



City and County of San Francisco
[Commission on the Environment](#)

MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 416
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Jr. Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Eddie Ahn (President), Sarah Wan (Vice President),
Elmy Bermejo, Austin Hunter, Heather Stephenson, and Mike Sullivan.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Eddie Ahn, Sarah Wan, Austin Hunter, Heather Stephenson, and Mike Sullivan.

Excused: Commissioner Elmy Bermejo.

Absent: None.

2. President's Welcome. (Discussion)

President Ahn delivered the land acknowledgment and welcomed attendees to the meeting.

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes of the March 28, 2023, Commission on the Environment Meeting and Approval of Amended Minutes of the March 7, 2023, Commission on the Environment Special Meeting. Explanatory Documents: March 28, 2023, Meeting Draft Minutes; and March 7, 2023, Special Meeting Amended Minutes. (Discussion and Action)

Public Comment: David Pilpel expressed support for amending the March 7, 2023, meeting minutes.

Upon a motion by Vice President Wan and a second by Commissioner Stephenson, the March 28, 2023, meeting minutes were approved and the March 7, 2023, special meeting minutes were amended without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Wan, Hunter, Stephenson, and Sullivan; Noes: None; Absent: Commissioner Bermejo)

4. General Public Comment. Members of the public may address the Commission on matters that are within the Commission's jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda.

Public Comment: Lara Hanna of Mission Greenway discussed the need to preserve a parcel of land in the Mission District as a publicly accessible greenspace. Peter Drekmeier expressed concerns related to San Francisco Public Utilities Commission management of the Tuolumne River.

5. **Presentation of the Commission on the Environment – Environmental Service Award to Commissioner Heather Stephenson.** (Discussion)

Vice President Wan presented the Environmental Service Award to Commissioner Heather Stephenson.

Commissioners Hunter and Sullivan discussed Commissioner Stephenson’s environmental leadership and contributions to the Commission.

Commissioner Stephenson discussed her experience serving on the Commission.

Alexa Kielty, Residential Zero Waste Senior Coordinator, thanked Commissioner Stephenson for her service.

Public Comment: David Pilpel discussed Commissioner Stephenson’s service on the Commission.

Commissioner Stephenson posed for a photo with the Commissioners.

6. **Staff Introductions.** Speaker: Tyrone Jue, Acting Director. (Discussion)

Tyrone Jue, Acting Director, introduced new staff at the Environment Department.

Erik Zepeda-Flores, Engagement Coordinator; Benny Zank, Building Decarbonization Coordinator; Nik Kaestner, Senior Building Decarbonization Coordinator; and Alina Bekkerman, CRV Zero Waste Coordinator, introduced themselves.

There was no public comment.

7. **Review and Vote on whether to Approve Resolution File 2023-06-COE, Resolution Authorizing Environment Department Climate and Clean Transportation Grants.** Sponsor: Tyrone Jue, Acting Director. Speakers: Cyndy Comerford, Climate Program Manager; and Henna Trewn, Clean Transportation Program Manager. Explanatory Document: Resolution File 2023-06-COE. (Discussion and Possible Action)

Tyrone Jue, Acting Director, discussed the process for approving Environment Department grants.

Benny Zank, Building Decarbonization Coordinator, presented on a grant to Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates to administer the Climate Equity Hub.

Tony Kelly, Department Director at Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates, and Selena Wood, Program Manager at Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates, discussed the grant’s scope of work.

Henna Trewn, Clean Transportation Program Manager, presented on a grant to En2Action to support outreach related to vehicle electrification and charging in Bayview-Hunters Point.

Abraham Vallin, Community Outreach and Engagement Manager at En2Action, discussed his organization’s record of community work.

President Ahn discussed collaboration between grantees.

Commissioner Hunter, Tony Kelly, Benny Zank, and Tyrone Jue discussed Climate Equity Hub partner organizations.

