City and County of San Francisco
Commission on the Environment

MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

Monday, February 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM

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PUBLIC COMMENT CALL-IN
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Due to the COVID-19 health emergency and to protect Commissioners, SFE staff, and members of the public, the Commission on the Environment's Meeting Room (Room 416) is closed.

Members of the public are to participate remotely. If you want to ensure your comment on any item on the agenda is received by the Commission on the Environment in advance of the meeting, please send an email to katie.chansler@sfgov.org by 5pm on January 31 or call (415) 355-3709.

Please see the information on the next page for remote meeting access.

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Heather Stephenson (President), Eddie Ahn (Vice President), Elmy Bermejo, Tiffany Chu, Johanna Wald, Mike Sullivan and Sarah Wan.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public comment will be taken on each agenda item involving discussion or action before the Commission takes action on that item.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

The Commission on the Environment meeting was convened at 5:01 p.m.


2. President's Welcome. (Discussion)

President Stephenson went over best practices for virtual meetings and highlighted President Biden’s inauguration, vaccinations, and the reintroduction of the Environmental Service Awards. Additionally, she touched upon the new Ramaytush Ohlone land acknowledgement.

Public Comment received via phone:
Francisco DeCosta, the Director of the Environmental Justice Advocacy and the tribal liaison for the Muwekma Ohlone tribe, was glad that the Commission has good intentions to address environmental issues. Francisco hopes the Commission has a blueprint that is viable and sustainable.

The caller shared that they believe the welcoming of Biden’s inauguration is irrelevant to environmental issues in San Francisco and can alienate those who do not support him.

David Pilpel shared they are concerned about the land acknowledgement and feels that it is a slippery slope. He shared that there are many grievances, and it is difficult to acknowledge them all. David would rather we find ways to repair the land to how it was before to honor the grievances.

   (Explanatory Documents: December 8, 2020 Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Possible Action)

   Public Comment received via phone:
   David Pilpel shared that the public comments in the December 8th minutes should be put prior to the vote. He felt that the titles of speakers are inconsistent in the minutes and added that the end of the minutes needs to reflect the changed dates of Commission meetings.

   Upon a motion by Commissioner Wald and a second by Commissioner Ahn, the minutes were approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Bermejo, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan, Wald, and Wan; Noes: None).

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 received via phone:
   Daniel Vajara, a resident of District 8, urged the Commission to implement a more aggressive Climate Action Plan to align goals with the moment and the science. Daniel also wanted to hear more about SF Environment’s study on consumption-based emissions inventory from December and wanted the Department to identify ways to use stimulus money amidst President Biden’s inauguration.

   David Pilpel shared that the attachment for agenda item 7 was posted an hour before the meeting. Therefore, the public does not have enough time to formulate their comments for this item. He added that he hopes the attachments in the future will be properly labelled and checked.

   Chris, a resident of San Francisco, shared that the Chapter 9 update should have its goal dates moved to 2030 or earlier. Chris added that this Commission and the Land Use Committee should talk about the new consumption report and the Construction and Demolition Ordinance should be resubmitted to the Land Use Committee as soon as possible. Chris wanted to see a carbon fee applied to land fill, construction, and demolition debris to fund equitable climate mitigation for communities affected by air pollution and climate change.

   The caller stated that San Francisco’s environmental policies that try to reduce the City’s carbon footprint are shouldered by lower income individuals, while higher income individuals continue their ways. They want to see something done about economic justice and how it can be integrated into environmental justice.
PRESENTATIONS

5. Presentation of the Commission on the Environment – Environmental Service Award to Julian Potter. (Discussion)

Commissioner Chu presented the Environmental Service Award to Julian Potter for her 15 years of service for the City and County of San Francisco and her work on at the local, regional, and global level. Commissioner Chu asked Ivar Satero, Airport Director, to share a few thoughts.

Ivar added that Julian is a renowned coalition builder and is instrumental in building industry leadership for the environment. He added that her legacy resides in her organization of leadership in the City and at SFO.

Director Raphael commemorated her spirit, curiosity, and openness which helped Julian serve this City well. She added that Julian is leaving behind a legacy of how to get things done and that she will be missed.

Julian shared how she is celebrating and thanked Ivar and Director Raphael for their words. She then reflected on her 15 years with SFO and making it sustainable.

President Stephenson and Commissioner Sullivan commemorated Julian for her work.

Public Comment received via phone:
David Pilpel shared that Julian was able to utilize public agencies, their infrastructure, and operations to implement progressive policy in SFO. He added that Julian is an example of a good steward for the environment and he wishes her well.


Commissioner Bermejo introduced the Office of Racial Equity's plan to include an acknowledgement of Ramaytush Ohlone Land. She introduced Sharaya Souza, the Executive Director and Co-founder of The American Indian Cultural District. Commissioner Bermejo then noted that an adapted version of the acknowledgement will be developed for Policy and Operations Committee meetings and read the resolution.

