

Hi Folks,

I thought you might appreciate this very good editorial from yesterday's Chronicle:

Don't let a few 'monster' storms fool you, S.F.'s water supply is unsustainable

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/editorials/article/Editorial-Don-t-let-a-few-monster-storms-16617558.php>

(Click link below for a PDF for those of you who can't access it online.)

In addition to criticizing the SFPUC's environmental track record, the editorial calls out the need for the SFPUC's wholesale customers in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda Counties to step it up on their efforts to conserve water and develop alternative supplies. It calls on the SFPUC's new General Manager, Dennis Herrera, to lead the charge. Here are a few quotes:

San Franciscans are known for being sparing with our own water usage. But many of the nearly 2 million other Bay Area residents that use Hetch Hetchy water are not nearly as parsimonious in their usage as we are.

San Francisco should not be complicit in the extinction of several aquatic species so that Peninsula homeowners can keep their lawns green.

Herrera has already proven himself willing to play hardball with PG&E — initiating what is essentially a hostile (and much-needed) takeover of that company to secure local control over our power. He'll need to be similarly tough on water. That means using whatever leverage he has to enforce enhanced conservation measures among the local agencies that share our water.

Demanding better water conservation from neighbors while partnering on sustainable projects will be a tough needle to thread. Thankfully, Herrera has signaled that he's up to the challenge. San Francisco residents need him to mean it.

The SFPUC's wholesale customers are represented by the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA). BAWSCA's Board of Directors meets only once every other month, and it just so happens their next meeting (and last of the year) will be online this Thursday at 6:30pm —

https://bawasca.org/uploads/agendas/20_BAWSCA_Nov18_Agenda_Packet_FINAL.pdf. Dennis Herrera will be participating, so it will be a great opportunity to influence all the parties involved.

Please consider joining us for the online BAWSCA meeting on Thursday. "Public Comment" is near the top of the agenda, so if you're busy, you could say your piece and then go back to your other business. If you haven't commented at a public meeting before, you might be interested in listening to the folks who commented last week at GM Herrera's first SFPUC meeting. The recording is posted at https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/39822?view_id=22&redirect=true. Following are the two times when our supporters (and a few other members of the public) spoke:

Item #5: Public Comment (10:00)

Item #12: Resolution establishing Commission priorities to guide the new General Manager (1:40:25)

If you think you might be able to join us on Thursday, please let me know so I can keep you in the loop.

Thank you!

-Peter

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