Public Comment: David Pilpel expressed support for the resolution.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sullivan and a second by Commissioner Hunter, the resolution was approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Wan, Hunter, Stephenson, and Sullivan; Noes: None; Absent: Commissioner Bermejo)

8. **Review and Vote on whether to Approve Resolution File 2023-07-COE, Resolution Authorizing Environment Department Clean Transportation Contract.** Sponsor: Tyrone Jue, Acting Director. Speaker: Henna Trewn, Clean Transportation Program Manager. Explanatory Document: Resolution File 2023-07-COE. (Discussion and Possible Action)

Tyrone Jue, Acting Director, discussed the process for approving Environment Department contracts.

Henna Trewn, Clean Transportation Program Manager, presented on a contract with HealthEquity to administer the Citywide Commuter Benefits Program.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Stephenson and a second by Vice President Wan, the resolution was approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Wan, Hunter, Stephenson, and Sullivan; Noes: None; Absent: Commissioner Bermejo)

Public Comment: David Pilpel discussed the share of eligible City employees who participate in the Citywide Commuter Benefits Program.

9. **Update on Racial Equity Progress Report.** Sponsor: Tyrone Jue, Acting Director. Speaker: Lavanya Deepak, Senior Racial Equity Coordinator. Explanatory Document: Racial Equity Action Plan. (Discussion)

Tyrone Jue, Acting Director, discussed the Racial Equity Action Plan and its role within the Environment Department.

Lavanya Deepak, Senior Racial Equity Coordinator, discussed recent work to implement the Racial Equity Action Plan.

President Ahn and Lavanya Deepak discussed departmental surveys related to racial equity.

Vice President Wan and Tyrone Jue discussed the Department's racial equity budget.

There was no public comment.

10. **Update on the Clean Transportation Program.** Speakers: Henna Trewn, Clean Transportation Program Manager; Nicole Appenzeller, Senior Clean Transportation Specialist; and Anna Sciaruto, Clean Transportation Specialist. (Discussion)

Henna Trewn, Clean Transportation Program Manager; Nicole Appenzeller, Senior Clean Transportation Specialist; and Anna Sciaruto, Clean Transportation Specialist, presented on recent work by the Clean Transportation Program, including Citywide EV Roadmap implementation and Climate Action Plan ZEV and e-mobility work.

Commissioner Stephenson, Henna Trewn, and Nicole Appenzeller discussed the City's goal of installing 700 additional EV charging stations.

President Ahn and Henna Trewn discussed priority populations and mapping tools used to target EV charging infrastructure.

Commissioner Sullivan and Henna Trewn discussed progress to achieve San Francisco's vehicle electrification goals.

Commissioner Hunter, Anna Sciaruto, Henna Trewn, and Tyrone Jue discussed surveys of e-bike program participants.

Commissioner Stephenson and Tyrone Jue discussed Climate Action Plan dashboards.

Public Comment: David Pilpel expressed support for interdepartmental coordination and collaboration with regional entities to achieve EV charging infrastructure goals.

11. Update on Refuse Rate-Setting Process and Review and Vote on whether to Approve Resolution File 2023-08-COE, Resolution Encouraging the Refuse Rate Administrator and the Refuse Rate Board to Approve a Refuse Rate Adjustment for Rate Years 2024 and 2025 that Helps San Francisco Advance Its Zero Waste and Related Climate Goals. Sponsor: Tyrone Jue, Acting Director. Speakers: Jay Liao, Refuse Rates Administrator, Controller's Office; Dave Hilton, Senior Project Manager, HF&H Consultants; Jack Macy, Zero Waste Program Manager, Environment Department; and Jon Braslaw, Director, Recology, Inc. Explanatory Document: Resolution File 2023-08-COE. (Discussion and Possible Action)

Tyrone Jue, Acting Director, discussed the context of the refuse rate-setting process presentations.

Jay Liao, Refuse Rate Administrator at the Controller's Office, and Dave Hilton, Senior Project Manager at HF&H Consultants, presented on the refuse rate-setting process, public comment on the refuse rate-setting process, analysis of the initial proposed changes, and next steps for the refuse rate adjustment.

Commissioner Hunter and Jay Liao discussed the role of cameras to monitor contamination.

Commissioners Hunter and Sullivan and Jay Liao discussed the role of financial incentives to achieve San Francisco's zero waste goals.