Sharaya thanked the Commission for putting the resolution together and said that she sees this resolution as the first step of building a meaningful relationship with one another. She shared that Greg Castro wants people to know that the Ramaytush Ohlone people know the land is their home, are proud to be connected to it, and know they carry the responsibility to continue the traditional ways of caring for this land. Sharaya shared how they define ecological knowledge, its history within their culture, and how it can be built into modern policy.

Public Comment received via phone:
Daniel Tejar shared excitement about this resolution and the belief that the best way is to honor the Ramaytush people is to learn from them. Daniel urged us to reshape how we live and our relationship with the world around us.

Mary Travis Vallen, President of the Advisory Board for American Indian Cultural District, stated that if people had listened to traditional leaders on how the original people respect the land and each other, then the world would be in a better place. Mary shared that this resolution is important for the land and the people.

David Pilpel said that he would support the resolution if there was a connection between the land acknowledgement and the zero waste goals for rate payers. He added that the previous speaker is causing division in the City.

The caller believes the resolution is a slippery slope and does not know if this resolution is useful without action.

Chris said that this resolution and indigenous wisdom are important, especially in regard to the present climate and ecological crises. Chris called for an economic system to lower emissions, reduce inequality, and recenter our mindset.

Francisco DeCosta shared that the Muwekma Ohlone People are mentioned in the City’s General Management Plan. Francisco mentioned that those who respect their ancestors do not endorse the removal of shell mounds in San Francisco or the atrocities committed upon the Native American Communities.

Kasey Reel Staeberry, a member of the public and the Demonstration Garden, approved of this resolution and recommended the resolution be perfected over time. Kasey added that this is a way of developing an equitable plan and learning from ancestral knowledge.

Debby Santiago, a member of the Washoe Tribe, shared that the original people have always cared for the land have. Debby said that we must learn from the past in order to move forward and added that the resolution would be a better change for everyone.

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

7. **Review and vote on whether to approve the Department of the Environment’s Fiscal Year 2021-22 and 2022-23 Budget.** Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director; Speaker: Joseph Salem, Program Manager, Finance and Administration (Explanatory Document: Draft Department of the Environment Fiscal Year 2021-22 and 2022-23 Budget) (Discussion and Possible Action)

Director Raphael introduced the budget presentation.

Joseph Salem presented the FY 2021-2022 draft budget, sources of funding, changes from the previous years, and next steps in the budget process.

Public Comment received via phone:
David Pilpel read Administration Code Section 3.3 and expressed concerns about the missing elements in the proposed budget.

Helena Berky, a resident from District 9, expressed that this budget will affect the original people of this land. Helena urged the Commission to postpone approval of the budget until they have talked to the Mayor and Supervisors about increased funding to address environmental issues affecting COVID rates and climate change.

Paul Wermer urged an increase in the budget and shared thoughts that the City is not on the path to reach the goals needed to address climate change.

Chris, a District 3 resident, said that the work of SFE needs to be on a 2030 timeline and that plans need additional funding. Chris expressed that the Commission should look to bonds, taxes, and fees to fund these goals. He suggested that the Commission layout how much money is needed to get the climate crisis under control.

Sarah Greenwald, District 2 resident, expressed concern that the proposed budget is not adequate to tackle the climate crisis. Sarah suggested that the department ask for 1% of the City’s budget to be dedicated to environmental justice.

Daniel, a resident of District 8, expressed that the budget is not sufficient to address climate change and urged the Commission to not approve of the budget.

Kasey Stazeberry recommended waiting to approve the budget in order to explore a funding increase. Kasey referenced how much the Department needs to address environmental challenges and offered to advocate for more Department funding as a member of the public.

Commissioner Ahn prompted staff to respond to the public comments on how to increase the budget and how the public can engage on this action. He highlighted the volume of the public comments.

Director Raphael expressed that she is humbled and honored by the support of the public for the Department’s budget. She shared that there are specific guidelines for the budgets and that these discussions involve Supervisors, the Mayor, the Commission, the and the Director herself. Director Raphael acknowledged that questioning the cost of meeting climate goals by 2030 is a fair question and should be looked into.

Commissioner Sullivan shared that he agrees with the concerns of the public comments and feels that the Department does need more support from the General Fund.

Commissioner Chu expressed that the comments helped her imagine how much could be done with additional funding and added that San Francisco must be a leader with its climate goals.

Commissioner Wald thanked the public commenters and Director Raphael for highlighting these concerns. She recommended that the Department work closely with other departments as well.

Director Raphael shared that there may be other types of funding separate from the General Fund and that she is looking into how to raise revenue to pay for Departments goals.

