



**SF Environment**

**Our home. Our city. Our planet.**

A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

London N. Breed  
Mayor

Deborah O. Raphael  
Director

**City and County of San Francisco**  
**Commission on the Environment**

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVED**

**Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 5:00 PM**

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**PUBLIC COMMENT CALL-IN**  
**1-415-655-0001 / Access Code: 146 047 0765**

**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](mailto:katie.chansler@sfgov.org) by 5pm on Monday, September 21 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 before the Commission takes action on that item.**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call.**

The Commission on the Environment meeting was convened at 5:02 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Ahn, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan, Wald, and Wan. Excused: Commissioner Bermejo.

**2. President's Welcome.** (Discussion)

President Stephenson began by sharing best practices for virtual Commission meetings. She spoke about the all-electric new construction ordinance and the importance of taking climate action now. She referenced the recent wildfires and poor air quality in the Bay Area and the urgency behind working to reduce the City's carbon emissions.

Public Comment via Telephone:

Susan with the California Native Plant Society expressed hope that the San Francisco biodiversity resolution will become an ordinance. She mentioned to the Commission that biodiversity loss is being caused by wildfires and asked that San Francisco continue to only plant local native plants.

**3. Approval of Minutes of the July 28, 2020 Commission on the Environment Meeting.** (Explanatory Documents: July 28, 2020 Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Action)

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

There was no public comment.

**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.

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATIONS

**5. Presentation on the City's Economic Recovery Task Force and the role for the environment in recovery efforts.** Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director. Speaker: Ted Egan, Chief Economist; Heather Green, Capital Planning Director and Deputy Resilience Officer; Maura Fallon-Knight, Business Council on Climate Change Executive Director (Discussion)

Director Deborah Raphael introduced the item.

Ted Egan, Chief Economist at the Office of the Controller, shared current statistics related to the state of the City's economy including job loss, average wages, and average rent prices.

Heather Green, Office of Resilience and Planning, gave a background of the Economic Recovery Task Force and some of the research and data that are informing the group's priorities. She discussed next steps for the task force and their focus on a safe reopening.

Maura Fallon-McKnight, Business Council on Climate Change (BC3) Executive Director, covered the history of BC3 and the actions and commitments being made by member companies. She then shared BC3's Climate-Smart Recovery Initiative.

President Stephenson expressed her gratitude for the speakers and the ideas shared in these presentations.

Commissioner Sullivan mentioned that he has been surprised by spaces that have been reimaged due to the pandemic and asked if anything could be learned from this. He asked if it would be possible to calculate the COVID-19 impact on emissions in San Francisco.

President Stephenson asked if there is a trend towards employees leaving the City and how this could impact the downtown area.

Ted Egan confirmed that most of the data collected is anecdotal. He mentioned that the housing market in suburban areas has remained strong.

President Stephenson asked where the Department would be able to address some of these issues.

Director Raphael mentioned that the Department can focus on recovery efforts for small businesses as well as her participation in the Economic Recovery Task Force. She asked that the Commissioners think about ways the Department could contribute to how the city allocates its resources and supports sustainable development.

Heather Green mentioned the importance of encouraging action and working on local legislation. She spoke about how the Department of the Environment has the ability to set guidance for what can be built in the city.

President Stephenson referenced the recent planning process she completed with her company and the need for thinking about what is possible in the near-term as well as the long-term. She mentioned some of the changes that the City has gone through recently and the need to balance urgent needs with long-term visioning.

Director Raphael asked what the next steps will be after the release of the Economic Recovery Task Force's report and recommendations. She asked what it will take to turn the report into action.

Heather Green mentioned that it will be important to connect all the efforts that are underway and that city stakeholders should look to see how everything can be brought together. She emphasized the importance of legislation and encouraging the public to communicate what they would like to see in their public spaces.

Commissioner Ahn asked what data might be available in the future.

Ted Egan mentioned that the Census data might be a source of migration data as well as IRS data. He mentioned that the picture will become clearer over the next few years.

Commissioner Wald asked if we should question whether our environmental goals are bold enough and if we have the opportunity to push some forward.

President Stephenson agreed that this would be a good question to consider and thanked the speakers.

Public comment via telephone:

Susan with the California Native Plant Society expressed concern about the public health, biodiversity, and climate crises, and she asked that the climate business community keep biodiversity in mind. She suggested that the Department of Recreation and Parks propagate native plants and that the City consider replacing golf courses with a variety of ways for City residents to spend time outside. She asked if companies would consider allowing their wellness funds to be used for planting native species that contribute to health and wellness.

**6. Review and vote on whether to accept the Policy Committee's recommendation to approve Resolution File 2020-03-COE adopting the 2020 Reduced Risk Pesticide list for City properties.**

Under the Environment Code, the Department maintains a Reduced Risk Pesticide List identifying those pesticides that may be used on City property, subject to restrictions. Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director; Speaker Dr. Chris Geiger, Integrated Pest Management Program Manager (Explanatory Documents: Staff memo, Resolution File No. 2020-03-COE, 2020 Reduced Risk Pesticide List and Public Comment and Responses) (Discussion and Action)

Deborah Raphael introduced the agenda item.

Chris Geiger, Integrated Pest Management Program Manager, presented on the background of the Integrated Pest Management program and ordinance, pesticide use trends for 2019, and recommendations to the Commission on the reduced risk pesticide list.

President Stephenson asked if Commissioner Ahn would like to add any additional information from the Policy Committee.

Commissioner Ahn confirmed that he did not have anything to add but that he is in support of the next agenda item.

Commissioner Sullivan asked if other cities are looking at using Weedslayer and if it would be possible to access their data.