Commissioner Hunter and Jay Liao discussed public comment in support of a refuse rate increase.

Commissioner Stephenson discussed comparisons between residential and commercial refuse rates.

Evan Boyd, Vice President and Regional Manager at Recology; Terry Duong, Regional Controller at Recology; Kevin Flanagan, General Manager at Recology; and Maurice Quillen, Vice President and General Manager at Recology, presented on Recology's rate change request to the Controller's Office.

Commissioner Sullivan and Maurice Quillen discussed aspects of San Francisco's organic waste stream.

Commissioner Stephenson and Kevin Flanagan discussed the use of cameras to monitor contamination.

Commissioner Sullivan and Maurice Quillen discussed recovery rate methodology.

Commissioner Hunter and Kevin Flanagan discussed aspects of Recology's contamination monitoring pilot.

Tyrone Jue discussed the processes of Recology and the Controller's Office's to develop the rate proposal.

Jack Macy, Zero Waste Program Manager, presented on the Environment Department's priorities for the refuse rate-setting process.

Commissioner Hunter and Jack Macy discussed weekend outreach efforts.

Commissioner Sullivan and Jack Macy discussed aspects of the Zero Waste Incentive.

Commissioner Stephenson and Jay Liao discussed the cost of the contamination monitoring pilot.

President Ahn, Commissioner Sullivan, Tyrone Jue, and Jack Macy discussed adding amendment language to the resolution to limit the City's and Recology's liability regarding the contamination monitoring pilot.

Commissioner Stephenson and Charles Sheehan, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer, discussed the process for approving the resolution.

President Ahn summarized the amendment language.

Public Comment: David Pilpel expressed concerns related to nexus, proportionality, and the reasonableness of the proposed refuse rate.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sullivan and a second by Commissioner Stephenson, the amended resolution was approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Wan, Hunter, Stephenson, and Sullivan; Noes: None; Absent: Commissioner Bermejo)

12. **Director's Report.** Speakers: Tyrone Jue, Acting Director; and Charles Sheehan, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer. Explanatory Document: Director's Report. (Discussion)

a. Update on the Environment Department FY 2023-24 Budget.

Tyrone Jue, Acting Director, discussed continued engagement with the Mayor's Office related to the Environment Department FY 2023-24 budget.

b. Update on Environment Department Grants.

Charles Sheehan, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer, discussed federal and state grant applications.

Vice President Wan, Charles Sheehan, and Tyrone Jue discussed the timeline of grant awards.

Vice President Wan, Commissioner Sullivan, Tyrone Jue, and Charles Sheehan discussed clean transportation grants.

Commissioner Stephenson discussed Environment Department presentation materials.

c. Update on the Environment Department Office.

Tyrone Jue discussed plans to consolidate the second and third floors of the Environment Department office at 1155 Market Street.

Vice President Wan and Tyrone Jue discussed the timeline for consolidating the Environment Department office.

Public Comment: David Pilpel expressed support for a floor consolidation.

13. **Presentation on Commission on the Environment Survey.** Sponsor: Charles Sheehan, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer. Speaker: Kyle Wehner, Commission Affairs Officer. (Discussion)

Charles Sheehan, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer, presented on the context of the Commission on the Environment survey.

Kyle Wehner, Commission Affairs Officer, presented on the survey results.

Commissioner Hunter discussed support from Environment Department staff.

Vice President Wan and Charles Sheehan discussed the process of reserving City Hall meeting rooms.

Commissioner Sullivan discussed the Climate Action Plan dashboard.

President Ahn and Charles Sheehan discussed potential amendments to the Commission Bylaws.

Public Comment: David Pilpel discussed potential amendments to the Commission Bylaws.

14. **Committee Reports.** (Discussion)

Commissioner Sullivan provided a report for the Policy Committee.

Vice President Wan provide a report for the Operations Committee.

There was no public comment.

15. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** Speaker: Charles Sheehan, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer. (Discussion)

Charles Sheehan, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer, discussed the schedule of upcoming meetings and potential agenda items.

There was no public comment.

16. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.