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President Stephenson said she is interested in what conducting a study of new types of funding would cost. She added that the purpose of approving this budget would be to keep the process moving, but she would like to continue to highlight the sense of urgency heard from the public.

Commissioner Wald asked President Stephenson about her comment and how they should move forward with the budget submission while highlighting public concerns. She suggested that the Commission submit a letter about public concerns along with the budget.

President Stephenson asked for Director Raphael’s thoughts.

Director Raphael agreed that the Commission could submit the budget while also emphasizing the concerns and the urgency for change.

Commissioner Sullivan agreed with Commissioner Wald’s proposal.

President Stephenson asked if they should send a letter along with the budget.

Charles Sheehan, Policy and Public Affairs Officer, clarified that these would be the correct steps to take with the budget.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wald and a second by Commissioner Bermejo, the motion to have President Stephenson send a letter summarizing the public’s concern of the having more funding to meet the climate emergency’s goals alongside the budget was approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Bermejo, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan, Wald, and Wan; Noes: None).

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wald and a second by Commissioner Sullivan, the recommendation by the Operations Committee to approve the draft budget was approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Bermejo, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan, Wald, and Wan; Noes: None).


Charles thanked Katie Chansler, Mark Nicholas, Commissioner Wald, and Commissioner Ahn for their contributions to the report. He then shared a presentation of the report.

There were no public comments.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sullivan and a second by Commissioner Wan, the motion to approve the annual report was approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Bermejo, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan, Wald, and Wan; Noes: None).


Director Raphael highlighted Department activities including the Climate Action Plan, Green Purchasing Regulations, the Racial Equity Plan, and the move to the new office building.

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Commissioner Bermejo thanked Director Raphael for all her work.

Public Comment received via phone:
David Pilpel thanked the Director for including staff and personnel changes.

10. Nomination and Election of Commission on the Environment President and Vice-President. (Discussion and Possible Action)

Commissioner Bermejo nominated Commissioner Stephenson for President, the nomination was accepted, and Commissioner Stephenson was elected President. (Ayes: Commissioner Ahn, Bermejo, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan, Wald and Wan; Noes: None; Absent: None)

Public Comment received via phone:
Chris thanked Commissioner Wald for her help with the natural gas ban and the consumption inventory report. Additionally, Chris thanked Commissioner Ahn for addressing the budget.

Commissioner Wan nominated Commissioner Ahn for Vice President, the nomination was accepted, and Commissioner Ahn was elected Vice-President. (Ayes: Commissioner Ahn, Bermejo, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan, Wald and Wan; Noes: None; Absent: None)

There was no public comment.

11. Committee Reports. (Discussion)

Commissioner Ahn shared that at the December 14th Policy Committee meeting, there was a presentation that examined chemicals and flame-retardant levels in women firefighters and office workers. Additionally, there was a presentation from Eden Brukman on embodied carbon and buildings.

President Stephenson shared that the Operations Committee talked about the budget, the office move, and there was a presentation on the reusable distribution project.

There was no public comment.

12. Announcements. (Discussion)

Commissioner Sullivan commended Commission Secretary Katie Chansler for her work.

President Stephenson and Commissioner Bermejo seconded Commissioner Sullivan’s comment.

Public Comment received via phone:
The caller thanked Commission Secretary Katie Chansler for pausing for public comments. Then, they recommended that Commission Secretary Katie Chansler read the instructions for public comments for more accessibility.
13. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** Speaker: Charles Sheehan, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer (Discussion)

Charles shared that the next Policy Committee meeting will be on February 8th, the next Commission on the Environment meeting will be on March 23rd, and the next Operations Committee meeting will be on April 21st. The next Policy meeting will cover the consumption-based inventory report and the full Commission meeting will have a presentation by Brightline Defense as well as an energy group update.

There was no public comment.

14. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission on the Environment is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. In compliance with the San Francisco Health Officer’s Order No. C19-07, directing all individuals to “shelter in place”, Public meetings, panels and other advisory bodies will continue on a remote conferencing basis only.

Find out about upcoming deadlines, public hearings and meetings. Search the SFEnvironment.org website archived minutes and agenda

Remote Meeting Access on Next Page
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WATCH (via SFGovTV) - www.sfgovtv.org

OR
Watch the meeting using a computer or smart device by clicking on the following link:

https://ccsf.webex.com/ccsf/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec68d3ca98836f0c5dc8b59eb0e55ef23

Participating During Public Comment: By Phone
Members of the public will have opportunities to participate during public comment. The public is asked to wait for the particular agenda item before making a comment on that item. Comments will be addressed in the order they are received. When the moderator announces that the Commission is taking public comment, members of the public can:

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- Ensure you are in a quiet location
- Speak clearly
- Turn off any TVs or radios around you

1. When prompted, “raise hand” by pressing * 3 and you’ll be queued.
2. Callers will hear silence when waiting for your turn to speak. Operator will unmute you.
3. When prompted, callers will have the standard three minutes to provide comment.