Chris Geiger mentioned that other jurisdictions including the Presidio Trust, Marin County, and the Department of Recreation and Parks are all looking into using Weedslayer. He said that it is difficult to know what it could replace in different circumstances but there are promising results.

Commissioner Wald mentioned that the data presented reflects real and dramatic change in the culture of City agencies and how they think about using pesticides. There should be a sense of accomplishment around what has happened and how it has happened.

Public Comment via Telephone:

David Pilpel conveyed his support for the reduction in pesticide use and the transition to less toxic alternatives.

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

President Stephenson expressed her appreciation for the work done by the Policy Committee and the Department on this list.

**7. Discussion and vote on whether the Commission should send letters to Bell Laboratories to support distribution of its rat control alternative product and to the EPA to support a variance to allow dry ice to be used as a pesticide.** Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director; Speaker: Dr. Chris Geiger, Integrated Pest Management Program Manager (Discussion and Action)

Director Raphael introduced the agenda item.

Chris Geiger gave a history of dry ice being used as an alternative rat control product and the pilot testing done with an exempt product. He mentioned the lack of distribution on the West Coast and the inability to use a product that has shown to be successful.

Commissioner Ahn mentioned that the Policy Committee supported these letters to encourage less-toxic alternatives.

Commissioner Wan commended the Department's efforts with this product and the interesting story behind it.

Director Raphael asked how the product works.

Chris Geiger confirmed that the product suffocates the rats and requires measures to block the burrow holes.

Commissioner Sullivan asked if this vote is for both letters to be sent to Bell Labs and the EPA.

President Stephenson confirmed that the vote would be for both letters.

Public Comment via telephone:

David Pilpel mentioned that the closed captioning on SFGovTV was not currently working. He expressed his support for this agenda item.

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

**8. Director's Report.** Updates on Department of the Environment administrative and programmatic operations relating to Budget Planning, Strategic Planning, Clean Air/Transportation, Climate, Energy, Public Outreach and Education, Environmental Justice, Habitat Restoration, Green Building, Zero Waste, Toxics Reduction, and Urban Forestry. Speaker: Deborah Raphael, Director (Explanatory Document: Director's Report) (Discussion)

Director Raphael gave an update on the all-electric new construction ordinance at the Board of Supervisors Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting. She spoke about how the Department has pivoted its messaging around the pandemic and climate change with the BayREN program. She mentioned the collaborations with other departments through the City's COVID Command Center, SFMTA's task force, Recology's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and New York Climate Week.

Public Comment via Telephone:

David Pilpel called to mention that Denise, a longtime city employee and supporter of environmental efforts, passed away and highlighted all of the loss we have experienced from COVID-19 and other causes in 2020.

**9. Committee Reports.** (Discussion)

Commissioner Ahn reported on the September 14 Policy Committee Meeting where the reduced risk pesticide list was discussed after presentations from City departments.

There was no public comment.

**10. Announcements.** (Discussion)

President Stephenson asked if there were any announcements from Commissioners and there were none.

There was no public comment.

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

Charles Sheehan covered the dates for upcoming Operations Committee meeting on October 21, Policy Committee meeting on October 26, and full Commission meeting on November 24. He mentioned future agenda items including the Department's racial equity plan, an update from the Energy Efficiency team, the SFCTA congestion management report, and the sustainable consumption report.

President Stephenson asked to confirm the date of the Operations Committee.

Charles Sheehan confirmed that the Operations Committee will be on a Wednesday.

President Stephenson mentioned that the Commission meeting at the end of November typically causes scheduling issues and suggested changing this for future years.

Charles Sheehan added that changing that date in the bylaws could be explored.

## **12. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

**The next meeting of the Commission on the Environment is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. In compliance with the San Francisco Health Officer's Order No. C19-07c, 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](https://www.sfenvironment.org) website archived minutes and agenda**

**Remote Meeting Access on Next Page**

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**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=e15c49ea939c1877bd6231945790545be>

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### 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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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Ensure you are in a quiet location</i></li><li>• <i>Speak clearly</i></li><li>• <i>Turn off any TVs or radios around you</i></li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. When prompted, "raise hand" by pressing * <b>3</b> and you'll be queued.</li><li>2. Callers will hear silence when waiting for your turn to speak. Operator will unmute you.</li><li>3. When prompted, callers will have the standard three minutes to provide comment.</li></ol>
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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](mailto: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](mailto: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 agenda 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 agenda 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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。

### **Acceso 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") intérpretes 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](mailto:katie.chansler@sfgov.org) por lo menos 48 horas antes de la reunión. Las solicitudes tardías serán consideradas de ser posible.

### **Access Sa Wika**

Ayon sa Language Access Ordinance (Chapter 91 ng San Francisco Administrative Code), maaaring mag-request ng mga tagapagsalin sa wikang Tsino, Espanyol, at/o Filipino (Tagalog). Kapag hiniling, ang mga kaganapan ng miting ay maaring isalin sa ibang wika matapos ito ay aprobahan ng komisyon. Maari din magkaroon ng tulong sa ibang wika. Sa mga ganitong uri ng kahilingan, mangyaring tumawag sa Clerk ng Commission sa 415-355-3709, o [katie.chansler@sfgov.org](mailto:katie.chansler@sfgov.org) sa hindi bababa sa 48 oras bago mag miting. Kung maari, ang mga late na hiling ay posibleng pagbibigyan.

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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: [soff@sfgov.org](mailto:soff@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](http://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](http://www.sfgov.org/ethics).

Katie Chansler, Commission Affairs Officer  
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