hale discussed customer energy efficiency (Civic Center Sustainability District (10-year Capital Plan)).

Due to a disruption from the audience, the meeting recessed at 5:55 PM and reconvened at 6:00 PM.

Vice President Caen left the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Ms. Hale continued, discussing the energy efficiency programs available: General Fund (10-year Capital Plan); Street Light LED conversion; Enterprise Customer (10-year Capital Plan); and green commissioning and design review.

In response to a request from Environment President Arce, AGM Hale provided a brief update on CleanPowerSF, stating the SFPUC is collaborating with LAFCo on a feasibility study. She noted the BOS Ordinance, sponsored by Supervisor Avalos and his colleagues, and stated SFPUC staff is working in assistance mode on both of those efforts. She stated the Power Staff focus is on operating and maintaining the Hetch Hetchy System to ensure financial stability and continued operations.

Ms. Hale responded to a question from Environment Commissioner Josefowitz on the low cost of energy for General Fund customers and the possibility for solar on municipal facilities. Ms. Hale noted that not all rooftops, buildings or grounds can accommodate solar, but that staff is always looking for opportunities. She responded to an additional question about the possibility of small scale, in-pipe hydro, noting a pilot project at University Mound.
Environment Commissioner Gravanis asked for clarification on how close the 100 percent renewable energy goal is to being met, and what can be done to meet the goal. Mr. Broomhead and AGM Hale provided response, indicating the options being reviewed and considered. Mr. Broomhead noted the 100 percent goal is aspirational, as the City doesn’t have control over 100 percent of the customers. Ms. Hale concurred with Mr. Broomhead’s comments and note another option is the PG&E Green Tariff proposed under consideration at the California PUC.

Environment President Arce referred to a 2012 Golden Gate University Law School Study, “Rooftop Revolution”. Mr. Broomhead and AGM Hale stated they would review the report. AGM Hale again indicated that all roof tops are not suitable for solar, but that there are alternatives. Mr. Broomhead noted other restrictions and opportunities. Brief discussion ensued. Ms. Hale noted the City policy that prioritizes energy efficiency ahead of solar.

Public Comment:
- Mr. Jeremy Pollock, Supervisor Avalos’ Office, read a statement from Supervisor Avalos regarding San Francisco’s Greenhouse Goals and the need to move to 100 percent renewable energy. He expressed his support for the CleanPowerSF Program and discussed the Marin Clean Energy and Sonoma County Programs, and the SFPUC budget. He noted two assurances being sought were the preservation of funds to launch CCA, and the desire to see concrete action to launch a CCA by July 2015.

President Courtney noted CCA wasn’t the focus of the joint meeting, and that the discussion on CCA will continue. He expressed the desire to include discussion of training and jobs components.

- Mr. Jason Fried, LAFCo, discussed the 100 percent energy renewable goal. He stated LAFCo has hired a contractor to work on several tasks related to a CCA program. He discussed the funds that could be generated to assist the Power Enterprise’s financial situation, as well as the jobs component. He discussed the need for energy efficiency.
- Ms. Denise (inaudible) distributed cards she had made to discourage people from idling their vehicles. She noted the City of New York’s law regarding idling.
- Mr. Jed Holtzman, 350 San Francisco, stated that landlords need to be targeted for energy efficient programs. He discussed the need for renewable energy, and expressed support for CleanPowerSF and GoSolarSF.

Environment Commissioner Josefowitz asked about opening up SFPUC watershed land to hikers. City Attorney Noreen Ambrose noted that the topic should not be discussed as it was not agendized.
Environment President Arce provided closing thoughts, stating useful information was provided. He noted opportunities for future collaboration.  
SFPUC President Courtney stated he was enthused for the meeting and enjoyed hearing from staff. He noted the common ground between the two agencies and the opportunity to work together. He stated he looks forward to introducing youth to employment opportunities through career programs. He looks forward to additional joint meetings.

Environment Commissioner Wald offered final thoughts on the collaborative work between the departments and thanked staff for their work. She would like to see staff work together to achieve 100 percent renewable.

4. General Public Comment
   None.

SFPUC President Courtney adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.