In accordance with Governor Gavin Newsom’s statewide order for all residents to “Stay at Home" - and the numerous local and state proclamations, orders and supplemental directions - aggressive directives have been issued to slow down and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Copies of explanatory documents are available at 1) on the Commission’s website http://www.sfenvironment.org/commission; (2) upon request to the Commission Affairs Officer, at telephone number 415-355-3709, or via e-mail at katie.chansler@sfgov.org.

Important Information
The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing electronic devices.
NOTE: Persons unable to attend the meeting may submit to the Committee, by the time the proceedings begin, written comments regarding the agenda items above. These comments will be made a part of the official public record and shall be brought to the attention of Committee Members. Any written comments should be sent to: Commission Affairs Manager, Department of the Environment, 1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94103 by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the hearing. Comments that cannot be delivered to the Commission Affairs Officer by that time may be sent to Katie Chansler via e-mail katie.chansler@sfgov.org.

Public Comment
At this time, members of the public may address the Committee on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee but are not on today’s agenda. Public comment will be taken following each agendized item. Each member of the public may address the Committee for up to three minutes, unless otherwise announced by the President. If it is demonstrated that the comments by the public will exceed 15 minutes, the President may continue Public Comment to another time during the meeting.

The Brown Act forbids the Committee from taking action or discussing any item or issue not appearing on the posted agenda. This rule applies to issues raised in public comment as well. In response to public comment, not on an agendized item, the Committee is limited to:

1. Briefly responding to statements made or questions posed by members of the public, or
2. Request staff to report back on a matter at a subsequent meeting, or
3. Directing staff to place the item or issue on a future agenda (Government Code Section 54954.2(a).)

Accessible Meeting Policy
The Commission on the Environment meeting will be held virtually due to the public health emergency.

To obtain a disability-related accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, or to obtain meeting materials in alternative format, please contact Katie Chansler at (415) 355-3709. Providing at least 72 hours’ notice will help to ensure availability. Written reports or background materials for calendar items are available for public inspection and are available online at www.sfenvironment.org/coe. Public comment will be taken on each item before or during consideration of the item.

The following services are available on request 72 hours prior to the meeting; except for Monday meetings, for which the deadline shall be 4:00 p.m. of the last business day of the preceding week:
For American sign language interpreters or the use of a reader during a meeting, a sound enhancement system, and/or alternative formats of the agenda and minutes, please contact Katie Chansler at (415) 355-3709 to make arrangements for the accommodation. Late requests will be honored, if possible.

Language Access
Per the Language Access Ordinance (Chapter 91 of the San Francisco Administrative Code), Chinese, Spanish and or Filipino (Tagalog) interpreters will be available upon requests. Meeting Minutes may be translated, if requested, after they have been adopted by the Commission. Assistance in additional languages may be honored whenever possible. To request assistance with these services please contact the Commission Affairs Officer at 415-355-3709.
or katie.chansler@sfgov.org at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing. Late requests will be honored if possible.

### 語言服務
根據語言服務條例(三藩市行政法典第91章)，中文、西班牙語和/或菲律賓語(泰加洛語)傳譯人員在收到要求後將會提供傳譯服務。翻譯版本的會議記錄可在委員會通過後透過要求而提供，其他語言協助在可能的情況下也將可提供。上述的要求，請於會議前最少48小時致電415-355-3709或電郵至katie.chansler@sfgov.org向委員會秘書提出。逾期提出的請求，若可能的話，亦會被考慮接納。

### Accesso A Idioma
De acuerdo con la Ordenanza de Acceso a Idiomas “Language Access Ordinance” (Capítulo 91 del Código Administrativo de San Francisco “Chapter 91 of the San Francisco Administrative Code”) interprétres de chino, español y/o filipino (tagalo) estarán disponibles de ser requeridos. Las minutas podrán ser traducidas, de ser requeridas, luego de ser aprobadas por la Comisión. La asistencia en idiomas adicionales se tomará en cuenta siempre que sea posible. Para solicitar asistencia con estos servicios favor comunicarse con el Secretario de la Comisión al 415-355-3709, o katie.chansler@sfgov.org por lo menos 48 horas antes de la reunión. Las solicitudes tardías serán consideradas de ser posible.

### Access Sa Wika

### Know your Rights under the Sunshine Ordinance
(Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code)
Government’s duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils, and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people’s business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people’s review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, City Hall, Room 244, One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102-4683 at Phone No.: (415) 554-7724; Fax No.: (415) 554-5163; E-mail: soft@sfgov.org. Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City’s website at www.sfgov.org.

### Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Requirements
Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code §2.100, et. seq] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at: 25 Van Ness Avenue, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 252-3100, fax (415) 252-3112, web site at www.sfgov.org/ethics.